

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT JULY WORK SESSION

CARES ACT FUNDING

The City received its first installment of CARES Act funds in the amount of \$381,144.53. The Gustavus Small Business/Nonprofit grant application has been circulated to the Council on July 9th. Grants will be issued for \$1,650 – a flat rate calculated by taking the allotted \$150,000 and dividing it by the number of small businesses and nonprofits that could apply for funding (91). We will notice the available grant program and distribute on the two social media outlets used by the City (News and the library). The review team will include up to 3 Council members, the City Administrator, Treasurer, and the Fire Chief. Applications will be assembled each Monday and reviewed on the following Thursday. Funding recommendations will be given to the Mayor for approval and a report will be submitted to the Council each week. See the Economic Grant Guidance document for more information.

Also, we submitted our first reports to the State on June 23 for March, April, and May. We will report once we get a response.

WATER GRANT

Recently, the City received notice that the Village Safe Water (VSW) grant scored below the funding line for this year. There were 33 planning projects submitted for a total of \$3.3 million; \$2 million was available for the program. Of the 33 applications, 19 were approved. I was able to discuss the application with the State to determine what could be done to increase the score. I learned that we are not likely to score as well as most applications for a couple reasons. As an example, one area is that wells and catchment systems are considered an existing water source. Communities without a water source get higher points. Given our circumstances, I asked if we would have similar difficulties with a construction grant through VSW. I was told the scoring situation would likely be the same as the planning grant, we simply don't get the points of some other communities.

- Options for funding for a water study/construction include the following:
- Fund ourselves – for both projects, likely around \$1 million
- Look for the grants such as USDA, similar issues are likely, and most programs require a match – typically 25%
- Consider a low-interest government loans, some are a loan to grant program

ADMINISTRATION LIBRARIAN

As you know, Bre has submitted her resignation effective August 7th; she will be missed terribly. Staff is proceeding with a search for a new administrative librarian, the first step will be to create a hiring committee. In speaking with the Mayor, the committee will consist of 2 council members, the treasurer and myself. If you are interested in being on the committee, please let me or the Mayor know.

CARES ACT SPENDING

There have been 2 recent requests for funding consideration.

Council member Vanderzanden shared a suggestion for testing. As an example, if a business in town with high exposure employees were infected and didn't have symptoms, could spread the virus rapidly without anyone knowing it for days. If we allotted say \$10,000 for testing, business owners could register high exposure employees to be tested weekly or bi-weekly until the end of the season.

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As for the rest of the community - possibly \$100 vouchers for those who for whatever reason want to be tested just for peace of mind.

This proposal is being researched based on questions from the work session and a report will be provided.

The other request is for the Gustavus School/Chatham School District. Superintendent Houck has submitted a request for funds to allow the school to purchase some items to help maintain a safe and healthy school learning environment as summarized below:

- (6) Apollo UV-C Lamp Entire Room Disinfection Systems (\$375 each; Total: \$2250)
- (140) Sneeze Guard - Acrylic Divider Protection Barrier Shield (\$45 each; Total: \$6300)
- (30) Reusable Face Shields for Elementary-age Students (\$12 each; Total: \$360)
- (120) Boxes of Disposable Face Masks, 150 count (\$60 each; Total: \$7200)
- (20) Cases of Clorox disinfecting wipes 4-count (\$13 each; Total: \$260)
- (12) 1-gallon jugs of Clorox bleach (\$5 each; Total: \$60)

In total, approximately \$16,500. The Council has directed staff to process the request.

Superintendent Houck is attending the meeting if there are questions.

LIBRARY ROOF

The City did not receive a response to the library roof repair RFQ. The Council directed staff to prepare scoping documents and a RFP to provide a different approach for solicitation. Staff will prepare the scoping document with an amount of \$150,000 and a RFP for the Council to review for approval. The RFP is different than the RFQ in that it will ask the responding business to suggest a scope of work to resolve any damage to the building; a RFQ provides the scope of work to the business. Staff intends to have the documents for the August work session.