

New Philadelphia City Council

Finance Committee

February 25, 2019

6:30 PM

The Finance Committee met on February 25, 2019, at 6:30 pm to discuss the 2019 Permanent Budget. Present were committee members Rob Maurer, Dean Holland, and John Zucal. Also in attendance were Dan Lanzer, Kelly Ricklic, Aimee May, Cheryl Ramos, Marvin Fete, Joel Day, Julie Courtright, Sam Hitchcock, Tom Gerber, Greg Popham, and Beth Gundy.

Chairman Maurer explained the goal for the evenings meeting. He was hopeful to get through the Fire Departments budget and a majority of the remaining budgets. If we do not get through the entire budget, then we will have to have another meeting on an off night or prior to council meeting on March 11th. If the later would happen, Council would have to pass budget as an emergency on first reading (March 25th).

A majority of the Fire Dept.'s budget discussion was focused on 101-2500-1112 which is Fire Dept. overtime. A total of \$150,000 was allotted for overtime and it is paid out of 3 different funds. Committee member John Zucal did not feel it was enough. Last year's overtime was over \$500,000 and to cut it by almost 2/3rds didn't seem reasonable. He doesn't want to underfund and have problems later in the year as we did in 2018. Mayor Day said Chief Parrish originally submitted \$150,000 but has since amended.

Fire Chief Jim Parrish was skeptical that \$150,000 would cover 2019 overtime. During a two week period, 1 shift had 18 calls in a 24 hour period and zero overtime was paid. The next day, they had 14 calls and 6-8 hours of overtime was paid. Parrish pointed out it is the timing of the calls that create limited personnel resources. He pointed out its impossible to predict and fluctuations are the nature of the business. Overtime will decrease but with the additional firefighters, he doesn't have enough data to predict or take an educated guess by how much. The department has had an increase of 51 more calls than this period last year.

Committee member Dean Holland asked how negotiations with the Fire Departments bargaining unit were progressing. He felt we needed to settle now or go to arbitration. He also questioned Parrish on the impact Cleveland Clinic will have on our EMS service. Parrish stated that Smith Ambulance has exclusive contract with Aultman Hospital and will be less available in our area. He mentioned they had 48 calls in one 24 hour shift.

Council person Chery Ramos stated that the overtime situation will not be solved unless the collective bargaining contract is changed. Chief Parrish said there will always be overtime and agreed the contract does not help the situation. Time off and call volume are the biggest reasons for overtime. Parrish said he is looking into a program that may help the situation.

Maurer asked if Parrish had any explanations for the increased call volume this year. Parrish thought it may be due to NPDFD having more availability. He noted that fire losses are down and is hopeful that is due to the work of the fire prevention bureau. He has no way to say for sure.

Chief Parrish is ok with whatever the committee decides. However, he doesn't want council to be upset if we are out of budgeted overtime money later this year. He said the Mayor can always pick and choose what calls we go out on but doesn't think he will want to go down that road. Parrish said he has been doing this for 10 years and hopes he has proven that he manages the department well.

The Finance Committee and majority of Council members in the room agreed to fund the overtime at \$250,000.

Police Professional training- No questions

Income Tax Administration – No questions

Special Street Lighting – No questions

Municipal Court Civil Fees Fund –No questions

MCPL Court Legal Research Fund – No questions

MCPL Court Computer IMP –No questions

MCPL Court Special Projects – No questions

MCPL Court Domestic Violence –No Questions

MCPL Court Dispute Resolution- No Questions

MCPL Court IDIAM – No questions

Public Health Fund- No questions

Criminal Diversion – No questions

Payment Plan Program – No questions

CILOCS- No questions

CCS-PTS – No questions

TV Cable Franchise Fund – No questions

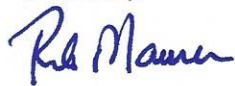
Police/Fire Pension Fund –No questions

Police Law Enforcement Fund –No questions

Sidewalk Improvement Fund- Cheryl Ramos said she receives many requests about the program and would like to fund if possible. The Committee agreed to discuss further in the next meeting

Motion to Adjourn by Mr Zucal was made at 7:28 PM

Sincerely,



Rob Maurer

Chair