SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 23, 2009

Members of Finance Committee present: Ron Stake, Mel Clemens, Fred Deskins, Jr., Leslie Kelly.

Other members of Council present: Doug Joseph, Barth R. Cotner, Donna Shirey. Council President William L. Hills was present at 6:54 p.m.

Mr. Stake: I'll call to order the Special Finance Committee Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Item 2 is approval of the agenda. Are there any changes to the agenda by members of the Finance Committee? (No response)

Item 3 - 2010 Appropriation- - -on 10-19-09 item held two weeks; on 11-2-09 item discussed and held until 11-9-09 special Finance Committee meeting; held until 11-16-09 Finance Committee meeting; *held until special Finance Committee meeting set for 11-23-09.* I guess we've got more papers, more numbers over the weekend and then here today. Is the Auditor here? I guess one of the questions I have Mayor is, the last, the information that we got over the weekend came from the Auditor. Is that, did he send your budget in for you, is that your budget?

Mayor McCloud: Yes, Mr. Stake. What I do is I go through and just hand-write the figures, give them to him and then he creates these sheets and gives them to Mrs. Frazier.

Mr. Stake: Okay, so when we see budget information from the Auditor, we should assume that's your budget?

Mayor McCloud: That is correct.

Mr. Stake: Okay. That being said, I know that we are at this time, still about $600,000 in expenses over income. Any thoughts on that? Mayor, are you going to, how are you going to, I mean, it's your budget. I guess you're the one that has to figure out a balance.

Mayor McCloud: It's been a treat, Chairman Stake. In two weeks I will have some pretty good, firm numbers. I had what I thought was a productive meeting with the City Auditor and Mr. Hills on Thursday. City Auditor identified some albeit minor, but some additional sources of revenue. There are, there is still the potential of something substantial coming in soon. That is not a given; however, it is a possibility and sometime between now and December 7th, this will be much more meaningful and much more approximated, a balanced budget.

Mr. Stake: Okay, I and I did notice, looks like there's $200,000 more revenue in the information that we received over the weekend versus what we had previously. Where did that $200,000 come from?

Mr. Harris: There's a couple of potential sources that we have identified. Number one, from talking to several Council people, we think there's a real good opportunity that the increase in the bed tax will pass. Secondly, we will be turning in this week for the December 7th Committee Meeting, a legislative request to no longer fund the $50,000 a year into the Rainy Day Fund, the City's Contingency Reserve Fund. That will be another $50,000 that will go to the General Fund and we're also looking at the potential of, we always charge the Enterprise Funds for the work done by myself, Mr. Hood, the City Engineer and others. We are looking at those to see if those are being charged correctly. They have not, that number has not raised for at least six or seven years. We're going to look at what the fair market value of what those services are. We think that will be at least another $30,000 or $40,000 and now that we have a City Engineer, we will be charging the proper percentage of the amount of time he spends in those Enterprise Funds to be recouped by the General Fund. The General Fund should not be supporting the Enterprise Funds so between, we think, all of those, we're looking at, on top of what you've already seen which is part of that, at least another $50,000 or $60,000 that can be used by the General Fund. So those are the revenue sources we have identified as being able to be used for the General Fund operations.

Mr. Stake: Okay. We did receive updated cover sheet, I guess here along with the City Attorney's complete information and I noticed a discrepancy. I think Mr., Councilman Deskins noticed that, some other folks might have noticed that too. Budget request is $13,389,352 and from what my calculating, I noticed there was $71,500 left off from the City Attorney which in my calculator, comes to $13,379,352. You tell me Mr. Harris, where the other $10,000 was added from?

Mr. Harris: I'd be happy to do them, all right, Joni did these and I haven't had a chance to look at them and I'll have to take a look and see what happened.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Well, we did receive some information. I noticed that in the information that we did get, there were no worksheets or anything like that. Mayor, in your next two weeks, are you going to have work sheets coming with the final budget request?

