

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting
January 3, 2012

Members: Diana Colavecchio, Chair
Don Walters
Jeff Iula

Mrs. Colavecchio called the meeting to order at 6:57 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes from the December 12, 2011 and December 27, 2011 Finance Committee meetings were approved as submitted.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. B-134
Temp. Ord. B-135
Temp. Ord. B-136
Temp. Ord. B-137
Temp. Ord. B-138
Temp. Ord. B-139

Discussion

Temp. Ord. B-134

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of annual requirements of certain materials and supplies for use by the Water and Sewer Division during 2012, and declaring an emergency.

John Christopher stated these are the annual requirements for water and sewer for 2012. The utility patch program is for both water and sewer; the chemicals are for the water treatment plant and include chlorine, fluoride, and caustic soda. The reason for the increase over last year is due to an increase in the cost for caustic soda. Water meter and related supplies are down quite a bit. The meter program is winding down. He will get the exact number of meters that still need to be changed out to Council. The bulk they are purchasing this year are for new construction homes. The City purchases them to have in stock and then the developer purchases them from the City. He stated there will be an increase in the cost of the meters but he wasn't sure yet how much. Well maintenance and repairs is for the well field behind Waterworks Park. There are 21 wells that need to be maintained. He included fire hydrants and Zeolite in his list even though they are below the \$25,000 limit. Zeolite is used at the water treatment plant to help the process of softening the water. Mrs. Colavecchio asked whether there were any large repairs scheduled in light of the rate increase. Mr. Christopher stated that Chestnut was at the top of the list and they also budgeted the Front Street project. Nothing else jumps out right now. He and Mr. Demasi meet frequently to discuss water line projects and the age of the water lines. It is difficult to pinpoint why a line that is 60 years old has no problems but a line that is 40 to 50 years old does. It could be due to a change in water pressure or acidic soil eating away the cast iron. Also, some lines are deeper than others so the shallow lines experience more freezing. Mrs. Pyke asked whether the roadwork and curb repairs at Chester/Olive/9th would come out of the Water Department. Mr. Christopher said they would be paid out of the utility patch program. Mr. Demasi felt there would be enough money in that fund to cover it and added they can increase the appropriation if they need more.

Mr. Walters moved to bring out B-134 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-135

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of annual requirements of certain materials and supplies for use by the Streets Division during 2012, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Novak stated the Street Department gets salt from three different sources: State Highway, SCMR, and Motor Vehicle License. Salt is budgeted at \$351,080 and is through CUE. As of last month, there were three small snowstorms totaling 3" of snow compared to a year ago when there were 18 storms. They used 4,469 tons of salt in December, 2010. Last month, they used only 223 tons. For asphalt, the Street Department does some paving that is separate from the Engineering resurfacing program. They will be going to bid on the paving. Sign materials are for making signs. They purchase vinyl to metal blanks and reflective materials. They are usually supplied by separate vendors. The department does a vast majority of the signs although there are a few items, such as stop signs, that they purchase already together because it is cheaper. The rest they design and make in-house. The paint supplies are for paint work on roads, such as striping and stop bars. Contractual Services deals with conveying of salt. Mrs. Colavecchio asked if the City were to continue seeing a savings on salt, would those savings be reallocated to asphalt in order to do additional streets. Mr. Novak stated he has been with the City for ten winters and there has never been a savings in salt. Mr. Brodzinski added that with the money allocated in the Capital Projects Fund for Street Repairs, they would not transfer money from Street. They would just reduce the transfer in the General Fund going to Street if less money is needed. They would use up State Highway and Motor Vehicle License first.

