

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting
December 10, 2007

Members: Tim Gorbach, Chair
Jerry James
Carol Klinger

Mr. Gorbach called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Considered

Temp. Ord. B-160

Temp. Ord. B-161

Temp. Ord. B-162

Temp. Ord. B-163

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-163

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts for the purchase of relays for the City's Transmission Protection System, and declaring an emergency.

Bob Bye said they were working with Siemens Power Transmission, who was offering a discounted price of \$88,000 if the City ordered it by the end of the year.

Mr. Gorbach added that this was an item that was budgeted to occur this year at \$100,000. Mrs. Klinger asked when they would be put into place. Mr. Bye indicated they would be installed by his people as soon as they were received which hopefully will be at the beginning of the year.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-163.

Finance Committee recessed at 6:40 p.m. and reconvened at 6:50 p.m.

Mr. Gorbach asked if anyone had any open issues from the previous week. Mrs. Colavecchio asked what the intentions were with respect to the revenues on Cochran Road that were noted in the 5-year capital project. Mr. Brodzinski stated the revenues would be note proceeds and that there could also be special assessments that would be rolled over. It relates to the Humane Society as well as another business. Currently, it represents the City's portion of the project. If they go that route, it will be a special assessment project.

Mrs. Colavecchio asked if there was a slate of projects that would use the funds listed under land preservation in the amount of \$350,000 and if any of those funds could be used for Mud Brook Trail. Mrs. Truby indicated no one has made a list. It is just some thoughts they had in mind, such as projects on Front Street, as well as some property on the north side of the City.

Mrs. Klinger indicated she agrees with what Mrs. Pyke stated previously in that she did not support the soccer complex study. She did not think the money should be spent at this time. There are other recreational projects we need to get under control.

Mrs. Klinger also stated she is expecting to see cutbacks in the Law Department's headcount next year to reflect the court's leaving in 2009. Mr. Arrington stated that when the court moves to Stow, the only cases the City loses are the township cases. The number of prosecutors he needs is determined by the number of

cases we have and by how many courts they need to cover. Currently, there are two full-time judges and several magistrates. If all have cases at the same time on the same day, he needs to provide prosecutors. In addition, they are planning to open up a Mayor's court which will need a prosecutor as well. He will analyze the situation and if a cut can be made, he will make it. Mrs. Klinger stated it was her understanding that the Court will reschedule around prosecutors.

Mr. Gorbach resumed budget discussions.

Garage – There is an increase of 2.88% over 2007 due to an increase in materials and supplies attributable to the rise in gas and diesel fuel costs. It is also due to reducing personnel services by not backfilling a mechanic position. Mr. Williams stated that not backfilling the mechanic position helps to offset the total budget. In addition, they instituted an anti-idling policy to help conserve gasoline.

Building and Grounds – There is a decrease of (.11%) over 2007 due to an increase in contractual services – temporary staffing, while reducing personnel services costs overall by not backfilling another position. In addition, part-time workers are being used for maintenance and cleaning duties. Mr. Gorbach commented on the tree trimming line item. Mrs. Carr stated with the Street and Sanitation Departments being combined, most tree work was out of Street. They wanted to move the trees to Jeff Amburn's jurisdiction. This is why they are looking to increase the secretary to full-time because the work will be increasing. Mr. Amburn also wanted to point out and caution Council about the potential infestation of Ash trees. No one can prevent it and it will kill any Ash tree not treated. Mr. Gorbach asked if there were any grants available to help. Mr. Amburn indicated that the State tried to eradicate the disease by cutting down every tree within a ½ mile of known infestation but it did not work. It has spread from Michigan and is in 32 counties in Ohio. It had not yet been seen in Summit County but it is leap frogging all over the place. Once it is here, it will kill every Ash tree. Mrs. Pyke asked if there were a lot of Ash trees on City property. Mr. Amburn estimated approximately 200 in rights-of-way and another 200 in the parks. He added that the disease is carried by a beetle that flies only ½ mile a year so it is believed the beetle is transported in firewood or from a nursery.

Police – There is a .25% increase over 2007 due to an increase in capital outlay and operating transfer-out (Police Pension Fund), while reducing personnel services costs overall by not backfilling some positions. With regard to the capital outlay request, Chief Conley indicated the cruisers would be replacements. They are starting to set up the fleet to replace so many cruisers each year to get them into a five-year rotation. Mr. Gorbach asked if Chief Conley anticipated increasing the number of officers. Chief Conley indicated they plan to have another exam in 2008 that would be for one lieutenant and four officers. He would also like to replace a full-time secretary. They have been short one secretary and has had another filling in. The exam process takes six to eight months so he would not likely be filling the positions until after July.

With regard to revenue, Mrs. Hummel asked about the \$58,000 budgeted in 2008 for safety forces—outside. Mr. Brodzinski indicated that was the money budgeted for dispatching of Silver Lake and Munroe Falls. He said it was the police portion only and that fire had one also.

Mrs. Colavecchio asked how many of the 112 full-time employees were officers. Chief Conley indicated there were 91 from the Chief down, three additional community service officers, 12 dispatchers and six secretarial staff. There are approximately 51 assigned to patrol divisions, not counting sergeants and lieutenants. 15 would be assigned to day shift, 18 to nights and 18 to afternoons. Each has a shift commander that is a lieutenant and 1 – 3 supervisors. This doesn't count support services personnel or detectives. Mrs. Colavecchio asked how being down four officers and one lieutenant compared to last year. Chief Conley indicated they lost three additional officers this year for a total of five--one retired and two resigned.