Mayor McCloud: Yeah, when the numbers get firmer, I mean, I could do those worksheets several times a week and they would change but once these numbers get more firm, you will have those.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Well, that's just kind of an overview I guess of what's happened since then. Anybody, any other Finance Committee Members have any questions or comments or members of Council? I know that previously, we had gone over the City Council budget, the Mayor's budget, and now we do have the City Attorney's complete budget and the City Auditor so I guess we can proceed on from there. At least go through this a little bit and see if anybody has any questions or comments or suggestions. Again, there's about a $600,000 deficit and I was wondering if maybe anybody up here at this time had any suggestions in regards to solving that problem. Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: I think it's hard to do until you get the final figures you know, on what you're going to do, but I think when we think about it, when we do this, we ought to do in proportion; over sixty percent of our budget is Safety Department. I think, you know, when you do this proportionally, we've got to come up with that $600,000 on the departments, and we're going to have to consider reductions in the Safety Department, but everything's got to be looked at. It's easy to pick on one department, but that's not the way it should be. Spend an awful lot of money, like I said over sixty percent on one department. And they're going to have to suffer like everybody else. That's just the way I look at it.

Mr. Deskins: I agree with those comments. We talked about that a few weeks ago. We need to get down to the nitty gritty. When we get to where we know we are, at that point, and then try to come up with a percentage, and make all departments kick in and do their part, if it's 1%, 2% and then try to justify the ones that can't cut.

Mr. Clemens: You know, you hate to, you hate to reduce your staff, but if, you know, we won't be the only city, the only people that reduce their staff in a situation like this and I don't like to do it, but also we've got to have a balanced budget and when we speak of reducing the staff, I'm not, that's going to come in proportion.

Mr. Stake: Well, our personnel expenses are about 80% of our budget.

Mr. Clemens: I know.

Mr. Stake: So, I mean, if you're going to try and reduce, that'd be the logical place to try and do this.

Mr. Clemens: It's not something I look forward to, but I mean we're no different than any other business or you have to balance your budget, that's all there is to it.

Mr. Stake: Yeah and of course you need to prioritize. I mean, we can't sit up here and say, okay, we'll cut 10% and then, where's that coming from? You know, I mean, somebody's going to have to decide what that 10%'s going to be and it's the Mayor's budget and I believe the Administration should be the folks who make that decision.

Mrs. Kelly: Mr. Stake.

Mr. Stake: Yes, Mrs. Kelly.

Mrs. Kelly: Along those lines, one of the things that might be a good idea to do for each of the departments as they're turning in their sheets, which I appreciate, it helps very much to be able to understand what all those different things mean, but many of those departments will have to prioritize. These are the things that we have, I would say, or must have, have to have these things. You know, prioritize that list. I think that might help us as we continue to look through it and maybe help if they decide, what they may need to cut or do away with or double up on in order to balance the budget.

Mr. Stake: Okay, thank you Councilman Kelly. Any other questions or comments at this time? I guess next, would be the Clerk of Courts information and I believe we didn't receive any worksheets, but we did receive some information in regards to that. So if you can turn to your information that says Clerk of Courts, which would be the third one down. I see last year's budget request was $286,150 and this year it's just $241,020. Any questions or comments from members of Finance Committee or members of Council in regards to that? I do see a bunch of items here in the comment section. Just one of them says "interpreters". Maybe we'll get some work sheets to help us on what those things mean, but Mayor, it's my understanding that the software has to upgrade in the Clerk of Courts Office in 2010. Is that correct?

Mayor McCloud: That is correct.

Mr. Stake: Has that been reflected in this budget?

Mayor McCloud: No.

Mr. Clemens: I think, don't they have their own fund for that? They have their own fund for that.

Mayor McCloud: Yeah.

Mr. Stake: A separate fund to do that?

Mr. Clemens: Yes, isn't there a separate fund for that Dick?

Mr. Harris: Yeah, they have the Computerization Fund. Also myself and Mark Kipp have the same computer hardware, software that was purchased in 1984. Next year is the last year that they're going to be supporting that and we will have a proposal, it's a Capital Improvement, it's not a budget item, because it's going to be between the two of us, $500,000 or $600,000 to replace the hardware and the software on that and we will be bringing that to Council. That will be on the next committee agenda for December 7th along with the financing and everything else on it.

Mr. Stake: If I could ask everybody before you get up or start speaking, please let me recognize you, because I had a conversation with the Assistant Clerk of Council and she's having trouble knowing who's speaking at the time, so if you would be kind enough to do that, I'd appreciate it. Councilman Deskins.

