Finance Committee Meeting Jan 23, 2023

Attendees: Theresa Bisbee, Monica Koudeła, Patrick Mohorcic David Phares, Natalie Antosh, Bob Pattton, Mike Vanni, Todd Shannon, Cheryl Benedict, Tim McLaughlin

Meeting Minutes:

Called to Order 6:00pm

Topic: Euclid Sewer Rate Increase 2023

- 1. When was Willowick notified?
 - a. Cheryl reached out to Euclid Finance Director Mid Dec 2022 to get an update on sewer charges for 2023. She was not getting called back but on Jan 17th, the Asst Finance Director sent over the *Euclid Ordinance 109-2022 which was passed October 3, 2022, by Euclid City Council*, this ordinance shows the new sewer rates for 2023.
 - b. The increase for Willowick was approved by Euclid City Council 10/3/22
 - c. Euclid can increase the cost to the various cities without justification
- 2. Question if we have a cross check meter
 - a. Per City Engineer we do have a cross check meter which allows Willowick to validate the billing.
- 3. Can we request a cost study?
 - a. Will follow up with law director
 - Cost Study could cost approx. \$50K. Would look to see if Wickliffe, Willoughby Hills and Willowick could split this cost
- 4. Questions
 - a. Bob Patton: Do we have any legal stance against Euclid or do we have the ability to push back and look to get a justification on the increase without notice.
 - i) Need to get opinion of law director
 - b. What is the current Language in our ordinance on increases?
 - i) Council can pass by motion up to 5%
 - ii) If increase is passed would need to have all numbers back to Finance Director by Feb 26th
 - c. What has been in the rate increases from Euclid:
 - i) **2017** 6.6%; **2018** 9.3%; **2019** 9.3%; **2020** 10%; **2021/2022** 0% **2023** 25%
- 5. Will have a follow up meeting to discuss next steps and options to put in front of Council
 - a. If needed will have an open session to bring the residents will need a fact sheet with all the information City Engineer will prepare as needed.
- 6. Adjourn Motion by Monica 2nd by Patrick all in favor 7:40pm

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Bisbee, Chairman

Finance Committee