

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting

May 21, 2018

Members: Tim Gorbach, Chair
Jerry James
Mary Ellen Pyke

Mr. Gorbach called the meeting to order at 7:22 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Ord. A-40

Temp. Ord. A-41

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. A-40

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the County of Summit and Cities of Akron, Fairlawn, Green and Stow (“Parties”) for the acquisition, installation and operation of a consolidated computer aided dispatch system, and declaring an emergency.

Mayor Walters stated that he would give a brief background and then turn it over to the Finance Director, because it is a financial piece of savings for the City. This discussion on a dispatch center started close to two years ago. It was initiated by former Stow Mayor, Sara Kline. The City was behind the times with antiquated software. It was felt it would be cheaper to share in the cost between communities. There were numerous meetings between the Finance Department, Safety Forces and the Law Department. Fairlawn, Green and Hudson met with them and realized there was a huge benefit to collaborating, specifically on the software piece. If the City ever gets the accompanying consolidated dispatch center that is still being explored, the CAD piece made a lot of sense. When the County got involved, they felt that it would be beneficial if they would be the purchaser and the owner of the software, and the other cities would all be entities of them. That's the way it has played out. The savings alone are astronomical. This ended up being a win-win.

Mr. Gorbach stated that for six communities to get together with their own Law Directors and Finance Directors and the Administration of each government entity, it is pretty impressive that they were able bring to Council legislation such as this. This isn't for brick and mortar or for an actual new dispatch center. This is for software for all of them to use with the 911 service. Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, stated that this is something that has been a long time coming. A couple years ago, they put in a \$800,000 budget line item for a replacement of hardware and software for the Computer-Aided Dispatch center. The one the City currently has is over 20 years old. With this collaboration between the City of Cuyahoga Falls, City of Akron, the County of Summit, City of Fairlawn, City of Green and the City of Stow, Cuyahoga Falls will be saving \$650,000 just in the initial software and hardware upgrades. With that, it will also be saving roughly \$30,000 in annual maintenance costs. Because they are bringing everybody together, they

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have been able to tap into the 911 funding. Cuyahoga Falls gets a portion of that funding. The County has kept a small portion of that over the past couple of years. It is being applied to this, so that benefits the City another \$27,040 applied to this contract. At one point, the City of Stow, the City of Cuyahoga Falls and the City of Tallmadge tried to apply for a \$500,000 grant to try do something on their own. When the County came in, they brought the missing piece together with that grant. They applied again and were able to get that \$500,000, of which \$153,128 will be applied to the City of Cuyahoga Falls. All told, the City stands to save a considerable amount with going this route with just the software piece.

Police Chief Davis stated that, besides the financial savings, the fact that the information sharing will be available amongst the departments is a huge benefit, because crime doesn't stop at the border. For the Police Department to be able to obtain that information is great. It's actually record management, so it would enable them to do some different reporting, allowing the Department to do more in the field. It would free up time for officers and run more accurate crime reporting. It would bring them up to where they should have been years ago. Chief Davis stated that he is very much in support of this. The consultants has been great to work with and have looked at every piece of this.

Mr. Gorbach stated that Cuyahoga Falls is one of six that need to approve this. He asked if all the communities do approve it, when would they start to realize the benefit of this new software. Mr. Hoffman stated that this would start July 1st. There is a year-and-a-half implementation phase. Based on the timeline of the cash flow that he has, it is starting right around early April of 2020, after the CAD acceptance. That's the date that was put in there as a timeline to full-blown access to everything and working together.

Mr. Jason Roblin, with MCM Consulting, based out of Willard, Ohio, stated that, as far as where the other entities are, the City of Stow has introduced legislation. It came out of their Public Safety Committee last week. The City of Akron is looking to introduce this in two weeks. Green and Fairlawn stated that they have got it covered. They'll have it done by mid-June. The County is introducing legislation to allow the Executive to sign an intergovernmental agreement once the other parties have their legislation complete, so they won't need to wait for another Council meeting to arrive. There are a lot of discounts built into the quote or proposal from Tyler that may expire. June 29 is the actual expiration date of the current proposal. They have already extended this three months. From a corporate standpoint, they see this as the longer it lingers, it's lost revenue to them. It's bottom line cents per share. They really wanted this done three months ago. It's a very complex agreement. The City of Cuyahoga Falls has been very patient, over a number of years, waiting on everybody else to catch up. This really is going to push forward and get done. It needs to happen by the end of June.

Mr. James stated that he has been excited about this concept since Council went over to Stow and had a multi-Council meeting a few years ago. He is glad that things are rolling now, and it's starting to look like it's going to come to fruition. He is very much in line with this and very much in support of it. Mrs. Pyke asked what exactly the City is buying into. Mr. Gorbach stated that

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the City is paying its portion of the total cost, including the setup, the purchase of the software and then the ongoing maintenance cost. He is assuming the City's portion is based on population. Mr. Hoffman stated that there is a complicated allocation spreadsheet, Exhibit E within the agreement, that shows how the costs are being broken up. There are a number of factors that allocate those costs down based upon different portions of the software and users of the software. This type of agreement is not new. The City has entered into this type of agreement before with the Safety Forces' radios. It's a similar agreement where the County has purchased the asset, the software, and then shares in that cost with the communities.

