

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee Meeting
January 19, 2015

Members: Vic Pallotta, Chair
Adam Miller
Jerry James

Mr. Pallotta called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. A-2

Discussion

Temp. Ord. A-2

An ordinance creating and assigning the position of Electric Meter/Substation General Foreman in the classification and compensation plan, and declaring an emergency

Mr. Pallotta asked Mr. Dougherty to go back a few years and bring Council up to date. Mr. Dougherty stated that 30 years ago, there were three management positions for Substation and Meter. One of those positions was eliminated at that time. In 2010, another position was eliminated for the MR Project. At that time, it was thought there would be less management duties, but there was not a reduction in management duties and, if anything, management duties increased.

Mr. Dougherty stated that compliance with NERC FERC is a concern. In 2009, the City was fined from NERC FERC. The maximum penalty is \$1 million a day out of compliance. Someone was brought in on a part-time basis, but given the reduction in management duties with the MR Project and increased responsibilities with NERC FERC, it soon became apparent that a full-time position was needed. He stated that Reliability First is the company that audits for compliance with NERC FERC and is funded by fines; therefore, fines for even small infractions are commonplace.

Mr. Pallotta asked if there were any questions from the Public Affairs Committee and Council. Mrs. Pyke requested permission to address Mr. Dougherty and asked if he would explain to Council what the acronyms NERC FERC represented. Mr. Dougherty stated that FERC stands for Federal Energy Regulation Committee, a national organization that oversees the Volt Electric System as one of their primary duties. NERC is the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, an arm of FERC that creates rules and oversees adherence to those rules.

Mrs. Pyke asked if AMP Ohio helps with these regulations. Mr. Dougherty stated that other than holding a monthly conference call with a consultant, they do not. He stated AMP is looking into what they can do to help its members, but that this position will still be needed. Mrs. Pyke asked if the intention was to find someone with NERC-FERC experience. Mr. Dougherty stated that the best way to go is to find someone experienced with circuits and substations and then train them in NERC FERC, because the salary offered for the position would make it difficult to attract someone with NERC-FERC experience.

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When asked by Mrs. Pyke what this position will pay and whether the intent was to hire an electrical engineer, Mr. Dougherty stated that it's a plus to have an electrical engineering background; that way, they will be skilled in the circuit knowledge necessary to understand NERC Standards. He stated that is was an N-31 position. Mrs. Pyke asked Mr. Hoffman if he knew what the salary was for an N-31 position. Mr. Hoffman stated that he would obtain that information and send it to her.

Mrs. Klinger requested permission to address Mr. Dougherty and asked if the General Foreman Electric Meter/Substation position listed in the budget as N-31 was a new position in addition to that. Mr. Dougherty stated that is the position, so it is already in the budget. Mrs. Klinger stated that was in the budget with a starting salary of \$57,000. She asked that Mr. Dougherty submit a quick capsule of the staff level and reporting structure and a brief description of the difference between each of the foremen, on up, sometime in the future. Mr. Dougherty said he would. Mrs. Pyke asked what the top level of pay was for that position. Mrs. Klinger replied that it simply stated budgeted wages of \$57,500 with \$21,000 in benefits.

Mr. James moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-2 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Miller. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.