

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting
December 28, 2009**

Members: Don Walters, Chair
Debbie Ritzinger
Carol Klinger

Mr. Walters called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation to be Discussed:

Temp. Ord. B-130
Temp. Ord. B-131
Temp. Ord. B-133

Discussion

Temp. Ord. B-130

An ordinance providing for current operating expenses of the City of Cuyahoga Falls by appropriating, re-appropriating and transferring money within and for the various funds hereinafter set forth, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. B-131

An ordinance making the annual appropriation for the current expenses, other expenditures and the capital outlays of the City of Cuyahoga Falls for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010, and declaring an emergency.

Open Issues

Mr. Walters asked for an update on the union negotiations. Mr. Arrington stated they received communication that the two police unions voted to open negotiations. They are trying to schedule meetings. They will present a proposal of what the other unions have already accepted. He asked that the union representative get back to him as soon as possible.

Community Development Block Grant Fund

The 2010 proposed budget is \$1,922,930, which is a 6.26% decrease over 2009 budget. There were three capital needs presented. Mrs. Klinger asked about page 7 of Report 21 which shows a negative fund balance. She asked what revenues were being projected to cover it. Mr. Brodzinski stated they are reducing the appropriations for budget year cleanup by more than the \$44,000. The net effect is \$500,000. Mr. Walters asked what was covered by contractual other. Mrs. Truby referred to her handout.

Capital Projects Fund

Mr. Brodzinski reviewed the Revenues and Expenditures. Mr. Walters asked how likely it was that the City would receive the grants. Mr. Brodzinski stated they have been applied for and the City feels confident it will receive them. It will not purchase the equipment without the grant. Mrs. Pyke asked about a meeting regarding collection on delinquent EMS transport accounts. Mr. Arrington stated they had meetings a couple of weeks ago. Mr. Brodzinski indicated they are in the process of preparing letters through Life Force to go after insurance companies who pay the patient and then the patient cashes the check. Mrs. Pyke asked if the City was pursuing any of the past bills that are delinquent. Mr. Brodzinski

stated they are going after them and will be writing off the smaller transient ones. They will be scheduling a meeting in late January. Mrs. Klinger asked how much was spent on Municipal Building upgrades in 2009. Mr. Brodzinski stated \$60,000+. Mr. Brodzinski stated that the \$266,000 in the Parks & Rec budget consisted of \$45,000 – rough mower; \$45,000 – park mower; \$40,000 – Lions Park roof; \$13,000 – basketball courts; \$12,500 – Brookledge mower; \$12,000 – ball field machine; \$10,500 – zero-turn mower; \$60,000 tennis courts; the balance for a 3/4 ton van.

Mrs. Klinger questioned the electric fund balance in the revised Report 21. She stated it is at \$2,797,000 but the balance on the previous report showed \$3,397.00. She asked what caused the big swing. Mr. Brodzinski stated that when the electric budget was discussed, they added additional capital into the fund for the materials and equipment for Substation 4. They will be doing notes and bonds for the construction piece. There is an additional \$200,000 for labor being required for construction so he decided to keep the notes at \$1.8 million until they see what the actual numbers are. Mrs. Klinger asked if the additional capital outlay will be funded by debt. Mr. Brodzinski indicated it would be funded with the fund balance. Mrs. Klinger asked whether that will jeopardize future projects. Mr. Brodzinski stated he did not think so at this time. Mrs. Klinger distributed a copy of B-131. She is requesting the addition of a new Section 7 that would require Council be given a report on revenues and expenses twice a year. It will summarize a process for reporting period and for Council to have a discussion of the issues. Mrs. Hummel asked what the month-end date would be for the May review. Mrs. Klinger stated she would assume it would be April, and June would be the month-end date for the July report. The format would be similar to Report 21. Mrs. Colavecchio stated it would also be helpful to have the colored spreadsheets revised with the updates. Mr. Brodzinski stated those sheets have a different meaning now because some of the unions have agreed but he can show where the City is and where it anticipates to be. The green sheets are if nothing changed. Mr. Rubino asked if the new Section 7 would preclude Council from receiving reports at any other time of the year. If Council receives Report 21 on a monthly basis, why was there a need for this section. Mrs. Klinger indicated that Report 21 does not give a forecast for the year. This new Section requests that and also that there is a formal discussion on where the City stands. It basically opens up a dialogue for a discussion. Mr. Rubino asked whether Council could have this dialogue each month if it wanted.

With regard to the Street Department – Vehicle and Equipment Purchases, Mr. Williams indicated that \$190,000 was for a 5-ton hook lift; \$80,000 for a 1-ton crew cab; \$109,000 for a front-end wheel loader; \$65,000 for a durapatch machine and \$12,000 for a new plotter for the sign shop. Mrs. Klinger asked if the equipment being replaced would be sold. Mr. Williams stated they will sell the hook lift. The 1-ton crew cab would go to either Parks & Rec or to Grounds Maintenance. They will sell or trade the wheel loader and the durapatch. With regard to the vehicles under Police, Mr. Williams indicated that the juvenile minivan will be passed on to IS to replace its van; the swat will go to Parks and Rec to replace that van; the prisoner vehicle still go the Streets and their old one sold.

