**Finance Advisory Committee, Minutes – 10/16/25, ZOOM**

Attendance: Josh Howley(minutes), Mike Albanese, Jim Murphy, John Kaplan (Chair), Bob Dewing, Jennifer Semler, Khizar Sheikh, Mitchell Stern

Absent: Lauren Barnett

1. Minutes from August 5, 2025 were approved.

2. Discussion about the BAN and how Phoenix Advisors performed. Jennifer said that Phoenix suggested 10 month vs. 12 month, a more favorable maturity for interest rates and our anticipated bond financing in 2026. Phoenix also suggested moving the sale by one day to differentiate ML sale from another comparable sale. Phoenix really helped with the administrative functions relating to a sale. Phoenix did a good job marketing the sale. Jennifer felt much more comfortable using Phoenix vs. not. The Chair believes that we got good value for what we spent. Khizar asked Jennifer to write up a summary of the value that Phoenix provided.

3. Long Term Capital Plan. This is looked at annually around this time of year. There was a discussion about the difficulty of projecting out a LTCP more than 5 years. Bob noted that it is used to manage expectations. There was a discussion about lead lines and the monies that may be needed to fund replacement. There was also a discussion about the status of PFAS.

4. The Committee discussed the first PFAS settlement and the funds already received by the Borough and to be received in the future. Per Jennifer, the PFAS settlement money goes into the MRNA (Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated) and we need to appropriate through the fund balance.

5. The Committee discussed whether the Borough is spending too little on general maintenance and infrastructure excluding large long-lived capital projects like Borough Hall, Sunset Dam and Birchwood/Island Beach.

6. The Committee discussed passing through debt service for capital expenditures specifically associated with the utilities. There was consensus that there is better value to doing larger bond offerings at the borough vs. smaller offerings if issued separately at the borough and utilities.

7. Asked FAC to identify the costs that could be allocated to the utilities. Mitchell and Jennifer said they would provide it.

8. Jennifer mentioned that the Borough's sprinkler rates may be too low and the sprinkler rate could be increased. Water rates can be changed mid-year. The Borough is using a consultant to assistant to analyze the water charges.

9. The FAC discussed the ability of the Borough to use the iBank for capital projects and the requirements to using iBank loans.

10. The FAC discussed lead / galvanized line replacement and which party (Borough vs. homeowner) is responsible for replacement from the curb-stop to the home.

11. Mitchell suggested considering increasing the storm trust reserve as he anticipates less FEMA reimbursements in the future. FAC should consider this in the future.

Next meeting is November 5, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.