Mr. Deskins: Thank you Councilman Stake. This is for my own benefit. They've got their own fund, what is that fund, what is it?

Mr. Stake: Mr. Harris.

Mr. Harris: Every month you hear when the Clerk of Courts gives the Clerk of Council the information on how much they've taken in for the month, one of the ones she reads is a Computerization Fund which is Fund No. 211 and right now there's $132,500 in that.

Mrs. Kelly: I'm sorry, repeat that please.

Mr. Harris: Fund No. 211, Computerization Needs, Courts.

Mr. Stake: And how much is in there?

Mr. Harris: There's $132,500.32.

Mr. Deskins: Does that come from the fines that they issue?

Mr. Harris: There's a, by ordinance, there's a certain amount from all the fines and the court costs. It's not the fines, it's the court costs that go into pay for that.

Mr. Deskins: Thank you.

Mr. Stake: Any other questions or comments in regards to the Clerk of Courts budget request. Moving on and we did get final figures from the City Attorney. I know that he did email me some information last week and everybody received it here this evening. So let's take a moment to look at that. He does explain his funding of the 5200 accounts on here. Are there any questions or comments from the Finance Committee for the City Attorney, members of Council? I know you just saw this, this evening so. Councilwoman Kelly.

Mrs. Kelly: Jed, I have a question, our Assistant Attorneys, I noticed that we have part time Assistant Attorneys. Do they each specialize in something different?

Mr. Hood: Yes, I have my staff of attorneys, is myself plus three, one full time which I believe most of you have met, Matt Roth, he's the full time Assistant Attorney, also my Chief Prosecutor. The other two are solely Prosecutors, Kevin Shannon, who's been working here I think seventeen years now and is responsible for one half of all of the criminal and traffic misdemeanors that are prosecuted in Franklin County. Mr. Roth is responsible for the other half. Mr. Willer, Glenn Willer is my Assistant Prosecutor who's in charge of all Domestic Violence cases that are filed in Franklin County Municipal Court. So, as far as specialization, they're both Prosecutors in the criminal realm, but Mr. Willer is a Special Prosecutor assigned to all my Domestic Violence cases. As far as salary accounts, you'll have to talk to Mr. Harris about those. Those are not things that, Mr. Harris puts those in for me, calculates their salaries on a yearly basis.

Mrs. Kelly: Who is, maybe the name is wrong, maybe I wrote it down wrong, Sondra ....I'm looking at it.

Mr. Hood: Sondra Sherman?

Mrs. Kelly: Yes, thank you.

Mr. Hood: She's my part time legal assistant.
Mrs. Kelly: Okay, thank you.

Mr. Hood: And Dee Kimble is my full time Assistant.

Mr. Stake: Mr. Harris, did you have something to add?

Mr. Harris: No, I thought you had said that you thought I would need to answer something but evidently not.

Mrs. Kelly: Nope, that's good. You answered all my questions.

Mr. Clemens: The pay going up for $20,000 on the Assistant, what is that?

Mr. Hood: As I said before, I didn't calculate the salary. When the budget sheets are given to us as Department Heads, the salaries are filled in for us by either Joni or Dick and someone in his office...

Mr. Clemens: If there's not going to be any increases, they should be the same as last year.

Mr. Harris: Mel, they are. I think you're looking at the 2009 expenses through 10/30, which is $117,000. The 2009 budget was $143,000, the 2010 budget is $137,300. So it didn't go up.

Mr. Clemens: Okay. That's the expenses to the date.

Mr. Harris: Yeah. That's expenses as of October 30, 2009.

Mr. Hood: I'm not requesting any salary increases for my employees this year, unfortunately.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Any other questions, comments for the City Attorney? Thank you Jed.

Mr. Hood: Thank you.

