

**Cuyahoga Falls City Council**  
**Finance Committee Meeting**  
**May 5, 2003**

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

Mr. Gorbach called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. All members of committee were present.

**LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

Temp. Ord. No. B-72  
Temp. Ord. No. B-73  
Temp. Ord. No. B-74

**DISCUSSION**

**Temp. Ord. No. B-72**

Mr. Gorbach read B-72 (second reading). Chief Snyder stated this vehicle would be for the use by the Fire Marshall's office. They have completely worn out the minivan, which is also no longer of sufficient size. They have acquired additional tools, generators, photo equipment and evidence which is why they are going with a 3/4 ton cargo van. The vehicle will also allow the fire companies on the scene to get back in service while the fire marshalls continue to work. Mr. Gorbach asked if the \$18,000 included the installation of the racks to hold tools. Chief Snyder stated it did not but indicated they would be doing most of that work themselves.

Committee recommended bringing out B-72.

**Temp. Ord. No. B-73**

Mr. Gorbach read B-73 (second reading). Chief Snyder stated last year they received a \$30,000 grant from the Federal Fire Act towards the purchase of the smoke detector give-away and installation. To date, they have installed 3,172 detectors in 1,201 homes. They are still getting requests and are proud that the program can be continued. This legislation will purchase 2,000 additional units. BRK continued the same price for the third year in a row, which is \$15 per detector. The batteries are a 10-year lithium and cannot be used in any other device, such as remote controls or hand-held games. Once the battery fails, the unit is no longer any good and should be replaced. Mrs. Pyke asked if the Chief could tell what happened in Ward 2 the night before. Mr. Gorbach asked if there were first any other questions regarding the legislation.

Eric Klumper, 5971 Heather Lane, Hudson, asked who receives these units and wondered what the requirements were. Chief Snyder stated the only requirement was that you must be a resident of Cuyahoga Falls. It is a free service. You call the fire department and they will add your name to their list and the firefighters will come out and install them. They did not set income criteria because people who need the help are most likely the least to call. Mr. Klumper stated it is a good program. Mrs. Pyke stated it is especially good for those, such as senior citizens, to be able to call someone to come in and install a smoke detector for them. Chief Snyder stated that all personnel are trained on proper installation. They also offer a free fire and life safety inspection where they show home owners possible trouble areas within the home.

Committee recommended bringing out B-73.

Chief Snyder commented on the incidents that took place in Ward 2 the night before. He stated a call came in shortly after midnight that the abandoned home next to the Laconi property was on fire. The units discovered upon arrival that the structure was fully involved and the decision was made to not go inside. Approximately ten minutes later, another call for a house fire came in on Falls Avenue. The responding unit arrived there to discover a fire in the basement of that house. While extinguishing that fire, they looked and saw flames coming from the home behind. They were able to hold the damage on the second and third homes to a minimum. The building involved in the first fire will probably be raised. They did do a full house check on the second and third fires but did not find any people. The only ones to perish were two cats and a dog. The second and third homes were occupied but no one was home at the time of the fire. Mrs. Pyke commented on the "arson" sign hanging at the first property. Chief Snyder stated they have received input from many members in the neighborhood regarding things they saw. The fire department will be investigating along with the police department and they also called the State Fire Marshall's office who has brought in an arson dog. All three fires occurred within a 100 yard radius.

#### Temp. Ord. No. B-74

Mr. Gorbach read B-74 (second reading). Mr. Gorbach stated there was a special committee consisting of himself, Mr. James and Mrs. Klinger, who met on April 21 to discuss this issue. The information presented to them allows for this deferment in their minds so they are recommending it be done. They have approved them in the past. The payment will be deferred until the property is sold or falls into estate. Mrs. Hummel asked if the interest accrued until either one of those happened. Mr. Brodzinski stated it did, and that when either of those events occurred, the amount would be paid off in full.

Committee recommended bringing out B-74.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.