Mrs. Pyke asked if, as of right now, the City is not looking at consolidating any dispatch. Mr. Roblin stated that there is a separate, ongoing project. This is specifically for the use of the CAD system. The County will contract with Tyler. The County will provide the hardware in two geodiverse locations for redundancy and backup. The County will provide one and a half full-time employees to oversee the CAD system and help run a CAD oversight committee. In his opinion, the bang for the buck comes in that they are getting a future-rich system. They are not going to be able to implement everything on day one. It's going to take a lot of years to find all the little pieces they will get the most benefit out of and to prioritize them. The CAD oversight committee is going to help the order of implementation. Mrs. Pyke asked if this is for Fire and Police. Mr. Roblin stated that this is a system that, at its core, is a dispatch center which dispatches for Police and Fire. The information that they gather can then be used in another software called Records Management for both Police and Fire. The City of Cuyahoga Falls Fire Department uses another program called Firehouse that can interface and can dump information. Anything the dispatcher has gained on the incident can be used to help them write their reports, as well. For dispatch, it is for Police, Fire and EMS. Mrs. Pyke asked if the mobile platform still used MDT's and will they need any new equipment for that. Both Mr. Roblin and Chief Davis stated that they will not.

Mr. Pallotta asked if this is contingent on other communities signing up for this, as well, and will the financial responsibility change based upon how many communities are involved in this. Mr. Roblin stated that they took a straw poll. The ones on the intergovernmental agreement are the ones that said they want to be a part of the CAD system. The numbers that are being presented are no worse than numbers to get it started. Tyler offered this group a site license. It's the first time they have ever done this. In the past, they would count each and every mobile computer in cars. There is a price for each one of those. Each dispatch center has a price. They went through the exercise of gathering all that information for how the costs are shared. When new entities want to come into the system, that exercise still needs to go through with the 1.5 full-time employees to determine how much their share would be. When new Phase II participants come into the system, all of the current Phase I participants' costs are going to decrease. Maintenance costs will go down, and they should get a credit or credit for time for the initial buy-in. It is not a lot of money, but it adds up over time. Mr. Pallotta asked if that means that the more communities become involved, the lower the City's cost or share would be. Mr. Roblin stated that is correct.

Mr. James moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-40 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Pyke. Motion passed (3-0).

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Temp. Ord. A-41

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with OMEGA JV5 for the “as is” purchase of JV5 assets of three diesel generators and related equipment, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Gorbach stated that this legislation is pretty much identical to what Council passed not so long ago. Mr. Michael Dougherty, Electric Superintendent, stated that they are similar engines. The cost is a little bit more, because they have to be moved. They're similar in the retrofits that the EPA are going to require. It's going to be a little bit different because of the slightly different design of the enclosure. They bought six JV1 units. These three units are going to cost \$800,000 to \$1 million to do this project. If they hit all the peaks with them each year, it would save \$600,000 per year on electric costs. If they miss the peaks, it's going to be less. They expect that they would pay for it in a couple of years. Mr. Gorbach asked where they will be housed. Mr. Dougherty stated that, right now, the leading spot is over by the Water Treatment Plant. They used to have an emergency generator over there. They do not now. This will be the setup to help give them energy generation over there. That's all going to depend on permitting from the EPA. It's not necessarily a slam dunk that they get it. They understand, from the environmental consultant talking with the EPA, that they don't see any reason why it wouldn't be approved, but they won't know until they get the document in their hands. Mr. Gorbach asked what the timeline is to have them on line. Mr. Dougherty stated that the goal would be to have them on line for 2019 peak shaving.

Mr. Dougherty stated that these generators are in five locations, the closest one being Wadsworth. The City of Shelby is also going after these generators, so whoever gets their legislation done first gets their generators. Right now, he is expecting that they would be able to take the three Wadsworth generators, so they would have to move them from there. There is a location over by the Water Treatment Plant that they think would be a good spot as long as the EPA agrees. Mrs. Pyke asked how large the generators are. Mr. Dougherty stated that they are similar in size to the JV1 generators. Mrs. Pyke asked how loud they are. Mr. Dougherty stated that they are the same loudness that the JV1 generators are. Mrs. Pyke asked if the residents near the Water Treatment Plan will hear them and if he sees that as a problem. Mr. Dougherty stated that it depends on how close they are. The expectation with peak shaving is that they would probably run them about 10 to 15 times per year, about 4 to 6 hours each time in the very hottest days of the summer; probably less than 100 hours a year. Mr. Dougherty stated that is why he gave them the \$800,000 to \$1 million range, in case it becomes necessary to install a sound wall. Mrs. Pyke asked what condition they are in since they are listed “as is.” Mr. Dougherty stated that that is an AMP requirement. They are expecting less than \$50,000 in repairs.

Mrs. Pyke moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-41 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.