

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

November 15, 2021

Members: Tim Gorbach, Chair
Mary Nichols-Rhodes
Jeff Iula

Mr. Gorbach called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. All members were present.

The minutes of the November 1, 2021, Finance Committee meeting were approved as written.

Legislation Discussed

Temp. Ord. B-91

Discussion:

Temp. Ord. B-91

An ordinance establishing annual appropriations of money for the current expenses, capital expenditures and other expenses of the City of Cuyahoga Falls for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2022, and declaring an emergency.

Ohio Revised Code §5705.38 requires local taxing authorities to pass an annual appropriations measure classified so as to set forth the amounts appropriated to each office, department and division of the taxing authority. Article VI, Section 6 of the City Charter requires the Mayor to submit an estimated budget for the coming fiscal year showing the requested allotments of the appropriations and estimated income for each office or department for the calendar year.

Capital Projects Fund, Five Year Projection

Revenues - \$5,724,367 increase. Revenues in this fund can fluctuate from year to year based on debt structure, grant awards, and transfers in. For fiscal year 2022 we are anticipating a considerable increase in Transfers In + \$5,182,755, the majority of which is related to ARPA federal grant revenue replacement funds, which will be used for various Capital Projects in the City. The City has been successful in applying and obtaining grants. There are seven in 2022. In addition, there is a large increase in Reimbursement - Other related to reimbursements from various tax increment equivalent special revenue funds (TIFs) +\$1,010,948. We are anticipating an increase in funding from Mudbrook-Mill Pond TIF +\$401,390, and new funding from Sourek Trail TIF \$600,000.

Capital Outlay - The Five Year projection 2022 - 2026 for the fund is presented on page 37-40 and will be discussed in detail at the budget hearing. Capital Projects change from year to year and are generally not comparable, with the exception of some annual programs, such as street resurfacing (\$3 Million), concrete streets (500,000), sidewalks, curbs and ramps, guardrails, assessable tree trimming and bridge work. Some significant projects for 2022 are as follows: West Portage Trail Extension improvements \$588,500, Steels Corners resurfacing (Northampton to

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Akron Peninsula Road) \$1,270,000, and Broad Boulevard resurfacing (2nd to State) \$1,226,063. The most significant vehicle/equipment purchase is a Rescue Truck for Fire Department \$600,000.

Debt service - \$2,350,808 increase. This increase is related to the increase in bond anticipation notes issued in the current year, over 2020. Note issuances are generally retired one year later, or rolled into a bond issuance. The note financing for Sourek Trail improvements has grown in accordance with project costs (balance at 12/31/2020 - \$1,225,000, estimated balance at 12/31/2021 - \$3,495,000) and will be paid with TIF Proceeds.

Debt Service Fund Five Year Projection for entire City

Revenues – (\$67,070) decrease, mostly from Transfer In, as less of a transfer is needed in 2022 due to projected fund balance at the end of 2021.

Debt service - (\$3,396) decrease. This fund accounts for the principal and interest payments on general government long-term debt. There are no new long-term bonds issuances, or retirements planned for 2022, therefore this fund is fairly stagnant.

Mr. Bryan Hoffman, Finance Director, stated that the City has been heavy on infrastructure spending \$3 million each year on street resurfacing and \$500,000 on concrete street repair. The City has also been successful in being awarded grant money for many of the projects. He stated that the plan for 2022 is looking at replacement of Station 4, as well as a training tower in that area. They will be looking at how they are going to rebuild that Garage-Street Department building on that corner. They have some funding from ARPA to do that.

Parks and Recreation has the Boardwalk Transformation Project, rebuilding and upgrading the boardwalk along Riverfront Parkway. They have had to close a portion of that boardwalk off due to structural issues. They are looking at a project that will connect the river to Front Street in a way that brings people downtown from other communities.

Community Development will be overseeing the art grant they recently received along with the matching funds from the Federal government and using it for art along the riverfront.

Tech Services has both traffic light controls and computer network upgrades that will be taking place in late 2022 and early 2023. There is a plan to upgrade all of the City's traffic controllers. The corridor that runs the major network is five years old, and it is time to upgrade that. That corridor is scheduled maintenance at about midyear next year. They may come to Council late in 2022 with a plan to make sure the network is adequate. They are constantly looking at virus threats, outside threats and, since this is a major component to the City's cyber security, they are looking at the best path forward.

Mr. Hoffman stated that one of the differences in this year's budget is the \$16.5 million grant the City received under The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). They received the first installment in May. Mr. Hoffman presented Council with the following list of how the City plans to use these funds:

Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) Revolving Loan Program

The CIC is a development corporation that is put in place and authorized by ORC Code to assist in development in ways that the City would have difficulty being able to maneuver through rules and regulations and can be used as an economic development tool. Having a revolving loan fund that is in the CIC outside the City confines is an extremely helpful tool for not only in the near future, but for an exceptionally long time. It would create a revenue stream for the CIC so it will be a viable entity for years to come.

