

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING * May 19, 2025

Minutes of the finance committee meeting of the Breese City Council held on the above date.

Mayor Kevin Timmermann called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Aldermen in attendance: Jason Davinroy, Luke Essenpreis, Steve Hellige, Jeff Jung, Carl Ratermann, Dan Robben, Gary Usselmann. Absent: Tim Schleper

City Officials: Public Works Mgr. Don Voss, Street Supt. Tom Tebbe, Electric Operations Mgr. Jason Deering, Police Chief Mark Berndsen, EMS Operations Mgr. Allen Pollmann, City Treasurer Robert Venhaus, City Attorney Joanne Stevenson, Golf Supt. Paul Smith, Park Custodian Bruce Kruep, Zoning Admin. John Becker, Golf Clubhouse Mgr. Doug Schulte, City Collector Sandy Hemann

Visitors: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC WORKS:

- IDOT application for funding Mine Street: IDOT is going to release money that we can apply to use on the Mine Street project. The money is not on a per capita basis. The cost of the project is estimated at \$847,000 for turnkey. There is a local match of 10%-20%. It looks promising that we will receive the money from IDOT. There is also \$131,516 that was reimbursed to Street from MFT in FY2025. All agreed to continue with the application process.
- Purchase forklift in approved budget: the forklift we have now is a 1974 model, we are unable to get parts to fix. Tom called around for pricing and MH Equipment had Yale GP50N Life Truck at a price of \$32,171 for brand new equipment. The council agreed and it's on the agenda for approval tomorrow night.
- Purchase Flail mower in approved budget: the cost will be split with the electric department; equipment will mount on front of mower so we can get down into ditches, it cuts brush and trees up to 6" in diameter; we can also use it at the golf course. Received price from Bobcat of St. Louis in the amount of \$11,550.79. The council agreed and it's on the agenda for approval tomorrow night.

UTILITIES:

- Cell Tower for AT&T: The AT&T tower by utilities office, AT&T offered a lump sum payment of \$226,000 for lifetime lease. If we put the money in the bank, with earning interest, we would come out pretty good. The lump sum is a good option because of phone technology changing and there could be less need for cell phone towers. The council agreed we should take the lump sum.
- Cell Tower for Verizon: We also received a lump sum price of \$82,000 from Verizon for the tower rent for the street department at Southside Park location. Currently we are paid \$690/month, after June 1st it will be \$790/month. The council discussed this was not a good offer and asked Don to talk with them again and see if they would make another offer.
- Carlyle North Water District: Don received a phone call from a homeowner asking about getting water to 5-7 homeowners on Old State Rd northeast of Breese east of the creek which is Carlyle North Water District. Don spoke with Brad Furlong and HMG, and using rough numbers came up with an estimate of \$81,000. The homeowner talked to the Carlyle North board. Don asked the council if he should pursue the possibility of supplying water to this area. The council told Don to investigate the possibility.
- Jason talked about the insurance claim on Unit #5, we have a \$100,000 deductible and we won't be able to meet the deductible.
- Jason got a report back on the transformer that the coil is damaged, it will need to be rewound, the price quoted was \$710,097. The transformer that we purchased for \$314,000 to get us by has a sister that may be available for a reasonable price and could be a better option. Jason stated he's waiting to hear back if it's available. The council agreed to allow Jason to continue researching options.
- Timmermann stated the City of Highland had some damage due to the storm and we sent Wayne and Cole to help them out. Highland was grateful for the help from our guys.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Increase mowing fees: Mark increased mowing fee fine to \$100. AT&T owes \$600 currently, and there is another property that owes about the same amount in fines. Mark stated another resident owes \$625 for towing a vehicle 25 days ago.
- We need an ordinance to change the speed limits. Mark is waiting for approval from IDOT for the speed limit to change on Old Route 50. Joanne has prepared a draft of the ordinance and will present it at a later date.
- Vehicle maintenance: Mark's truck has transmission issues; Mark is working with Best One to try to resolve, they are going to change the transmission fluid first to see if that helps. He may need a new transmission. There is an issue with a squad car radio, had it looked at extensively, nothing was found. Mark continues to research both problems, he's not sure what it's going to cost to get these two issues resolved: if it's a larger expense, it's not in the budget.
- Donate towards Cellebrite: A Cellebrite reader is a software tool used in digital forensics to view and analyze data extracted from mobile devices such as emails, text message, phone calls, where a person went to, even deleted items. City of Carlyle is purchasing one, the machine costs around \$15,000-\$20,000. Carlyle is asking for help to pay for the machine. Mark would like to

