

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Affairs Committee Meeting
November 20, 2006

Members: Debbie Ritzinger, Chair
Diana Colavecchio
Doug Flinn

Mrs. Ritzinger called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of November 6, 2006 were approved as submitted.

Legislation Considered:

Temp. Res. A-113

Discussion:

Temp. Res. A-113

A resolution of intent to appropriate certain property along Chart Road between Keyser Parkway and State Road, and declaring an emergency.

Mrs. Ritzinger read A-113 (second reading). Mr. Arrington said that regardless of the scope of the project, the City will need to obtain easements to put the swales in. The land will still belong to the abutting homeowners with the stipulation that they don't do anything to interfere with the drainage of the swales. If negotiations with property owners fail, the City would be required to take the easements by eminent domain. This resolution is simply an intent to proceed with the initial process. The legal descriptions attached by exhibit include the bike paths. If Council decides to remove the bike paths from the project, the legal descriptions will change, and this resolution should not be acted upon until new descriptions can be provided.

Mrs. Colavecchio asked if property owners other than on Chart Road would be required to give an easement. Mr. Arrington said that anyone whose land abuts Chart Road where it is to be improved would be impacted.

Mr. Gorbach inquired about the market value of the land. Mr. Arrington said the City would pay for the right to use the land, not to purchase it. Mr. Gorbach suggested that residents be made aware of the facts to avoid any confusion. He asked how long eminent domain would take. Mr. Arrington said that once Council approves it, the law allows the City to use a "quick-take procedure" for roadway projects. The City would deposit money with the court and be entitled to the property immediately.

The Committee recommended bringing out A-113 for approval.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