Mr. Stake: Next is the City Auditor, I believe we've had this already. I don't know if we've asked any questions. Does anybody have any questions in regards to the City Auditor's Budget request? Members of Finance Committee, members of Council? Then we'll move on to the Service Department. The budget request 2009 was $850,315; 2010 looks like it's going to be $836,378 and thus far, there's $668,923 in expenses. Any questions, comments, concerns, from members of Finance Committee or members of Council? If there are none, then we'll move on to Engineering. If you recall, when we did get the Engineering information, last week I believe it was, there were worksheets and those kinds of things attached to this Department's Budget request. That 2009 Budget request was $171,987; expenses thus far as of October 30, 2009, $129,501; this year's request is $194,841 which is significantly up over two years. I think we have the City Engineer with us here today. I'm sure he wants to tell us why that is.

Director of Engineering Miller: The reason for the increase Chairman Stake and members of Council is that the services for our GIS website, the website, hosting the website, updating the zoning map, are all included in the miscellaneous contract services portion of my budget. That money, though it is an increase in my budget, should equate out to decreases in other people's budgets. So though you do see it as something in the plus column under your, under the Department of Engineering, deductions from other departments are going to be made and this is based on my last conversation with the Mayor out of other departments to supplement that.

Mr. Stake: Can you tell me what those other departments are?

Mr. Miller: Building, Safety/Service, Streets, Water, Sewer, Planning and Zoning and Development. I believe that's all of them.

Mr. Stake: It sounds like there's some Enterprise Funds involved here. Why would we want to pay for these things out of our General Fund Budget? Mr. Harris.

Mr. Harris: Jim and I have had this conversation on a number of occasions. They cannot pay for that GIS for the Water Department, Wastewater Department, Stormwater Department, Street Department out of General Funds.

Mr. Stake: Although that's in here under the $50,000 Miscellaneous.

Mr. Harris: (Inaudible) under the Miscellaneous Contract Services, 5339.

Mr. Stake: I thought he just said it was under General Engineering. No?

Mr. Miller: No, it should be Miscellaneous Contract Services.

Mr. Stake: Miscellaneous Contract Services, and how much is that? How much small miscellaneous outside service is legal ads? I mean, that's what that says, right?

Mr. Miller: And, I have to apologize Councilman Stake. I thought I had my sheet with me and I didn't. It is upstairs on my desk so I don't have, I do not have the document that was given to you. I do not believe it was changed from the time that I gave it to the Mayor. If it's the same sheet, all of that stuff was under Miscellaneous Contract Services, not under General Engineering.

Mr. Stake: Okay, it doesn't describe that. It says small miscellaneous outside services, legal ads and then you've got $26,300, that doesn't sound small to me.

Mr. Miller: Well, if you look on the worksheet, there was eight or nine different things that were listed under miscellaneous contract services. Everything from newspaper advertisements, all the way up to website services.

Mr. Stake: But they are, I mean, there are some significant dollar amounts here. So I guess you're going to redo this since, I mean are we, Mayor? Are you going to allow for the General Fund to pay for those things that the Auditor says shouldn't be paid for?

Mayor McCloud: If the Auditor says we can't do it, we can't do it.

Mr. Stake: So, we'll be seeing new.....

Mayor McCloud: Get a new batch.

Mr. Stake: Engineering Department Budget.

Mayor McCloud: Yes.

Mr. Stake: Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Just come up with reductions in other departments and show us where they are so we know what the $26,000 is. I mean that's, you know, if it is a reduction, then show us what reduction it is in the other departments so we know where it's at.

Mr. Stake: Yeah, it would be nice Mr. Miller if you're going to go ahead and do that on your worksheet, why don't you just identify where it's coming from on the worksheet so we know it came from someplace else and we can verify that.

Mr. Miller: Sure. Well, Dick is telling me here that it has to be charged into the Enterprise Funds. Now, I'll have to sit down with him and work that out because the things that are not Enterprise Funds, you know, I guess I'm unclear then on how we want to do that. So if you'll allow me on those things like the GIS and the Hosting Services and the Updating Services, if you allow the Mayor and the Auditor and I to sit down, we can define specifically where that stuff comes out of.

Mr. Stake: That would be good. Any other questions, comments in regards to Engineering Department from members of Finance or members of Council? Thank you. The next item or the next line here would be Computer Department. The 2009 budget request was $269,479. As of 10/30/2009, $220,036 was spent. This year's budget request was $257,977. Any questions, comments, concerns from members of Finance Committee or members of Council? I notice we have a big and there's nothing here tells anybody what this is but Computer Maintenance is $68,000. Mayor, can you tell us what that is?