donate \$1,000 towards the purchase to be able to use the machine when we need to extract information from a cell phone or locked cell phone. Mark stated having this service would speed up the process of investigating it and not rely on the State. The council agreed for Mark to offer \$1,000 to Carlyle.

- The Police Department is seeking applications for a new officer. Keith is quitting and will be staying until June 1st. Mark opened the application process starting May 16th and ending May 30th. Mark wants to hire laterally if we get an applicant that has experience and qualifications. The council agreed to hire laterally if we have an experienced applicant.
- Mark asked if he could investigate police part-time salaries with those agencies around us and raise the part-time salaries; the council said he could check, but the increase needs to be in the budget.

AMBULANCE:

- Motion by Usselmann, second by Davinroy to approve the billable runs for April. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- City funded EMT class: Allen reported he wants to get a class set up with Kaskaskia College for certification only. Kaskaskia College is charging us \$500 and then it would be about \$300/student. This cost is in the budget for this year. Allen has 8-10 people that are interested in the class without advertising. Hellige made a motion to get the class set up and spend the money, Davinroy seconded, motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- Increase part time wages: Allen stated basic EMT is at \$16/hour, and the medics are at \$19/hour, he stated that it is barely minimum wage. Allen is requesting to bump each by \$2/hour, he has the increase included in the current budget. Allen reported that after checking other services they are higher than us even with the \$2/hour increase. Timmermann asked Allen to explore increasing wages even more to keep up with the services around us and see if we can get closer to those salaries. The increase in part-time wages needs to be added to the appropriation ordinance.
- Timmermann mentioned that since last year, the ambulance has been doing well with good leadership, and the changes that have been made, Timmermann stated we need to move forward and need to keep the ball rolling, HSHS is working with us as well to utilize our services for transports.

RECREATION:

- Dog Park plans: Davinroy stated there was a meeting with HMG for the location, discussed moving the dog park up the hill a little bit where it would not interfere with the ditch. HMG is redrawing the plan for the relocation. Public Works will get started when HMG marks the area.
- Maintenance check on park vehicles / move Brandon's truck to Park and replace: Davinroy stated Bruce's truck is falling apart, there are holes in the floor. Suggested taking Brandon's truck (electric department) and giving it to Bruce; the Park doesn't have revenue to be able to purchase a new truck. It was decided to check the cost and bring that information to the next finance meeting.

- Purchase ADA staircase for pool: Doug informed the council the steps are chipping, the fiberglass gel coating is shattering, these have been in place for 10-15 years. Doug received quotes and there is a quote for \$7,174 for steps (doesn't include shipping), and a ramp for \$17,000 ramp. The quote from Recreonics that includes shipping comes out to around \$7,554. Doug is asking to go with Recreonics because they will make sure it fits our pool, they gave us a discount as a municipality and the price includes shipping.
- Lifeguard chair replacements: the base of the chair has rotted away, we need to replace the 2 for the stationery towers, it was quoted at \$200 each. Going to ask the Street Department to fabricate a base for the mobile tower. We need to replace chairs as well, we only found 1 so far that is broken, and we should have enough for this year, but we will have about 15 or so that we'll need to replace after this season. Will add replacement of chairs in the budget for next year.
- Maintenance on Park Gator: Public Works maintenance has not had time to look at the Gator to see if it can be repaired.
- Replacing Bruce's truck with Public Works truck: this topic was discussed earlier.
- Essenpreis stated he had someone ask him about the picnic tables under the shelter and that they were unclean. It was noted that the tables are cleaned each time someone reserves a shelter.
- Davinroy discussed paying of referees for the softball and soccer leagues. Prior to the City taking over, they were paid in cash. Sandy suggested turning in the form the same way the council does for committee meetings, and they would get paid monthly, they would get a 1099 if they make over \$600.
- Brian Albers will be managing the softball and soccer leagues as a city employee. He will need to stop by and talk to Kim and get the paperwork filled out. Brian will be paid \$3,000 for each league.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