Cochran Road Build

The land on both sides of Cochran Road has historically been residential but was rezoned quite a while ago as commercial and light industrial. In order to attract businesses to build there, that road would need to be rebuilt and redone with the proper drainage and curbs probably widened. That part of the city has not been developed, and this is an opportunity to provide some funding to make improvements to that road. Several years ago, sewer was done down half of the road, so sewer would need to be done on the other half.

Gorge Terrace Project

The completion of the Gorge Terrace project in the area of South Front Street and combining it with the South Front Street area from Broad Boulevard to the Gorge. The Gorge Terrace project was conceptualized many years ago. It was a revitalization of South Front Street towards the Gorge and the Akron border. The City requested funding for the Transportation Bill in Congress, and they have always thought that there would be a match in order to have full funding. Mr. Hoffman stated that he placed the Gorge Terrace Project on this list as a way to fund the rest of the project.

JEDD Waterlines

JEDD stands for Joint Economic Development District. It is a way to extend public city infrastructure into townships or non-incorporated areas. Cuyahoga Falls has a JEDD that overlays the northern border at State Road and goes north to Barlow Road. That JEDD district was put in place to be able to extend utilities into that area. The businesses there have been asking the City to look at ways to extend water and sewer utilities into that area. The JEDD, by agreement with a township, allows the City to impose an income tax on the township businesses, and then share income tax revenues. The City keeps 60 percent and Boston Township gets 40 percent of the income tax. It is a source of revenue the townships are not able to take advantage of and it is a lifeline for Boston Township, because they just do not have resources there to maintain the roads and maintain some of the systems that the township would like to do. As a JEDD, the City does not employ their road or maintenance in any way. The City is proposing to extend its water lines into that area. The funding for that waterline is a partnership between the City, the township and the business owners or residents. Boston Township is looking at putting in a portion of their ARPA dollars for this project, as well, and the residents and businesses would then make up the rest of it. The City would get a return on that investment by having new businesses enter into that district at some point because they now have water and sewer.

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Public Art

Mr. Hoffman stated that the City has formed an Art Board, and has been able to get a grant for public art. Continuing that theme in the city would draw people to the city and would be a worthwhile investment to bring people here to spend money.

Veterans Trail

The Veterans Trail a multi-community project in the form of a bike and hike trail that would run through Cuyahoga Falls and connect to Route 91 in Hudson. It is a project that is out a couple of years, but they want to make sure there was some funding available to try to make that happen.

Fiber Optic Cable Infrastructure

Mr. Hoffman stated that one of the broad areas that the City can spend ARPA dollars is fiber optic and broadband upgrades. There was a project done in conjunction with the schools to build a fiber ring throughout the city. All the city buildings are connected to fiber, and it has been a valuable asset. They were able to connect fiber downtown, and that is how Wi-Fi for the downtown area is provided. There is a larger project being discussed throughout the county, but the County has been looking at an investment on how to connect all of the communities through one vast network and providing some of that in internet service where internet services may be lacking. Over the years, they been looking for connectivity from the City of Cuyahoga Falls to Hudson, Stow and Tallmadge where there currently is no connection. Those projects have been fairly costly and ones that they have not invested in, but they do provide value in sharing information and data among communities that can be valuable depending on what situations may arise. As the County project continues to take shape, there will be opportunities that will make a lot of sense for communities to invest in through fiber connections that they otherwise would not have resources and funding to do.

Police

Chief Davis spoke about a virtual training system for the range. The laser shot they currently has reached the end of its life. In looking at what it cost to upgrade, they looked at what else is out there. They came across a virtual reality trainer that is a judgment trainer, which they like because the whole idea of police work is de-escalation. They are a young department, so now they need to inform these people. This is so interactive that training officers can actually communicate with the officer. For what it would cost to upgrade the old system, they can get more innovative equipment. It is going to add to the training which is so important. All of the Police Department's liability is based on training. With the age of the department and the life experience of the department, it is more crucial than ever. They have great trainers and need to take advantage of them being there. With the training center, this will be a rental for other departments, and it is going to be a big attraction.

They would also like to obtain a SWAT van to utilize as a rescue vehicle, which is something that has been lacking in the city. If somebody is shot, they can actually approach and keep the people rescuing them safe. It is a van that has armor on it and would allow them to approach to rescue or

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bring in a medic. They were due to upgrade the van, so this would be the time to do this and enhance the safety. The SWAT communication system is an in-ear communication so they can hear from everyone else. It has weapon soundproofing. The radio upgrade has to be done as part of the County systems requiring this dual-factor encryption it. There are going to be some more updates, but this is the initial one.