Mayor McCloud: I think that's licenses.

Mr. Harris: What that is Chairman Stake is the Police Department, my department, the, most of the other departments in the city who use that proprietary software, there are maintenance agreements in place for those and for servers, computers, printers and those kind of, those kind of hardware kind of things and software maintenance and it is a very costly line and that $68,000 does stand out but some of the software maintenance agreements are $15,000 - $20,000 - $25,000 a year and then there are maintenance contracts on the servers in case they go down that they can be, that they're covered by a warranty so that they can be fixed. Obviously, the ones like mine, the Police Department where, you know, payroll week, my computer goes down, there's going to be a lot of unhappy folks. The Police cannot do without their LEADS stuff and other things within their department and those are all paid for out of, all the computer software and all the hardware maintenance in the General Fund is all housed within that department rather than split between the other departments.

Mr. Stake: Do we have warranties on servers currently?

Mr. Harris: I'll have to look. Yeah, I know ours went down a few weeks ago, power supply and there is a maintenance agreement on it.

Mr. Stake: The power supply went down?

Mr. Harris: Yeah.

Mr. Stake: Not the server, the power supply.

Mr. Harris: Not the ser..., there inside the server where the power cord plugs in, there's a power supply in there and that one, it was smoking and they came out within a couple of hours and fixed it.

Mr. Stake: I know that we've had some challenges recently with our computers here in the building, correct Mayor?

Mayor McCloud: That is correct.

Mr. Stake: And I guess the Police Department, the website's been down for a while, and emails not going through, and those kinds of things. I thought that maybe our servers were rather old. Does anybody know what the year of our servers are, how old our servers are?

Mr. Harris: The one in, that's housed in my department was bought in 2002.

Mr. Stake: Is that the newest one?

Mr. Harris: That's the only one. The ones in the Police Department, there are various servers that have been purchased from what I've been able to see at various times and they weren't all purchased at the same time. All I want, all I'm familiar with really is the one that's in my department because that’s the one we’re getting ready to replace. It’s an old Unix server and we’ve had it for seven years.

Mr. Stake: Maybe the Safety Director knows the answer. How many servers we have and how old they are, those kinds of things.

Mrs. Boratyn: I don’t know the exact dates of them. I know there are a number of servers. I think there’s, I think there’s fifteen servers over there.

Mr. Stake: Fifteen servers?

Mrs. Boratyn: I think so.

Mr. Stake: Do we have any, I don’t see anything here in our budget to get new equipment and I’m, it’s my understanding that there maybe is a need for some new servers.

Mrs. Boratyn: I think that there are some needs that are going to have to be met for IT and I believe that Rod is working on a plan for what he thinks is going to be needed for the city.

Mr. Stake: Is he going to have that by the end of this year?

Mrs. Boratyn: I don’t know that he’ll have it by the end of this year.

Mr. Stake: Okay. Any questions or comments, members of Council or Finance Committee? President Hills.

President Hills: Chairman Stake, if I could ask and you brought up the point of maintenance agreements, do we have in one place a listing of all maintenance agreements we have or don’t have or are these in department? Does each have their own or has there ever been documentation in a book saying what agreements we have?

Mr. Harris: I’ve got copies of them. I can supply them to you, if you want.

Mr. Hills: Because I know we’ve, over the last two or three years, there’s always been debates about whether it is or it isn’t under warranty and I guess we should have some documentation of whether it is or isn’t.

Mr. Harris: I know Bart used to keep a spreadsheet on those, I don’t know of Rod’s familiar with where it is. I have any contracts that would have been entered into, I have those and I can supply you with those, but I can check with Rod and see what he has and what he doesn’t have, but I know I have the agreements, all the contracts which I’m required by the Charter to keep.

Mr. Hills: Because that may be beneficial Chairman Stake as to whether we need to replace equipment or just get it fixed, the maintenance agreement if we knew what we had. Okay, thank you.

