

Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 15, 2023 at 8:30am
Trustees of Public Funds (TOPF)

Committee Members in Attendance: Tanner Romano, Courtney Satz, Laura Miner
Others in Attendance: Seth Hopkins, Bill Moore, Wayne Rausenberger

Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 8:32am by Tanner Romano and Wayne Rausenberger was given the floor.

Review the funding request submitted by Sue Gage on behalf of the Town of Brandon

TOPF received a request on May 9, 2023 from Sue Gage on behalf of the Town of Brandon in the amount of, \$14,000 to offset expenditures of \$40,491.00 for mosquito control. Wayne Rausenberger presented the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District (OCWICD) FY23/24 budget, which included budget to actuals from 2022/23 and stated he had concerns the TOPF did not fund the 2022 request from the town. Tanner Romano clarified the 2022 request was not declined, rather put on hold awaiting additional documentation to form a complete application by the TOPF as stated in the 05/27/2022 meeting minutes. The request was never followed through by the town.

Wayne Rausenberger requested that TOPF continue to fund OCWICD as it has for decades and questioned recent involvement of Attorney Jim Leary by the TOPF. Seth Hopkins expressed his concern that the intent of the Trust was to fund OCWICD as well. Tanner Romano clarified the TOPF sought council by James Leary, Esq. in 2022 to review the last will and testament of Shirley Farr (who established the trust) and help interpret the language of the documents created at the time of her death (1955) within a historical context so we can properly apply them to the standards of today's living within our community, as well as a general audit of the Trusts procedures.

The financial information provided by Mr. Rausenberger was helpful towards understanding the budget layout of the OCWICD, however, it did not include any actual cost accounting records which the town may want for the application. The trust also requested some level of health and safety verification as well as verification that the general public is still in favor of the spraying. Seth responded that the town relies on state provided health and safety data, and that the voters last approved the spraying in 1978 and no one has since requested a re-vote. The group agreed the Town would resubmit the request once all financial considerations have been vetted out, and the aforementioned information could be included to complete the application. Laura Miner informed the group that our public funding limits has been reached for fiscal year 2023. New requests may be submitted, but awards would not be able to be distributed until the start of fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023). TOPF will review the request again once it has been resubmitted.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55am.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Miner