

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Public Improvements Committee Meeting
July 24, 2006

Members: Jerry James, Chair
Debbie Ritzinger
Terry Mader

Mr. James called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of July 10, 2006 were approved as submitted.

Legislation Considered:

Temp. Ord. A-81

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. A-81

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the installation of a 144-strand fiber cable around a 15-mile ring within the City of Cuyahoga Falls, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. James read A-81 (second reading). Mr. Konich said the proposed cable installation is a partnership between the City and the Cuyahoga Falls schools and will include the Silver Lake and Woodridge districts. It would benefit the City departments as follows: 1) allow the connection of Fire Station 5 to City Hall; 2) assist Tech Services in monitoring and maintaining traffic signals; 3) provide Electric Department with connectivity of substations and other electrical systems; 4) provide additional support for the City's wireless system. The 15-mile ring will also provide redundancy in the event the fiber cable is accidentally cut. Since the Electric Department doesn't currently have the resources to hang the cable, the City will use MGT Network Services to perform the work. The Cuyahoga Falls Schools will purchase the cable, but it will be owned and maintained by the City. The schools will use 72 strands; the City will use the other 72 strands.

Dr. Edwin Holland (Cuyahoga Falls Schools Superintendent) said he appreciates the City's cooperation in setting up the cable network.

Mr. Gorbach asked when the project would start, and when completion is expected. Mr. Konich said the project would start in early fall 2006 and should be completed by winter 2007.

Mrs. Hummel asked why the cable installation was not put out for bids. Mr. Konich said the City has used MGT in the past with good results. Their price is competitive, and they are familiar with the City's fiber system.

Mrs. Pyke asked if this project would replace another project already budgeted. Mr. Brodzinski said that \$720,000 had been set aside in the Electric Department's capital budget for the 23KV underground cable. Since that project will not be completed this year, there is over \$600,000 available.

Mrs. Klinger commented that the cable path for the Woodridge schools does not appear on the map provided by Mr. Konich. Mr. Konich said the Woodridge schools would be included in Phase II of the project. Mr. Klinger inquired about the cost of Phase II. Mr. Konich said the cost is just over \$156,000 for both phases.

Mrs. Klinger asked if the schools had purchased the cable yet. Mr. Konich said no. Mrs. Klinger asked what the cable cost would be. Mr. Holland said he's still in the process of finalizing the figures, but it should be around \$188,000-\$190,000. Mr. Konich said the Woodridge cost would be separate.

Mrs. Pyke suggested the ordinance be amended to include the cost of the first phase of the project only.

Mr. Gorbach said he understood that the \$156,000 includes the total cost of labor to install the cable for both Cuyahoga Falls and Woodridge schools. Mr. Konich said that is correct, but the ordinance can be changed to reflect the cost of the Cuyahoga Falls Schools only, and another ordinance can be prepared later when Woodridge is ready to proceed.

Mr. Walters said it appears that the cable stops at Vincent Street. Mr. Holland said the City is not responsible for any costs beyond that point since they don't own the poles. The Cuyahoga Falls School district will pick up the extra cost of installing cable into the Silver Lake area.

Mrs. Hummel asked if the school's cost has been approved for the current budget year. Mr. Holland said yes.

Mr. Flinn asked if the school board had approved the project. Mr. Holland said not yet, but talks are currently in progress. Mr. Flinn asked if Woodridge is aware of the project. Mr. Holland said Woodridge and NEOnet have discussed it.

Mr. Arrington said this ordinance refers only to the installation of cable as it is purchased by the school districts. If the Woodridge district doesn't participate in the project, the City wouldn't install cable there.

Mrs. Klinger said she understood Mr. Konich to say that the cable would extend to a Woodridge elementary school in Peninsula which is outside the City's borders. She would not be willing to pay for labor costs outside of Cuyahoga Falls.

Mrs. Pyke said she would like to discuss the issue with the Woodridge school board before including the district in this ordinance. Mr. Gorbach agreed. Mr. James requested that a substitute ordinance be prepared.

Mr. Arrington agreed to provide a substitute ordinance for Phase I only.

The committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-81 for approval.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.