

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Finance Committee Meeting
November 3, 2003

Members: Mr. Gorbach, Chair
Mr. Schmidt
Mr. Barnhart

Mr. Gorbach called the Finance Committee to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Barnhart was absent.

Mr. Gorbach stated that he had called a Committee meeting in order to discuss Temp. Ord. B-137, however, Mr. Arrington had indicated to him that they were still in the process of meeting with the fire union. It is Mr. Arrington's goal to come to an agreement with the union to use as a pattern for an ordinance for the rest of the City. The agreement with the fire union will have an impact on what levels of contribution will be placed in the ordinance. He is hoping to know by the end of this week if the City and the union have an agreement. They should then be able to have something to Council next week. Although he cannot speak on behalf of the firefighters, he feels they are close to an agreement. Mr. Gorbach stated this does not need to be rushed and added they are trying to make it palatable for everyone concerned.

Ken Oliver, 2695 Elmwood, asked how close were they to an agreement and which way was the agreement leaning. Mr. Arrington stated the issues they are currently discussing only affect police and fire. They are making the changes they need to address premium increases for police and fire. Any changes they are proposing for people under PERS are minimal. Mr. Oliver stated in the back of his AFSCME contract, there is a 1991 amendment saying they deserved and were entitled to retirement for retirees through 2005. Mr. Arrington believed Mr. Oliver was referring to the ordinance passed in 1991. He pointed out that the ordinance is always subject to change by Council and it is not part of negotiated benefits under Mr. Oliver's contract. He was assuming it was attached for informational purposes by Mr. Oliver's union representatives. Mr. Oliver stated the City has excellent programs that help its senior citizens and that it should continue this policy with regard to retirement benefits.

Finance Committee adjourned at 6:35 p.m.