Mr. Iula moved to bring out B-135 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Walters. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-136

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of annual requirements of certain materials and supplies for use by the Sanitation Division during 2012, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Novak stated the big item in Sanitation is purchasing recycle carts. The recycle program is very successful. They have completed Phases I and II and are hoping to do Phase III this year. They will be purchasing 6,000 carts. The other items pertain to vehicles and equipment. He expects the carts to be rolled out in April or May, depending on when the order comes in and what the production schedule is for that week. The truck is ready. They just need to get the carts delivered, assembled and rolled out. Mr. Walters asked if there were still two tiers for recycling. Mr. Novak stated there was credit for homes that recycle. As things move forward, perhaps the credit could be changed to a larger rebate. There are still people who do not recycle so they pay the extra \$2.00 each month. The purchase of these 6,000 carts should complete the accounts for the whole City. He could not say which areas would be included in Phase III because it depended on the day of the week the pickup is scheduled but all accounts should be covered by July or August. Mrs. Colavecchio asked whether the carts would be the same price as what was paid in prior phases. Mr. Novak did not know. He is working with the salesman and is hoping they will be pretty close.

Mr. Walters moved to bring out B-136 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-137

An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 99-2011, relating to the purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus sets, and declaring an emergency.

Chief Moledor stated he came to Council in November for approval to purchase 20 SCBAs. Since then, the vendor indicated he would hold the prices on additional units until the end of January. After that, there will be a five percent increase. Therefore, they are amending the ordinance to include a second purchase of the same products, which will give the Department 40 SCBAs. They will not need to rebid the additional units, and it will be a savings of five percent.

Mr. Iula moved to bring out B-137 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Walters. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. B-138

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of annual requirements of certain materials, supplies and services for use by the Garage Division during 2012, and declaring an emergency.

Don Williams stated this is for diesel and gasoline, tires, outside repairs and parts. Tires are budgeted at \$65,000, parts at \$230,000, fuel at \$927,500, and outside repairs at \$245,000. Mrs. Colavecchio stated the budget sheet indicates outside repairs are \$275,000. Mrs. Carr stated she will verify that and added that the reason they've included parts is in case they need to make purchases before NAPA is operational. They are still intending to use the NAPA process. This is just for transitioning this month. Mrs. Colavecchio asked how the tires are bid. Mr. Williams stated the tires and fuel are purchased through CUE. They do not bid on outside repairs or parts. Mr. Iula asked if businesses in Cuyahoga Falls were used do to the repairs. Mr. Williams stated they do if they can, however, International only has one place located on Gilchrist Road, and Sterling is located in Cleveland. For the small vehicles, they use vendors in town.

Mr. Walters moved to bring out B-138 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Iula. Motion passed (3-0).

Sub. Temp. Ord. B-139 (dated 1-3-12)

An ordinance authorizing the Directors of Safety and Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase or lease of various vehicles for use by the City, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Williams stated that Exhibit A is attached to the ordinance and is a list of the vehicles that were discussed during the budget process. Mrs. Carr stated the reason for the substitute is because they were able to purchase a demo unit of the rear loader at a significantly lower cost. Nothing was traded in for the vehicle. Mr. Janis added that Sections 2 and 3 are new. The changes made to the exhibit are red-lined. Mrs. Colavecchio asked if Mr. Williams puts together an estimate during the budget process of the purchase price for the vehicles he plans to purchase. Mr. Williams indicated he did. He added that he plans to purchase them instead of leasing, but it really depended on whether Mr. Brodzinski found a good interest rate to borrow money. Mrs. Colavecchio asked if any of the other vehicles could be demos. Mr. Williams thought there could be a couple. He tries to do that with most vehicles but they will not be able to find any demos for the two big trucks. He would either sell or trade the old vehicles, depending on the condition of the vehicle. Mrs. Colavecchio asked about the hybrid that was purchased a few years ago. Mrs. Carr stated they did not want to do that right now. The prices are not where they want them to be. A lot of the vehicles will come off the state bid or CUE because pricing is better. Mrs. Pyke asked whether the asphalt zipper in Street is the one that cuts the entire area out. Mr. Williams indicated it was.

Mr. Iula moved to bring out Sub. B-139 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. Walters. Motion passed (3-0).

Mrs. Colavecchio stated she did not recall that Council received a CAFR last year. Mr. Brodzinski indicated that was correct. The report got hung up in Columbus over a federal funding issue. It was recently released by Columbus and will be officially released this week at which time he will distribute it.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.