

# Cuyahoga Falls City Council

## Minutes of the Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting

### April 11, 2005

Members: Mr. Flinn, Chairman; Mr. Barnhart, Vice Chair; Mr. Gorbach, Member.

Mr. Flinn called the Finance Committee to order at 6:36 p.m. All members of the Committee were present.

#### Pieces of Legislation this evening (second readings):

B-58	An Ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract and/or contracts for the purchase of Three Epoke Salt Spreaders, and declaring an emergency.
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Valerie indicates that she had budgeted for a new salt hopper at around \$14,000.00. We need to purchase one, but Chuck Novak has used a new product on the market that will help with our snow recovery efforts and payback our investment over time. Chuck indicates he prides himself on the well-kept streets during the winter months. We have the best-kept street and always are looking for cutting-edge methods to improve our snow/ice removal. Brine has been an anti-icing agent that is used before the snow comes, eliminating ice formation on our roads. The Street Department had the opportunity to demonstrate with an Epoke Salt System during the month of February. Basically, you “prewet” salt prior to dispensing it to the road. This cuts down on salt usage and activates the salt at a lower temperature for better results. Mike Bersurone from Epoke is here for a presentation on this exciting equipment along with Dave Johnson from Bell Equipment.

**Mike Bersurone provided a Power point Presentation of Epoke Spreader Equipment.**

Mr. Brodzinski indicates the Salt Hopper was originally budgeted for \$14,486. This method of snow removal will reduce the amount of salt wasted in the ditches and waterways. The savings will help pay for cost over the years and he expects a minimum of 30% savings over the next years.

The warranty on the salt hoppers is 10 years on the hopper, 1 year bumper-to-bumper, and 2 years on the electronics. Also, Epoke provides a 24/7 hotline for service issues from October through March. Mr. Brodzinski indicates that these machines have buttons with the driver to control the flow of the slur and it’s direction. The spinner actually stops when the vehicle stops, avoiding the large loss of salt when the vehicles come to a stop sign. Mr. Potts wants to verify that our trucks can accommodate these hoppers. Mr. Novak indicates they are built for our single axle trucks.

Mrs. Hummel asks about references and other communities that are using Epoke products. Mr. Novak indicates they are being used in MI, UT and at the Philadelphia Airport. Everyone he talked to liked the unit including the employees who are on the job. Valerie indicates we have the privilege of being able to be on the cutting edge and purchasing these. We will be the first in Ohio and this is an investment for Cuyahoga Falls. Mayor Robart indicates many communities don’t prioritize snow removal like we do here.

Mr. Novak indicates we spent approximately \$700,000 over this past winter. We used approximately 21,000 tons of salt at \$34.38 per ton. Mr. Walters confirms that the brine supply will be available at the salt barns. Mr. Novak indicates there is a brine container at the salt barn. Mr. Mader asks if this will reduce the wear/tear on our roads? Mr. Novak indicates it is one of the many benefits to using the brine vs. pure salt.

Carol Klinger asks about the price increase on these machines. Dave Johnson indicates there was a 12% increase due to steel surcharges which amount to approximately \$3000. There is also a reduction for multiple pieces for paint color and freight charges.

*The committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. B-58*

**Held Legislation:**

B-39	An Ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts for replacement of Substation #2 and to build new Substation #13 on Bailey Road, and declaring an emergency.
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**Miscellaneous Business:**

Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.