

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting
December 17, 2012**

Members: Diana Colavecchio, Chair
Don Walters
Jeff Iula

Mrs. Colavecchio called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Discussed:

Temp. Ord. A-114

Discussion

Mrs. Colavecchio stated there were several pieces still being held at the request of the Administration: A-113, A-117, A-118, A-119, A-120, A-121, A-122, A-123.

Temp. Ord. A-114

An ordinance establishing annual appropriations of money for the current expenses, capital expenditures and other expenses of the City of Cuyahoga Falls for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013, and declaring an emergency.

Open Issues

Regarding the River Front district, Mrs. Colavecchio asked if the City ever did an analysis to determine whether the charities that benefited were from inside or outside the City. Mrs. Truby stated they have not done any analysis but they do track. She cannot say that 100% of the charities are located within Cuyahoga Falls. Of the 11 permits taken last year for Rocking on the River, four were to benefit Cuyahoga Falls agencies and seven were from outside the City. Mrs. Colavecchio commented that the City is conducting these activities in part for a group of people outside the City. She felt it would be interesting to know this information going forward. It helps give perspective on who is benefitting.

Human Resources/Records

The proposed budget is \$306,248, which is a 6.42% decrease from 2012. The reasons for the changes are a decrease in personal services due to attrition and replacement of retired Human Resources Director at a lower rate of pay. Vickie Steiner started in August. She stated they are doing a lot of analyzing of procedures and practices to make staffing more efficient.

Community Development Block Grant Fund

The proposed budget is \$2,389,923, which is a 10.81% increase over 2012. The reason for the change is an increase in contractual services: contractual – other, primarily due to the Acme Infrastructure grant. The planning budget year is July 1 through June 30. The \$2 million is a mixture of things and includes the \$340,000 for the infrastructures grant for Acme on State Road. There has been a decrease in the number of people who participate in the paint program so they now call it the exterior repair program which includes roof replacements, decks, step repair, etc. They have ongoing demolition with County money, which must be spent by December, 2013. The number of homes being rehabbed depends on the number of applications. There are two in progress. Denise Bell retired and was replaced by Ron Messner, who was previously the Controller at Malone College. There is \$300,000 for fair housing demolition. All

money spent must go to low-to-moderate income housing. The City is still allowed to use 2010 data for the programs. Mrs. Snyder asked for a breakdown of the larger line items in the budget.

Parks and Recreation

The proposed budget is \$2,891,733, which is a 1.78% increase over 2012. The reason for the change is an increase in personal services due to employee merit and longevity increases and salary supplement, offset by attrition. The park system redid the barn at Keyser Park this summer and plan to add a Sunday concert series to be held there to try to use the space a little more. Revenue went down \$21,000. Of that, \$17,000 is due to an accounting issue—previously, they would write a check to the Umpire association but now the Association wants to be paid prior to any game so Mr. Lohan reduced revenue by \$17,000 in revenue and in expense, and the home team will now be responsible for paying the umpire before the game. They have not updated the grading of the parks. They are still working from the program that was done previously. The department had some shifting of personnel. They had tried getting by with a part-time secretary but that hasn't worked so they will probably be going back to a full-time secretary when they get to their busy time in the summer. There will be no material changes in the programs at Quirk.

Recreation Levy Fund

The proposed budget is \$1,369,125, which is the same as 2012. The landscaping budget is for any top soil, seed, fertilizer, etc. They had an increase in discretionary line items so they spread them across. They use it as a maintenance and repair account for the parks. They are also getting prices to redo the inside of the barn at Keyser Park.

Leisure Time

The proposed budget is \$14,035,293, which is a 6.52% decrease from 2012. The reason for the change is a reduction of note principal and interest payments from the Natatorium and Golf Course due to the “pay down” of these obligations in 2012. Note principal and interest payments scheduled for 2013 are \$1,313,000 less than 2012.