With regard to Fire, Mr. Walters asked how likely it is that the City would receive those grants. Chief Moledor stated this is the first year they came up with construction grants. They have a criteria for cities and look at financial needs. Mrs. Klinger asked which fire station would get the replacement engine. Chief Moledor stated they were evaluating that. They are moving away from always using a ladder truck to just using it when necessary. The replacement truck may go to Station 1. Mrs. Klinger stated that the department was looking to purchase a generator in last year's budget. She asked for the reason in the shift. Chief Moledor stated they had a generator at Station 2. The electric department indicated it could shift getting power to some of the stations better than to others. Mrs. Klinger questioned waiting until 2012 to do that. Chief Moledor stated it is a need but they are trying to be as frugal as possible. Mr. Walters asked about the fit testing. Chief Moledor stated it ensures there is a proper seal to make sure smoke could not leak around the seal.

With regard to Technical Services, Mr. Konich stated they would like to install fiber optics that would spur off the optic ring around the City. The NEMA TS2 Controllers would go to signals at Munroe Falls and Bailey; Bailey and Myrtle; Tallmadge and Davis and Second and Sackett. Mrs. Pyke asked about the renovations to the tennis courts. Mr. Lohan stated it is for Kennedy, additional parking at Valley Vista, and converting Preston into a play area. Mrs. Pyke asked if there were still plans for an indoor soccer complex. Mr. Lohan stated plans have not gone very far. Mrs. Klinger asked for a list of the \$266,000 Park & Rec requests. Mr. Brodzinski stated he would get it out tomorrow. Mrs. Pyke asked about the Smith Road roundabout. Mr. Demasi stated that is the City's share of the entire project. Mrs. Colavecchio asked about use for land preservation funds. Mrs. Truby stated they have nothing specific planned but would target parcels adjacent to the River. Mrs. Colavecchio asked about both of the Graham Road projects. Mr. Demasi stated that the 2010 amounts would be to complete design and acquire right-of-way. Mrs. Colavecchio asked about the \$279,000 that had been budgeted in 2009 for the outdoor range cleanup. Zero was spent in 2009 and now only \$50,000 is requested. Mr. Brodzinski stated they have a revised estimate. The \$279,000 figure was a shot-in-the-dark estimate. Mr. Arrington added that the property is being sold. He does not know if he is able to share who purchased the property but said he does not know what the plans are for the property. Mrs. Klinger asked about Portage Trail and North Hampton signalization. Mr. Demasi stated there will be a new controller installed and a realignment and widening of the intersection. It will include a left-hand turn in all directions. Mrs. Klinger asked about the Howe and Main intersection. Mr. Demasi stated that the plans are complete, and they are currently buying the right-of-way. The 2010 money is for right-of-way purchases. Mr. Ihasz asked about the parking decks. Mr. Demasi stated the amount in 2013 is to reseal one of the decks, put a new coating on the blue deck. The green deck should not need anything for awhile.

With regard to Exhibits A and B, Mrs. Pyke asked whether the changes in the storm water were reflected in these numbers. Mr. Brodzinski stated not the smaller amounts. Sewer is the only one that is large enough to necessitate a change. He will take care of that.

Temp. Ord. B-133

An ordinance adopting the report on staffing for the City of Cuyahoga Falls for the year 2010, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Walters stated there is a maximum number of staffing. Mr. Arrington agreed there was and added that 2010 is 14 positions lower than the 2009 staffing ordinance. None of the 14 were layoffs. Mr. Walters asked when any anticipated layoffs would happen. Mr. Arrington stated they are having discussions with the unions everyday so they are trying to hold off as long as they can. They wanted to wait until the budget was adopted to see what the numbers were. They cannot go too far into 2010 without having concessions so notices will go out sooner rather than later. Mrs. Klinger asked about Park and Rec going from 86 to 83. Mr. Arrington stated there is a net loss of 3. Mrs. Klinger asked if they utilized any of the 56 part-time employees. Mr. Lohan did not know. They bring them in as they need them. Mrs. Klinger asked if the open position in Finance was the Accountant. Mr. Brodzinski stated it was. Mrs. Klinger stated her preference would be to take it down to one. Then, if Mr. Brodzinski wanted to fill the position, he could come back to Council. It would be as just another check.

With regard to the appropriations and transfer of funds, Mrs. Klinger stated she wanted an explanation from the accountants in writing with regard to their advice to Mr. Brodzinski. Mrs. Klinger also requested a list of the \$20,000 under storm drainage utilities. Mrs. Hummel asked what caused the temporary staffing in Utility Billing. Mr. Brodzinski stated that meter readers moved around which created a staffing issue. Also, Mr. Brodzinski indicated which funds would be affected by the revised storm water numbers. With regard to the new Section 7 for B-131, Mr. Rubino asked if the intent was to get a regular financial report. Mrs. Klinger stated it was but also to request a forecast and have a dialogue. Mr. Rubino asked if there was a reason Council couldn't get it every month. Mrs. Klinger

stated they could get it every month but this insures some kind of regularity. Mr. Rubino felt this organization should have a monthly financial report and asked if Mrs. Klinger would be opposed to requesting it for every month. Mrs. Klinger stated she was very open to that, and indicated she will recommend that instead of what she previously proposed. For clarification purposes, Mrs. Klinger stated that what will be brought out of appropriations ordinance will be the amended version of A and B with the adjustments Mr. Brodzinski made. Mr. Arrington stated it is only the exhibits being changed so the language in the ordinance does not need to be revised. Each exhibit that comes out of committee as it was amended during committee, is what is voted on.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. Nos. B-130, B-131 and B-133.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.