Mr. Stake: Okay, anything else on computer? Next would be the Department of Development and the latest sheet I have says that 2009 budget request was $258,204 as of 10/30/09, they have spent $197,689 and this year's budget request is $251,093. Any questions or comments in regards to this from the members of Finance Committee or members of Council, and I will note that there were worksheets attached to this budget request also. If there aren't any questions in regards to that one, then we'll go on to Building. The 2009 Budget Request for $464,220, year-to-date expenses as of 10/30/09 were $334,612 and our budget request this year is $376,671 with $332,371 being personnel expenses. Any questions, comments from members of Finance? Councilman Clemens?

Mr. Clemens: I'm glad to see they're down, you know. That's good. I see the gas is up, I don't know how because they usually sit where they're at but both the cost of gas (inaudible).

Mr. Stake: Well, I would think in this economy, with the lack of building, there wouldn't be the need for as much travel.

Mr. Clemens: There isn't.

Mr. Stake: Therefore, you'd think gas would be down a little bit but, any other questions or comments from members of Council? Next we'll go on to Parks and Recreation. The 2009 budget request was $852,572. As of 10/30/09, expenses $660,066, 2010 budget request, $887,772. Any questions or comments from members of Finance or members of Council? Councilman Clemens.

Mr. Clemens: Yeah, I think we can work that $18,000 out somewhat, so. We may be able to make some changes on this as we go later. You know really, our Streetscape's beating us to death, $100,000 a year, $96,000, our contract, I mean, that's a lot of money.

Mr. Stake: Are you, you want a comment from the Parks and Rec Director, Councilman Clemens?

Mr. Clemens: No, other than I know that we have to do it but I said, you know, I hope the people realize what we're doing.

Mr. Shamblin: It's a..........

Mr. Clemens: We're spending a lot of money on Streetscape, I said.

Mr. Shamblin: Yes Sir, it actually is about $84,000 for a two year contract is what our, so.

Mr. Clemens: That's a lot of money to take care of that.

Mr. Shamblin: Yes Sir.

Mr. Clemens: I hope people realize that. It's too late to work other things out. Things should have been worked out on that when it was done. Something we'll have to do I guess.

Mr. Stake: I guess, Councilman Clemens, I'm curious you said the $18,000 for facilities charges would be taken out?

Mr. Clemens: Well, you know, we may have you know, they even it out some way.
Mr. Stake: Okay. Any other questions or comments from members of Finance or Council, if there are none, then we'll go on to....

Mr. Hills: Chairman Stake, if I could.

Mr. Stake: President Hills go ahead.

Mr. Hills: Jason, I noticed down in the machinery and equipment, $14,000, a new mower for vacant lots. Vacant lots are owned by somebody, aren't they?

Mr. Shamblin: Yes Sir.

Mr. Hills: And if we have to go out and mow the vacant lots, aren't we assessing somebody for it?

Mr. Shamblin: Yes.

Mr. Hills: Are we not hiring somebody to do that? We, if we're going to buy a mower, it wouldn't be just to do vacant lots that we hire somebody else to do would we, or am I missing something maybe I don't understand?

Mr. Shamblin: No Sir, no Sir. We in the past with all the properties that we mow, just internally in our parks, we have several mowers and in the past, we've traded in for new "Z" mowers in the past couple years. Instead of trading one in this year, I would ask to keep that one instead of trading it in and then as we move on to next year and continue with mowing the vacant and neglected lots, we'll utilize that one also.

Mr. Hills: Well I guess, I guess what, if money is reasonably tight, sometimes if we can put off buying a new piece of equipment for a year or use some other funding to do it, maybe I'm, maybe I'm not asking my question right but it says 'new mower for vacant lots $9101.16. So obviously, you know what mower you want and I guess my question would be, if they're vacant lots, someone other than the City of Reynoldsburg has the obligation to mow those lots and why are we mowing them unless we're getting reimbursement? Mayor, am I wrong on that?

Mayor McCloud: No, you're not wrong Mr. Hills. Part of the equation is that in the past, we hired an outside vendor who charged a flat fee and because we do attach these on the tax liens, however we do not get 100% return on these as you know, so one of the things we did, we hired someone at a fairly nominal rate of pay who could do several yards in a day to minimize our exposure, the money we don't get back, and so if we continue to do that, this would be, this would help us continue to keep up with the grass.

