

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting
September 15, 2008

Members: Don Walters, Chair
Debbie Ritzinger
Carol Klinger

Mr. Walters called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. All members were present.

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Ord. A-93

Temp. Ord. A-94

Temp. Ord. A-95

Discussion

Temp. Ord. A-93

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract or contracts according to law for the purchase of equipment to maintain and support the 800 MHZ radio systems, and declaring an emergency.

Bob Leonard stated this would allow Tech Services to buy equipment to support the digital radios the City owns. The County takes care of the system but the City is responsible for radios it owns. There are 370 radios and the State of Ohio's rate would put the cost at \$31,395. This purchase will enable the City to tune and maintain the radios. Mr. Walters asked whether the City currently has a maintenance agreement. Mr. Leonard stated it did, however, it is for the portable and mobile radios. Mr. Walters asked what the City needed to do to get them quickly. Mr. Leonard stated since it is off the State's rate, the City just submits a purchase order to its Motorola representative and Motorola will ship it to the City.

Mrs. Klinger asked how many pieces of equipment this would be able to monitor and test. Mr. Leonard stated there are 170 radios in Police; 155 in Fire; 11 in Tech Services and 22 in Dispatch plus five consoles. He anticipated they will get 15 to 20 years use out of the portables.

Don Nelsch, North Haven Blvd., stated that as a radio engineer, the box Mr. Leonard is asking for is what is needed to do the job. Without it, the City would be flying blind.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-93.

Temp. Ord. A-94

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for repairs as required by Project Partner: Storm Water Inspection Program, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Demasi stated this is the annual ordinance for Project Partner. It has been a successful program which inspects sanitary laterals. Mr. Walters asked if there has been an increase in requests from previous years. Russ Kring stated they are doing about the same number of assessments and are also doing small drainage projects like ditches. Requests by homeowners are down because of a fall in home sales. They do three rights-of-way at a time and try to keep it at a minimum.

Mrs. Pyke asked whether the City received any feedback from the letters sent after the last storm. Mrs. Carr stated some called to get the inspections done. With the complaints received from the last storm, all

but three had the inspection. She also commended Mr. Kring who gives presentations throughout the County and State regarding this project showing how it has helped the City.

Mrs. Pyke stated the last letter helped. The 2003 storms had people in a panic. Some residents have indicated they did not know about the program. She asked if there was a list of residents who have participated and residents who will be reviewed as part of the program. Mr. Leonard stated he has a list of inspections that have been done and added that those are done as his department receives the request. Mrs. Pyke asked for a copy of the list that corresponds to the letters that went out in her Ward. Mrs. Carr stated that would not be a problem. She added that she has been talking to Mr. Arrington with regard to moral claims and is recommending that nothing be paid unless the resident participates in Project Partner.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-94.

Sub. Temp. Ord. A-95

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Law to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, to provide prosecutorial services for the Village of Silver Lake, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Arrington stated the substitute corrects the language that was in the emergency clause. His office has been prosecuting for Silver Lake. In 1996, they renegotiated the contract, which was at \$6,000 a year. This contract for Silver Lake is the same as the one for Munroe Falls that was executed earlier this year. Silver Lake is already through the process and has passed the legislation and signed the contract. The amount is increased to \$11,000 per year with an automatic 3% inflation factor. His office has been doing this for several decades and he feels they can continue handling it easily.

Mrs. Hummel indicated the contract was dated January 1, 2008. Mr. Arrington confirmed that Silver Lake will be sending a check retroactive to the beginning of the year.

Mrs. Hummel asked if the City required a minimum amount before it agreed to prosecute with respect to the bad check program. Mr. Arrington stated that holders of bad checks previously used the City to act as a collection agency so the City established a bad check program, which is an informal process where a business or individual can bring in bad checks. The defendant is then brought in for an informal hearing between the owner and check writer to see if it can be resolved before criminal charges are filed. There is no dollar level for the program, however, he believed it was a \$100 minimum to file criminal charges. Mrs. Hummel asked if that same service would be provided to Silver Lake. Mr. Arrington stated everything done under this contract is what has always been done except that now it's being done for \$11,000.

Committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-95.

Mrs. Pyke asked if all electric service has been restored to residents after Sunday's windstorm. Ms. Carr stated all main services were restored earlier today. The only areas still without power is by the Mandarin House and also at Portage Trail and Valley. She did not know how many residents lost power. She added that the City has offered to pick up limbs from properties. Mrs. Pyke thanked Mrs. Carr for assisting the residents on 6th Street.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.