Fire – There is an increase of 1.58% over 2007 due to an increase in contractual services and an increase in operating transfers-out (Fire Pension Fund). Mr. Gorbach noted that the overtime on line 705.051 was already \$40,000 higher than what was budgeted and \$30,000 higher than actual 2006, but the budgeted amount for next year is below what it has actually been. He asked if more firefighters have been hired. Chief Snyder indicated they had some retirements and some unanticipated resignations. He recently hired six firefighter paramedics. His headcount is at 79 but they are requesting the promotion of two firefighters to lieutenant and, once that occurs, he will also be looking to fill the two vacated positions. Mr. Gorbach asked if that was sufficient. Chief Snyder stated they do the best they can when responding to calls.

Mrs. Klinger asked about plans to fill Don Cooper's position. Chief Snyder stated he has not requested a test to fill that position and, in fact, probably will not fill it in 2008. With regard to the numbers budgeted for the Silver Lake contract, she questioned whether the City can adequately provide police and fire without much cost. Mr. Brodzinski stated they have costs to cover fire and EMS. Chief Snyder added that the worst case scenario would be less than a two percent increase in call volume.

Mrs. Hummel stated the revenue side for fire was \$154,254. For police, it was just for dispatching. She asked what was included for fire. Mr. Brodzinski stated it was dispatching, fire and EMS. Mrs. Hummel asked if he had a copy of the contract they are formulating. Mr. Arrington indicated it was not yet signed and that he was still negotiating the details with Silver Lake's attorney. Mrs. Hummel asked if he could provide Council with a copy once it is agreed upon. Mr. Arrington stated he would and added with regard to Munroe Falls, they have approved a contract and he will be following up with their attorney as well. Mrs. Hummel stated the budget indicated we would be taking in \$212,000 in revenue for Silver Lake and Munroe Falls and asked if there were comparable expenses to offset this amount. Mr. Brodzinski stated there were not and that if the expenses were equal to the revenue, we would not be doing the deal. Mrs. Hummel asked Chief Snyder how many firefighters he had on any given day. Chief Snyder stated in 2006, it was 19.6 per day. He is about 18.6 per day for 2007 but that is going up because he just hired six.

Mrs. Colavecchio asked which station we would be going to for calls for Silver Lake. Chief Snyder stated Stations 2, 1 and 5, depending on where the call is. Station 2 has three staffed; Station 1 has four, including a shift commander; and Station 5 has six staffed most days. He added that Stations 5 and 2 are closer to Silver Lake but Station 1 can get on the expressway in case of a train. The average for trains is 40 times a day. With regard to routine fire business provided to Silver Lake, Chief Snyder did not think it would overwhelm his department. The headcount will be up to 81 once the testing is done. He has some individuals eligible to retire in 2008 but is uncertain whether anyone plans to because they keep it to themselves until two weeks before. Based on the staffing numbers budgeted, Mrs. Colavecchio asked in the Chief's the opinion, whether he had sufficient staff to take on the responsibilities of covering Silver Lake. Chief Snyder indicated if he can get to 81 and he does not have a bad year with workers' comp. or high sick leave, then yes, they can provide the level that is needed. Mrs. Colavecchio asked of the 79, how many are actively working. Chief Snyder stated two are on light duty and one is off for an injury, which makes his actual headcount level 77.

Mrs. Klinger wanted to make sure that with Council approving this budget with the Silver Lake revenues and expenses that they are not saying they are in complete agreement with what the contract says. She is not sure they should be approving a budget that has these figures in here.

Mrs. Pyke asked how much was written off on average each year for transporting. Mr. Brodzinski indicated he would get that amount to her. She asked who determined the amount that is written off. Mr. Brodzinski stated he would get that to her also.

Information Services – There is a decrease of (12.06%) over 2007 due to a decrease in capital outlay. John Konich indicated they are requesting a new air conditioner for the computer room because the old one is acting up. He wanted to get it budgeted in case it fails. Mr. Gorbach noted the contractual amounts were

similar. He asked if there were any new projects planned for 2008. Mr. Konich indicated they were finishing up some projects. The last e-government item would be in early 2008.

Print Shop – There is a decrease of (6.74%) over 2007 due to a decrease in employee hours budgeted.

Technical Service – There is a decrease of (.08%) over 2007 due to an increase in other operations relating to various planned building repairs, while reducing personnel services. The personnel reduction was due to making Mr. Leonard 50% sanitation and 50% tech services. Also, Chuck Novak will be 50% street and 50% sanitation. The reduction is only salary and not people.

Community/Economic Development – There is a reduction of (2.18%) over 2007 due to not backfilling a Secretary II position.

Riverfront Centre District – There is an increase of 3.90% over 2007 due to an increase in other operations relating to various planned pavilion and amphitheatre maintenance items. Mrs. Truby stated the biggest change is in contractual which is up \$19,000. They are entering into the fifth year and some areas are taking some wear and tear. The roof and pavilion are rusting. They are budgeting \$8,000 for the stage and \$27,000 for the pavilion for a total of \$35,000.

Community Development Block Grant Fund – There is a reduction of (39.42%) over 2007 due to a decrease in capital outlay. They have three major projects: Wyoga Lake Trail at \$60,000; Main Street Project at \$30,000; and the Final Wyoga Lake Preserve at \$110,000.

Committee recommended holding Temp. Ord. Nos. B-159, B-160 and B-161.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.