Mr. Hills: So it's not so much vacant lots, we're going to be mowing our lots, our city-owned grass with ....

Mr. Shamblin: Yes Sir, I, the primary purpose is, we need a, we traditionally replace one of our mowers a year. The, a, instead of trading this one in, we would use it, we would keep it and then use it during our busiest seasons when we're ....

Mr. Hills: We're adding a piece of equipment.

Mr. Shamblin: Yes Sir.

Mr. Hills: And I guess, it's always my concern that, do we have more to mow next year than we have this year and is all of our equipment working? I'm only, I'm only suggesting, if cash comes tight, (inaudible) where are you going to be saying it's a no-buy? It's probably going to be on a piece of equipment that you don't have to have and I don't know that we're there yet, because I think that's what part of this is about but then this is rather than a new mower for a vacant lots, this is a new mower for Parks and Recreation to mow city property. Just an additional mower to put in the inventory, not just, it is an additional mower to put in the inventory.

Mr. Shamblin: It is an additional mower to put in the inventory. We mow the park and recreation spaces as well as, we, in the past year mowed vacant lots.

Mr. Hills: Okay.

Mr. Stake: So I guess you're saying that this would be used to mow vacant lots as well.

Mr. Shamblin: It would be in a rotation of mowers that we would utilize to do that, yes.

Mr. Hills: Are we billing somebody for that when we mow the vacant lot?

Mr. Shamblin: Yes.

Mr. Stake: Any other questions or comments from Council members on the Parks and Recreation budget request? Next would be the Senior Center. Budget request in 2009 was $163,369, expenses thus far as of 10/30/09, $131,847. This year's budget request is $194,847 and it looks like to me that the increase is primarily the roof replacement which we've been talking about I think for three or four years now and then an awning for the Senior Center Deck which is almost $5,000. Councilman Clemens, did you have a comment or a question?

Mr. Clemens: Yeah, I don't know, I don't even like to say this but some things like this should be self-sufficient in some respect you know. It's an awning for the Senior Citizen Deck, $4,800, I mean, they don't collect money down there or anything like that I mean?

Mr. Stake: Mr. Shamblin, you want to shed some light on that?

Mr. Shamblin: The, for the most part, their programming is self-sufficient, so we cover the salaries for our staff there and then the programming, the trips, and what-not are for the most part self-sufficient.

Mr. Clemens: Yeah, I know, $194,847.

Mr. Stake: Well, a good part of that is personnel expenses. Can you tell me why, how long has the Senior Center been there, how long has the deck been on the Senior Center? Anybody know? Has it been on there since it's been built?

Mr. Shamblin: Well, there are several additions. I'm not sure of the exact age on that.

Mr. Stake: Then why the need for an awning now?

Mr. Shamblin: The, they utilize it for multiple occasions. They have their picnics, they have their potluck, they have their, the Reynoldsburg Community Band plays there for the Seniors in the Summer so that was the request.

Mr. Stake: That's fairly pricy for the budget situation we're in right now. The roof, Councilman Clemens, go ahead.

Mr. Clemens: Does the roof leak or whatever?

Mr. Shamblin: The roof has leaked yes, it's been patched multiple times. We had it in the budget for 2008, we bid that project twice. The first time we had to throw out the bids, the second time was after Hurricane Ike and the bids all came back excessively expensive so. We put it in this year's budget request and it was taken out. So, I believe it's the original roof from, I believe, 1987 so.

Mr. Stake: And with all the storms that we've had and storm damage, I notice everybody and their brother's getting a new roof on their insurance company. Has our insurance company had a chance to look at this at all and did we file the claim or at least try to file a claim on this?

Mr. Shamblin: Not in the time that I've been here.

Mr. Stake: I mean, I don't know if they would pay the full cost but if there is any storm damage, while we have insurance. I might check into that. Any other questions or comments in regards to the Senior Center Budget request? Thank you Mr. Shamblin. Well, it's 7:15 p.m. so I'm going to go ahead and end the Special Finance Committee Meeting at this time at 7:15 p.m. Thank you.

Special Finance Committee
---Nancy C. Frazier, Clerk of Council
November 23, 2009
(Transcribed/S. Cochran, Ass't. Clerk of Council)