

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

November 15, 2023

The Finance Committee of Chardon City Council met on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 4:15 PM in the Conference Room on the second floor of the Chardon Municipal Center.

Daniel Meleski, Chairman of Finance Committee presiding.

Members of Finance Committee present: Andrew Blackley, Daniel Meleski.

Others present: City Manager Randy Sharpe, Finance Director Mark Iacofano, Clerk of Council Amy Day, Christopher Grau, Heidi Delaney, Deborah Chuha, Justin Geiss, David Lelko.

Mr. Meleski called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Blackley moved and Mr. Meleski seconded to approve the minutes of the Finance Committees from June 21, 2023.

Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Regarding the revaluation effect on inside millage and the consideration of the reduction of non-qualified levy, Finance Director Mark Iacofano, explained that the Geauga County Budget Commission notified all entities in the County that due to the State's sexennial appraisal of all real properties, which caused property values to increase more than normal (19.8% in the City), they are encouraging all entities to lessen the burden on taxpayers by reducing other levies.

Mr. Meleski asked which levies can be reduced.

Mr. Iacofano stated that the inside levies (Police Pension and General Fund) are not voted on and can't be touched; however, the outside levies (Fire and EMS) can.

Mr. Iacofano stated that City is estimated to see an increase to the inside levies from the reappraisal (\$103,646). And while costs are on the rise and the City can use the money, to lessen the burden on the taxpayer, staff is recommending that the Finance Committee reduce the 2-mill Fire and EMS levy by approximately 85% to 1.5-mills. The increased money from the reappraisal to the General Fund will be transferred to the Fire and EMS levy fund to make it whole.

Mr. Lelko asked how the 85% was determined, noting that the County did 92%.

Mr. Iacofano stated that staff thought that a 15% increase was in line with a typical increase.

Discussion occurred regarding the need to reduce the levy on an annual basis if the City desires to lessen the burden on the taxpayers going into the future.

Mr. Lelko stated that he thought a reduction gives the City credibility when they need to ask for increased millage in the future.

Mayor Grau asked the Fire Department's opinion on the proposed reduction in the Fire and EMS levy.

Chief Geiss stated that public perception and understanding of all the facts are his only concerns.

Mayor Grau stated that he supports staff's recommendation and requested that the details be presented at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Iacofano stated that his recommendation is to reduce the Fire and EMS levy from 2 mills to 1.5 mills which would result in a reduction of approximately \$86,848.00 in collections.

Mr. Blackley moved and Mr. Meleski seconded to reduce the Fire and EMS 2021 2 mill levy to 1.5 mills. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – none.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Blackley inquired about the status of the implementation of the OpenGov software program.

Mr. Iacofano stated that staff has been working on the implementation of the program with the anticipation of it running in 2024.

ADJOURN

Mr. Blackley moved and Mr. Meleski seconded to adjourn. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Attest:

AMY DAY
Clerk of Council

