

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Public Affairs Committee Meeting
July 21, 2003

Members: Mr. James, Chair
Mr. Gorbach
Mr. Flinn

Mr. James called the meeting to order at 8:12 p.m. All members of Committee were present.

The minutes from the June 2, 2003 Public Affairs Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

Temp. Ord. No. B-113
Temp. Res. No. B-114

DISCUSSION

Temp. Ord. No. B-113

Mr. James read B-113 (second reading). Chief Conley stated three changes dealt with Oakwood, one with Broad Blvd. and another with the reconstruction of Howe at Barney's Busy Corners. Mr. James added that the reason the changes had already been made on Oakwood and Front Street were because they were safety concerns. Mr. Flinn stated that the lines have been painted but the signs were not up. Chief Conley stated they were put up on Friday. Mr. Flinn stated he was in favor of all of these changes.

Committee recommended bringing out B-113.

Temp. Res. No. B-114

Mr. James read B-114 (second reading). Chief Conley stated despite projected budget cuts from the State, the D.A.R.E. program is still being funded for next year. They have applied for a \$41,730 matching grant to help with the salaries of the three D.A.R.E. officers who currently teach. Mr. James stated it was a good program to be involved with.

Committee recommended bringing out B-114.

Other Business

Curt Conrad, Director of Planning at Metro RTA, stated they are in the process of assessing the needs of riders so that they can come up with a new business plan. He and Ken Sislak, 55 Public Square, Cleveland, gave a short presentation. Metro serves Summit County. There is a tremendous amount of service in the area. They are looking at those areas to determine future route structure. They look at employment and population densities and where people want to go. They place bus stops within a quarter mile walk. They want to determine the population in terms of likelihood of transportation use. They divided the County into three segments: north, central and south, each having different travel tendencies. The north basically travels to Cuyahoga County; central is more traditional and stays in the Akron area; and the south involves Canton. There are also some "trick" patterns to Medina and Portage. Their plan is to restructure the bus system to accommodate these travelers.

Mrs. Klinger stated she appreciated Metro giving the presentation to Council. She stated it is important to look where we are going as a community to insure we are aligning the proper transportation system to meet the needs of the community. She said that Council members need to think about how this affects them and their neighborhoods. Mrs. Pyke thanked Metro for coming. She stated there are a lot of people who are greatly affected by this. These people are dependent on the bus system to get to the grocery store or doctor's visits. Her residents at Sutliff II need to have transportation provided to them. They are very dependent on the grocery bus. She stated that the City needs to start looking at this now. Mr. Sislak stated they will take all input and plan to come up with a vision in August. They will then come back to Council in September. The more people who attend that meeting, the more successful it will be. Mrs. Hummel stated that John Schmidt had to leave the meeting but he wanted to make sure the Leo Dugan Apartments were mentioned. The residents there need to have continued service. The apartments are on the east side of the Bailey Road area. She suggested that Administration send a notice out to the residents notifying them of the meeting and how the outcome of that meeting will impact them. Mrs. Klinger asked what the highest used route was. Mr. Conrad stated by far it was the W. Market Street route, which had 41,000 riders last month. The Go-Jo route has approximately 6,000 or 7,000. He indicated there are also some very high demand areas in Cuyahoga Falls. Mrs. Klinger asked how many of the routes make money. Mr. Conrad stated none made money. Mrs. Klinger stated that we completely subsidize this system. Ridership fees do not come close to covering this.

Chip Bittecuffer, 2824 Fairview Place, stated that, with this evening's rains, his basement is currently full of water. He also experienced flooding on May 15. He filed a claim with Moral Claims for the May 15 storm but has not heard anything. The Law Director told him it takes time to look them over before they go to the committee. Mr. Bittecuffer stated that when it rains, both the ditch and the road

get flooded. Tonight, his basement is flooded to just below his knee. He wants to get the problem fixed. Mr. Gorbach asked how many claims have been received. Mr. Arrington stated they sent out 75-80 forms from the May 15 storm and have received between 40-50 claims. They are still in the process of getting forms back. There are several issues involved. They need to go through all of the claims to determine the cost if it is a flooded basement and then have those claims evaluated. They have had claims come in from \$20 to \$23,000. The City's insurance agent also needs to evaluate the claims. There is also an infrastructure side. They are looking at the problem and trying to determine if it is a fault in the City's infrastructure or if it is God throwing too much water at us at one time. If the solution is to build a bigger sewer, we cannot do that between May 15 and July 21. They need to find the source of the flooding and then work from there. His plan in dealing with sewer claims is, once we determine the claims for defects in the sewer, they will present a single ordinance to Council of the claims they recommend for payment. This will not happen next week. They may request a special meeting in August. There also may be claims where defects are not due to the sewer. Mr. Bittecuffer stated he is not here for his claim. His problem is the water goes to the end of the road and then has nowhere else to go. Mr. Arrington stated that, at this moment, Second Street was closed. This is a 100 year storm or something of that nature. Mr. Bittecuffer stated he understood that rain cannot be stopped but he needs his road taken care of. It is very frustrating. Mrs. Pyke asked if any other streets were closed tonight. Mr. Arrington stated in addition to Second Street, that 6th Street was under water, Bath Road and Alameda.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.