

Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, November 9, 2015

The Finance Committee met on Monday, November 9, 2015 at 7:15 p.m. in the council chambers at the Knisely Centre.

In attendance were committee members Mrs. Ramos, alternate Winnie Walker and Chair Sandy Cox. Excused was Darrin Lautenschleger.

Guests were Law Director Marvin Fete, council member John Zucal, council member Rob Maurer, council president Sam Hitchcock, Clerk of Council Patti McKay, Mary Jane Overton, council member Dan Lanzer, Mark Cox, Auditor Beth Gundy, Service Director Jim Zucal, Safety Director Greg Popham, Treasurer Tom Gerber, Aimee May, Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Swinderman, Julie Levensgood Stephon Director of the NPBCA, reporters from WJER & Times Reporter (Alex Knisely) and Dean Holland. The above guests were present for all or part of the meeting.

Item 1: Ordinance 18-2015 - An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of New Philadelphia, Ohio to enter into an agreement with the Tuscarawas County Public Defender's Office for the provision of legal representation for indigents charged with violations of New Philadelphia city ordinances in the Municipal Court where such offenses carry a possible loss of liberty, establishing compensation and terms thereof, and declaring an emergency.

The cost of the agreement of legal representation for indigents charged with violations increased from \$24,750 to \$27,225.

Law Director Fete informed everyone the public defender agreement was not only increased due to caseload but it included the hiring of one additional lawyer (Public Defender's Office now has three lawyers for the three courtrooms). New Philadelphia was not the only city that had received the 10% contract increase.

Included is a letter from Attorney Latanich from the Tuscarawas County Public Defender's Office clarifying the 10% increase.

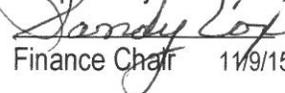
Note: The caseload as of November was 1,026 cases and the 10% increase is approximately \$30.00 per case.

Ms. Walker moved to place Ordinance 18-2015 on the agenda for November 23 and recommended passage because of the deadline date of December 15. (For the legislation to be at the Tuscarawas County Public Defender's Office in a timely manner) Mrs. Ramos seconded the motion and passed unanimously with 3 ayes. (Walker, Ramos and Cox)

Ms. Cox informed the Finance Committee there will be a meeting scheduled for November 23 at 7:15 p.m. in regards to the 2016 Temporary Appropriations.

Ms. Walker moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Finance Chair 11/9/15 MW

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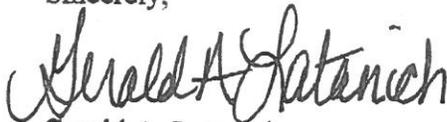
Re: Contract for City of New Philadelphia

Mr. Fete:

The issue for the increase in the public defender contract does not merely relate to caseload. It also includes the Court running three dockets. Having two lawyers for three courtrooms simply does not work. Three lawyers are necessary. To help offset the cost I feel that all parties who utilize municipal court can help defray the costs. New Philadelphia is not the only city that had received the 10% contact increase. The total cost of an attorney with benefits is approximately \$60,000.00. I feel that requesting all the cities/villages to contribute to this is necessary. The caseloads for municipal court as of November 5, 2015 is 1,026 cases. The 10% increase works out to be approximately \$30.00 per case plus or minus.

I feel that due to caseloads, scheduling complications, the increase in the budget is fully justified. If you wish for me to discuss this at the meeting, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Gerald A. Latanich
Attorney at Law

GAL/mlp