

Cuyahoga Falls City Council
Minutes of the Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting

October 1, 2018

Members: Tim Gorbach, Chair
Jerry James
Mary Ellen Pyke

Mr. Gorbach called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the September 4, 2018 and September 17, 2018 Finance Committee meetings were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Ord. A-80

Temp. Ord. A-81

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. A-80

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Finance to enter into a contract, without competitive bidding, with Tyler Technologies, Inc. (formally New World Systems Corp.) for software maintenance and customer support of the City's licensed public safety systems software, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, stated that this ordinance is to cover six months of the current CAD, Computer Aided Dispatch, software. Council had voted to enter into an agreement with Summit County for a new dispatch center that's supposed have to a 12-to-18-month implementation period. After the June 30th, 2019 date, the City will be on the County's system, but has to enter into an agreement with Tyler for the first six months of 2019. Mr. Gorbach stated that it is almost like bridge coverage until the City gets to that coverage that was approved earlier in the year. Mr. Hoffman stated that was correct.

Mrs. Pyke asked if Mr. Hoffman believes that this will get them through, or if he thinks there is a possibility that it would have to come back to Council. Mr. Hoffman stated that this is quoted by Tyler for the period of January 1st to June 30th, and then the City has a contract in place with Tyler with the County system to take over that. Mrs. Pyke asked the start date of that contract. Mr. Hoffman stated that the contract actually started July 1st of 2018. There is an implementation period of 12 to 18 months. Once they get to the end of June 30th, that one takes over.

Mr. James moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-80 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mrs. Pyke. Motion passed (3-0).

Temp. Ord. A-81

An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Windstream Corporation for service of POTS lines which

support alarms, elevators and dispatch non-emergency numbers throughout the City, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Hoffman stated that AT&T is the current provider of POTS lines, which is Plain Old Telephone lines. Their prices have gone up over the past several years, so the City began to look at any other options for those POTS lines. These POTS lines cover phone alarms, some of the lines going into emergency dispatch and other things that don't require electric power lines to power those telephone lines. The other lines are Voiceover IP that require electric power. As the City began to look at options for POTS lines, it became apparent that Windstream would be the vendor that they would go with for these lines, because they provide a similar service at a much cheaper cost.

Mrs. Pyke asked why Windstream can handle this. Mr. John Konich, Director of IT Services, stated that the telephone communications market has been very split up with people are buying each other out and using others' equipment. POTS lines aren't in use that much anymore because of Voiceover IP, but there is a need for them for them for emergency phones in elevators and emergency alarms for the City's dispatch service for the non-emergency lines that come into the emergency center. If somebody takes a phone pole out or if there is a power failure, that line will work. The POTS lines are very expensive, but the City would be saving \$500 per month with Windstream. It will be a five-year contract, 60 months, which would lock that price in for the next five years. Basically, AT&T owns the lines. Windstream will purchase the lines from AT&T, and they can resell them. The City already has AT&T lines coming in at these locations. When it switches over to Windstream, AT&T will come out, tag a pair of wires on that line, assign them to Windstream, and then Windstream owns them. All the City has to do is port its old numbers into the new lines and then it's on Windstream. It has to be done to 68 lines, which represents 20 facilities. The biggest one is the dispatch center.

Mrs. Pyke asked if a tree would take out a line, would the whole system go down. Mr. Konich stated that it depends where the tree is. If it's near the central office, there is the potential it could take them all out. Mrs. Pyke asked if these alarms are backed up by another system. Mr. Konich stated that they are not. It is a single line going in each one of those locations to the central office. Mrs. Pyke asked, with all the changes in technology, if it is the wise to go for a five-year contract. Mr. Konich stated that he thinks so. They don't see anything on the horizon that is going to change anytime soon. The most dependable is a wire-to-wire connection. Mrs. Pyke asked if Windstream will own the lines and if will they assume the same contract that AT&T has with the City. If there is a damaged pole, will they have to move those lines off the pole. Mr. Konich stated that AT&T still owns the service. That one pair of lines that is attached to that phone within that cable is what Windstream actually owns. Mrs. Pyke asked if a car would hit a pole and the pole was replaced, what leverage does the City have to make Windstream take that line off of the damaged pole so the City can take the damaged pole down. Mr. Konich stated that AT&T would have to do that. Windstream would only own that pair of wires on that line. Mrs. Pyke asked if a City-owned pole is damaged, how will the City get Windstream to put their line on a new pole. Mr. Konich stated that they call AT&T, and they would have to come out to replace it. Mr. Gorbach stated that

AT&T still owns the copper and they are responsible for that. Mrs. Pyke stated that she wished there was some sort of backup system. Mr. Konich stated that the City has never had one before. It's just the nature of the beast.

Mr. Colavecchio asked how much the City is paying per line. Mr. Konich stated that, right now, the City is paying approximately \$48 per line, but on 20 of those lines, they are paying \$86 a month, because they have special features on those lines. In the dispatch center, they need to have Caller ID. They also have hunt groups, so lines would roll over. Windstream is a flat price. Everything needed is there.

Mrs. Pyke moved to bring out Temp. Ord. A-81 with a favorable recommendation, second by Mr. James. Motion passed (3-0).

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.