None.

CITY COLLECTOR:

- TV antennae at BAC: There are 2 televisions at the BAC building. Charter used to give us service for free, but that has been discontinued. Sandy requests permission to contact Jim Astroth for cost on an antenna. It would be 1 antenna for 2 televisions and can be split between the two. The council agreed to go ahead and have this done.

ZONING:

- Brad Drewes property: Don stated we have pictures of the property. On the property includes work trailers, skid loader, dilapidated truck, half-finished fence, additions on the house with no siding for at least 2 years. Drewes has a business called Top Notch Contracting LLC, which is a Missouri LLC, and the address is in House Springs, MO. On an internet search, Top Notch Contracting LLC was located at Drewes's address in Breese. Joanne stated that if it's an active

business and he operates it out of his home and the equipment that is on the property is part of his business, we could take the same approach as was done with Brandon Richter's property. Drewes building permits are expired and if he's working without a building permit, the city can fine him \$100/day until a new permit is issued. Joanne suggested the best approach would have Drewes get a new building permit and make condition of the new building permit that he completes the project in a certain period of time. Don will send Joanne copies of the building permits. The council decided to revisit this issue.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Timmermann mentioned CodeRed and severe weather warnings. The warnings go through CodeRed, and the police department can send notifications to the community any time of day. The National Weather Service issues the warning that is sent through CodeRed. Timmermann wants everyone to understand that if the National Weather Service issues a warning for Clinton County, the police department receives the notification from CodeRed, and then the police department will send a CodeRed notification and sirens out to the community. The warning is only issued if there is a tornado within 25 miles of Breese.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Cannabis Zoning ordinance: Joanne sent a proposed general dispensary ordinance, and a retailer's occupation tax ordinance. Joanne asked for questions, comments or proposed changes. There was discussion about the distance of where a dispensary can be built by schools, churches and parks. The proposed ordinance states that no cannabis dispensary license shall be issued to any location within 1,000 feet from any school, park, church or any other location if said location would violate any city zoning ordinances. The council decided to change the distance to 500 feet. Joanne will make the revision. It will be on the agenda for the first meeting in June for approval.
- Council attendance: Joanne presented the council attendance ordinance. The council agreed to put on the agenda at the first meeting in June.
- City credit card policy: presented to the council, Timmermann asked for any feedback. The policy will be sent to the department heads for review. The policy will be added to the 2nd meeting in June for approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Usselman and Timmermann had a meeting with the library board officers. Kelly Zurliene has resigned; her last day is June 9th. The board hired Meagan Holthaus; her first day will be May 28th. Timmermann talked with Litteken Construction regarding renovations to the library windows and door operations. The renovations will start between July 1st and the middle of July. City Council and Library board worked together on the renovations plan. The library board is going to approach Joe Cunningham about purchasing his property, which is to the East of the library.

- Tom Tebbe brought up in issue with Waste Management. A resident called to say that the trash truck left a bunch of trash in the middle of the road by her house. Tom had emailed Todd Hinderliter with WM and he sent a crew right away to clean up the mess.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Jung, second by Usselmann to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Non-verbatim minutes taken by: _____
Monica Mensing, Deputy Clerk