

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting
January 7, 2008

Members: Don Walters, Chair
Debbie Ritzinger
Carol Klinger

Mr. Walters called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Considered

Temp. Ord. B-169
Temp. Ord. B-170
Temp. Ord. B-171
Temp. Ord. B-172
Temp. Ord. B-173
Temp. Ord. B-174
Temp. Ord. B-175

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-169

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement to provide fire, EMS, dispatch, and related safety services to the Village of Silver Lake and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Walters asked with regard to the 200 calls a year averaged by Silver Lake, was that enough to cause a delay in response time to Cuyahoga Falls residents should a call come in at the same time. Chief Snyder stated 200 was the maximum number of calls Silver Lake had in the recent past. It represents two percent of the calls received from Cuyahoga Falls residents. He is confident with his staffing, equipment and training that his department will be able to cover Silver Lake very well. There is always a possibility that he could have a company out of all three stations that would cover Silver Lake, which are Stations 1, 2 and 5, but he pointed out that those three stations combined have 13 personnel which breaks down into four three-person companies plus a shift commander. Mr. Walters asked when a call comes in for cardiac arrest, does a police squad also get dispatched. Chief Snyder gave the example of a fire they responded to on New Year's Eve. Four or five police officers got there before the squad. He added that the police do not as a rule respond initially but they do have Automatic Emergency Defibrillators (AEDs) in their cars.

Mrs. Klinger asked if it was Chief Snyder's opinion there will be no change in response time for the citizens of Cuyahoga Falls. Chief Snyder indicated that was his opinion. He added that the department's response time last year was three minutes and forty seconds and he continues to see that improve.

Mrs. Klinger asked about the reference in Section L of the contract with regard to the short term prison holding facility. There are already issues with jail capacity. Chief Conley stated they completed an upgrade to the first floor of the police department and now have three additional holding rooms. This will help with transfers of prisoners to County or to other agencies or waiting for families to arrive. They also operate eight male holding cells and two female cells. Mrs. Klinger asked about how the driver intervention program affects cell availability. Chief Conley stated the rooms they have are operated different from the jail. The State mandates that. He indicated they also have two rooms that are used for interviewing and/or holding rooms. They have a lot of options if they need them. The rooms are used for short term duration—usually less than eight hours—and are separate from the jail. He could not recall a time when all three of the holding rooms were used simultaneously since they opened them.

Mr. Walters asked about the City's rating. Chief Snyder stated we are a "3", with "1" being the best and "10" being the worst. With the addition of a training tower in the future, they may be able to boost the rating to a "2". The grading is done every ten years,

Mrs. Hummel indicated the contract said we would provide short term holding for eight hours or less. She asked if the police would put someone in holding for eight hours without putting them in jail. Chief Conley stated they would not put them in jail. He also pointed out there are different restrictions for holding juveniles—four hours for a felony and two hours for a misdemeanor.

Mrs. Colavecchio indicated there was no reference with regard to Silver Lake's fire hydrants. Mr. Arrington stated that was not presented as a service to include in the contract so he did not include it.

Mrs. Pyke asked about minimum staffing. Chief Snyder stated it was 19, which would give him six three-person teams. The addition of Silver Lake will not change that minimum. Mrs. Pyke asked if nothing is going on, how is it determined which station would respond to Silver Lake. Chief Snyder stated it would depend on the location of the call. Mrs. Pyke asked for a current map on the areas each station covers.

Mr. Walters asked when the contract would take effect if this ordinance passes. Mr. Arrington stated it would depend when Silver Lake terminates its contract with Stow. They have a 180 day termination requirement and was not giving their notice until we approve the contract. Once they give notice, Stow will then decide whether to let Silver Lake out early or not. So, this could take effect by March or upon termination by Stow, whichever is later.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. No. B-169.

Temp. Ord. B-170

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement to provide dispatch and related safety services to the City of Munroe Falls and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Walters asked when this will start if it passes. Mr. Arrington stated they are looking at March. Mrs. Ritzinger asked to be excused from voting on this as she works for the Munroe Falls Police Department.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. No. B-170.

Temp. Ord. B-171

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of certain supplies and materials for use by the street department during 2008, and declaring an emergency.

Chuck Novak stated that rock salt is the biggest expense in the Street Department, however, those numbers keep going down with the use of Epokes. He added that everything except the salt is competitively bid.

Mr. Walters asked about the system of replacing posts. Mr. Novak indicated this should be the last year to get the old ones replaced. Mr. Walters asked how much paving was done in-house. Mr. Novak stated it wasn't always cheaper to pave in-house. It depends on what needs to be done with the road. He looks at bids when they come in to see what they can do to save money for the City.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-171.

Temp. Ord. B-172

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the annual requirements of the municipal garage for 2008, and declaring an emergency.

Don Williams indicated he has the ability to purchase gasoline, diesel fuel and tires. Mr. Walters noted it was not much higher than last year. Mr. Williams stated he was able to get gas for \$2.62, and diesel for \$2.68.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-172.

Temp. Ord. B-173

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purchase of certain materials and supplies in the water/sewer utilities department during 2008, and declaring an emergency.

John Christopher stated these were annual requirements for miscellaneous materials such as valves, pipes, chemicals at the water plant, water meters for domestic purposes, manhole castings, and utility patches. The cost will be split 50/50 between water and sewer. Mrs. Klinger asked about the level of inventory that is held on these items. Mr. Christopher stated they try to keep a six month to one year supply. They make a big order at the beginning of the year and then supplement it with a smaller order to get them to the end of the year. They don't do that with all items...just the bigger ones that take a few weeks to come in.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-173.

Temp. Ord. B-174

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract o contracts, according to law, for the purchase of certain materials for the sanitation utilities department during 2008, and declaring an emergency.

Chuck Novak stated this was for three items. The green recycle bags, which cost \$.08 each, and the brown yard waste bags, which cost \$.50 each. The numbers for the yard waste bags will be going down because the City used to only accept the City's bags but they have begun allowing others from Home Depot, etc. to be used. The third item is refuse containers which are for the last route they have to automate, which is Ward 8. Once that starts, the entire City will be automated.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-174.

Temp. Ord. B-175

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor and Director of Public Service to enter into contracts for the purchase of various vehicles for use by the City, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Williams stated this was for various departments throughout the City. Mr. Brodzinski indicated there would be a new Exhibit A by next week for passage but the budget sheet is correct. Mrs. Klinger indicated it would be her preference to place a cap for each individual line item on the exhibit. Mr. Williams stated the numbers were only estimates. If a cap is placed and the bid comes in higher, he will need to come back to Council for approval.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-175.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.