

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2018

Municipal Council of the City of Vermilion
Municipal Complex, 685 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio 44089

In Attendance:

Vermilion City Council:

Steve Herron, President of Council; Monica Stark, Council at Large; John Gabriel, Ward One; Frank Loucka, Ward Two; Steve Holovacs, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four; Brian Holmes, Ward Five.

Administration:

Jim Forthofer, Mayor; Chris Howard, City Engineer; Amy Hendricks, Finance Director; Tony Valerius, Service Director

Call to Order:

Brian Holmes, Chairman, RESOLVED THAT this Finance Committee comprised of the committee of the whole does now come to order.

TOPIC ONE:

Lake Erie Shores & Islands Capital Improvement Grant

F. Loucka made council aware there is an opportunity through Lake Erie Shores & Islands for capital improvement grants of approximately \$250,000 per year. It's an Erie County program strictly designed to increase tourism. It was brought to his attention by Vermilion resident Jim Machkoff. He said it's a reimbursement type grant and it will fund 50 percent of a project and it's for aesthetic improvements, new tourism product development, revitalization/restoration, way-finding signage programs, and projects that offer special or unique visitor experience opportunities.

Mayor Forthofer said he sits on the Erie County Economic Development Agency with Larry Fletcher who is the President of Lake Erie Shores & Islands who told him they have never had an application from a municipality. All their applications have come from tourist bureau's; Chamber of Commerce's and Main Streets. He said they help fund water tower painting, but they must put Lake Erie Shores & Islands on it, same as way-finding signage. He spoke with Marilou Suszko of Main Street Vermilion and she has some programs she is working with Lake Erie Shores & Islands right now on. He said he also spoke with the Port Authority on this and they didn't like the stipulation of putting Lake Erie Shores & Islands on the water tower. However, there are other things that may be possible and Marilou Suszko is looking into them.

J. Gabriel said they could always rename the Fulper's lot the Lake Erie Shores & Islands parking lot.

M. Stark asked if they would incorporate the municipality name in with the Lake Erie Shores & Islands and she was told yes. She thought the idea of putting signage on the Route 2 bridge would be great because as you travel around the state you're seeing more and more signage, and the Jerusalem Road bridge would be great place for this type of signage. She thought it could bring Vermilion a lot of attention coming into town off Vermilion Road rather than coming in on Baumhart, as Vermilion Road is a scenic path into town.

After no further discussion came before the committee, Chairman Holmes adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: October 15, 2018

Gwen Fisher Certified Municipal Clerk

*Finance Committee Minutes
September 24, 2018*