

Finance, Wages & Audit Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 18, 2026  
6:41 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers

The Finance, Wages & Audit Committee met on Wednesday, March 18. In attendance were Committee Members Louise Estep, Jody Donsbach and Sean Thiebaut, with Mayor John Berry, and Fiscal Officer Kristel Beyer. Also present were Councilmen Rick Tolles, Doug Grey and resident Pat Nagle.

Estep stated the meeting was scheduled to establish the 2026 Permanent (Annual) Appropriations. Kristel distributed a Revenue Status report, an Appropriation Status report, and a Fund Listing as of December 31, 2025, an Amended Official Certificate of Estimated Resources and a draft of the 2026 Annual Appropriation Ordinance. The ordinance had three columns: 2026 as the proposed appropriation, 2025 which was last year's appropriation and a change column to show any difference in the years. Estep reviewed all of the reports to explain what they represent and how we use them during the budgeting process.

Estep stated that she would be going around the table to see what projects each committee is proposing for 2026 so we can discuss and see if they can be funded this year.

**Streets & Sidewalks** – Tolles presented a quote for prep and painting the light poles in the business district, the clock and the pole at the corner of Front and Beaver Streets. The quote is from Josh Iler Construction in the amount of \$19,450. This is the same company that painted the fire hydrants in town. Tolles will work with Interim Administrator Weaver to obtain two more quotes. This expense will come out of the Lands & Buildings Capital Improvement fund.

Fiscal Officer Beyer stated the street survey is finished and they have a meeting with the company March 24 to review their findings. It was discussed that we have \$330,000 in the Street Levy fund and can use this for paving streets and any repairs the report recommends. Beyer also stated this is the year we need to renew the Street Levy assessment.

It was noted there is \$21,000 available for sidewalk replacement.

**Commercial & Economic Development** – Grey stated they are looking at advertising ideas and different ways to advertise, not just via the commercials. He will check with the Chamber to see how effective they feel the commercials have been for the businesses. Going forward he would like to see the advertising split between four entities, which would include the Arts Council. Estep stated that any additional funding would need to be discussed with the Solicitor since currently the Chamber is working on regaining their non-profit status. She didn't think the Village could give money to a group that is not a non-profit.

Grey also brought up purchasing an electronic sign, that could be used for a variety of things. There was some discussion on the placement of the sign, having sponsors help pay for the sign, etc.

Grey stated he would also continue to investigate the placement of the recycling dumpsters and potentially moving them to the parking area north of where the elementary school use to be. Mayor Berry stated the Village would need to put a fence around it so when it gets windy the fence would catch the debris.

**Safety & Welfare** – Thiebaut reported the flashing signs cost \$2,000 each and will check with ODOT to see if they feel they are warranted (based on the Safety & Welfare Meeting held prior to this meeting). It was suggested to budget \$8,000 from the State Highway fund in the event ODOT mandates two flashing signs are needed East and West versus just one on the right side of the road going East and West.

**Utilities, Sewers & Streetlights** – It was discussed that it is time to have a comprehensive look at our rates since the Village incurred a rate increase from the City of Bowling Green for water.

Fiscal Officer Beyer stated the Master Meter project will be this year with a cost of \$88,200 with half coming out of Water Capital and half from Water Operating fund.

Mayor Berry stated Interim Administrator Weaver reported our Scada System needs upgraded. This system tracks the water coming into town and we can no longer get parts to fix our current system. The cost of this upgrade is \$44,943.60 and would come out of the Water Capital fund.

Fiscal Officer Beyer stated the new utility billing software will go live April 17. Mayor Berry reported Toledo Edison will begin installing the new LED lights this summer.

**Finance, Wages & Audit** – Estep reported that she would like the Finance Committee to look at the benefit package offered to the employees and see if there is any room for changes, such as the employees being able to purchase a group vision or dental plan. It was noted that 2026 is an audit year for the Village.

**Buildings, Parks & Properties** – The Village was awarded \$9,285 for pickleball and basketball court resurfacing at Labino Park from the Wood County Park grant. The court replacement quote is \$26,240 with an additional \$15,850 for SportsScape. It was noted that the Village cost would be approximately \$40,000 if lights were included. The cost of this project will come out of the Parks Capital Improvement fund.

Mayor Berry reported he is obtaining a quote to expand Council Chambers. He also stated additional shingles were blown off the roof of the Town Hall. The Village will be following-up with the insurance company.

Purchasing an AED Unit for the Town Hall was discussed. An approximate cost of \$2,000 will be incorporated into the appropriations.

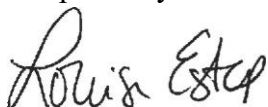
Fiscal Officer Beyer reviewed the proposed 2026 Annual Appropriation Ordinance. The highlights include:

- Increased the contracted police services, due to their rate increase
- Increased salaries and benefits in the Parks, Street Maintenance & Repair, Water and Sewer Funds due to the potential of hiring an additional employee
- Increased the salary for the Zoning inspector, due to hiring Ken Taylor and decreased the benefits, since he will not have health insurance
- Increased the Mayor and Council salaries slightly due to the new wage ordinance
- Increased the Employee Benefits under the Fiscal Officer and Income Tax Funds (previously, this expense came out of the Administrator's budget)
- Increased the Auditing Fees, due to 2026 being an audit year for the Village
- It was decided to use the \$125 in the Memorial Flower Fund to help pay for the flowers in front of the Town Hall so this fund can be eliminated in 2027
- Decreased the Contracted Services for CCA under Income Tax, due to them invoicing some expenses from 2024 in 2025
- Increased the Transfer Out in the Income Tax Fund since all of the monies need to be transferred out at year-end.
- Beyer explained that the Sewer Debt Fund is due to the extension of sewer lines on Route 65. She stated the Miscellaneous Capital Projects Fund is due to selling a Village vehicle.

The total appropriations increased by \$232,186.26 from 2025 for a total of \$2,955,677 for 2026 expenses.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Louise Estep  
Chair, Finance, Wages & Audit Committee