Natatorium: The exempt figure went down due to the retirement of Linda Williams and the position being backfilled at a lower salary. The service fee is for people using credit cards. More people are using bank drafting to pay for Nat memberships instead of credit cards. People use credit cards for golf. The goal is to pay down the note principal by \$1 million a year. They are looking into the Silver Sneakers Program. The program is for individuals 65 and over or those on full disability.

Waterworks: Good weather resulted in a good year. Revenue was up \$10,000. They do a rolling average. The last three years have been very good years. Expenses are flat.

Golf: An increase in product prices has caused the landscaping budget to go up. Tools and equipment increased because the City had prepaid a three-year lease but that is now over and the City must now pay the lease on an annual basis. They need a new storage building for their electric carts. Currently, some of the carts are stored in a moist area under the clubhouse, which is not good for the electric carts. The transfer-in amount was due to refinancing of some notes. It allowed them to go ahead and pay down more quickly on the sand trap and irrigation system. Those notes will be paid off in 2013

Quirk: The expense and revenue is flat. Other than tweaking programs each year, nothing much is changing.

Downview: Revenue through November is off \$4,936. Expenses are \$3,600. Net-net through November is a \$1,300 difference, which is close to breaking even.

Storm Drainage Utility

The proposed budget is \$2,473,741, which is a 4.92% increase over 2012. The reason for the change is an increase in capital outlay. There are six capital needs: Cuyahoga River Restoration Dam Removal (\$870,163); Miscellaneous Storm Sewer Infrastructure Improvements (\$125,000); Kelsey Creek Restoration (\$200,000); 8th Street Storm Sewer – Roosevelt to Washington (\$100,000); Lateral Push Camera Replacement (\$10,000); and two leaf machines (\$90,000). The City received a permit from the Army Corps. The dam removal project will probably begin in June. They will do some educational sessions in January and February.

Water

The proposed budget is \$6,442,105, which is a 25.06% increase over 2012. The reason for the change is an increase in capital outlay. There are eight capital needs: Graham Road water line infrastructure (\$975,000); Maitland Avenue water line infrastructure (\$350,00); miscellaneous water line infrastructure (\$100,000); Chestnut Blvd. water line infrastructure (\$200,000); water treatment plant repairs (\$50,000); water plant building repairs (\$25,000); crew cab truck (\$55,000); and one-half allocation of a new brine well (\$125,000). The other half of the brine well is in the capital projects fund. Water line projects taking place in the spring are Maitland and Graham. The funds the City obtained will be available July 1. Maitland will go to bid in late winter/early spring. Chestnut will begin as soon as possible. Contractual other is for the utility patch program, which is with Cardinal Asphalt. Chemical costs depend on prices. Caustic soda is budgeted at \$105,000. EPA bills at the end of the year for treatment plant licenses. Bond principle is for various water line projects. Response time on small lateral repairs depends on the workload and urgency. A minor sinkhole may be put on a waiting list. The department tries to get to them all quickly because a sinkhole can get worse overnight. They will take a look at Chestnut and 20th. The City does a good job replacing mains as necessary. They are not chasing breaks every day like other entities do.

Sewer

The proposed budget is \$7,714,139, which is a 2.01% increase over 2012. The reason for the change is an increase in sewage disposal costs (Summit County). There were three capital needs presented: Sanitary sewer overflow infrastructure improvements (\$1,000,000); miscellaneous sewer line infrastructure (\$155,000); and sewer pump station repairs (\$50,000). EPA is putting orders on communities with SSOs. The City has been working to get them corrected. The \$1,000,000 is to start looking at things that may not be able to be fixed without major infrastructure changes. Project Partner has been strictly voluntary and is very successful. Areas have improved and some SSO issues have gone away. They may be able to do a pilot program to target some areas to avoid building holding tanks but they will still probably have to build at least one holding tank. They started out with nine areas and are down to two. One may be able to be controlled through Project Partner (Oak Park) and the other through building a storage tank (Lions Park). Contractual other includes \$75,000 for utility patch.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.