Fire

Chief Martin stated that the biggest need for the department came in regard to training. Station 4 needs replaced and that has been in the five-year plan. They have established a need in the area for a burn building, a training property that is four to six stories that they can set fires in. The police can come and do tactics. They can smoke out floors and send crews in to train on high-rise scenarios and technical rescues. There are no limitations to what can be done with a prop like that and the classroom to go with it. The Street Department building that will be replaced moved around to the salt barn which will assist and improve their operations. They will have a new fire station that will replace the existing station and would add a training prop and the classroom. No one has what is being proposed. The University of Akron wants to talk MOU for using it for their classes. Akron Fire has over 300 firefighters and puts their own academy on and wants to use this facility because they cannot burn. This will replace their need to search for acquired structures which are a lot of work.

Water

Mr. Charles Novak, Street Commissioner, stated that, in sanitation, they only purchased one large vehicle when they normally buy two of them. They are getting vehicles and equipment. They have a couple salt storage buildings that are 20-plus years old, so they are going to have roof replacements. There is funding in there for the relocation of the Ward 8 shop. It makes sense to relocate it and put it near the salt barn; that way, the loader and equipment is right next the material to be loaded. They have 17 large salt trucks in the fleet. They usually replace one a year. In the five-year plan, there are two years in there where they are asking for more than one large vehicle in the Street Department, but only one in 2022.

Buildings and Grounds Maintenance

Mr. John Ball, Building and Grounds Superintendent, stated that the City Hall flat roof portion needs repairs. It will be completely rebuilt. The following year would be for the two flat roofs, the one over the Police Department and the one over Parks and Recreation. That will complete the roofing for City Hall. The \$50,000 for the cemetery fence would finish off the fence at Oakwood Cemetery.

Community Development Department

Ms. Diana Colavecchio, Community Development Director, stated that they been working on a Master Plan for the Merriman Valley. They are tentatively scheduled to hold that out to the public on December 15. Once that goes through the design phase, they would be moving to the code phase where the consultant hired would start drafting the codes for the development code that goes

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with this Master Plan. Once it is all completed, they would be looking at potentially putting new signage in that area, because, in the draft for the Master Plan, it calls for new signage. On South State, they rolled out the facade and signage grants for the businesses on South State Road. A couple of those businesses have taken advantage of those grants. They would be seeing improved landscape along that corridor of the city. In their CDBG budget, they have allocated \$50,000 for assisting those businesses, redoing their logo and creating sort of a marketing campaign the way it was done for the downtown area. In Capital, there is an amount for signage, so once they have a new logo and all the business agreeing on wanting the logo, they will assist for paying for that district to get it a name and a place and to give recognition to the other commercial corridor in the city.

Ms. Colavecchio stated that another item is the National Endowment of the Arts grants that they received, and this is their match to that. They have what is called match plus. They gave them some portion up to \$50,000 and they had to match that. They will be creating two pieces of public art. They are about to put both of the public artists under contract and will be hosting a reception in the spring. In addition they would be putting four local artists to produce pieces of art.

Mr. Stams asked how Ms. Colavecchio foresees the Merriman Valley Plan being funded going forward with the zoning. Ms. Colavecchio stated that once the plan is complete, the money has already been budgeted and will be paid out, but implementing the plan will require incentives on their part. For example, Mr. Hoffman has been putting \$2 million in the CIC development revolving loan. A good example of a project that might happen is assisting a business in the Merriman Valley with redeveloping an aged commercial building and turning it in a mixed-use building, river-facing.

Municipal Income Tax Fund

Revenues - \$2,261,009 increase, which is due to projected increases in most income tax revenue accounts, with the largest being Withholding Current \$1,801,623. This revenue source was scaled back in the 2021 budget due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, but we are seeing it recover and exceed any previous level. Also, based on current trends, we are anticipating that our annual refund from RITA will be the highest yet. As a note regarding performance of the RITA contract, the City paid retainer of \$685,323.67 in 2020, and received a refund of \$327,519 on 5/28/2021 at the conclusion of their annual audit. Therefore, the City paid a net of \$357,804.67 for 2020 income tax collection services.

Personal Services - \$8,310 increase. Cost of living (COLA) increases for Non Bargaining, and AFSCME personnel.

Operations expenditures – \$347,761 increase. Substantially due to Refunds & Reimbursements (54301) \$270,160, as we are expecting more refunds with the increase in gross collections.

Transfers Out - \$1,934,437 increase. The allocation of income tax funds is governed by Codified Ordinance Section 161.14. To paraphrase, income tax collections less the costs of collecting, enforcing, and administering are distributed as follows: General Fund 62.67%, Recreation Levy

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Fund 8.00% and Capital Projects Fund 29.33%. The increase in net transfer is attributable to the upward trend in estimated income tax proceeds, as noted above.

Mr. Matthew Skitzki, Tax Administrator, was present on behalf of the Municipal Income Tax Department. He stated that one of the advantages of going to RITA is their access to the Federal IRS data, which is only available to cities or entities of a certain size. Cuyahoga Falls did not qualify as a city tax department, but once they transitioned to RITA, RITA does qualify to access that information. They have resources and experts at their disposal, so their collections are simply better.

Information Services

Personal Services - \$7,617 increase. Cost of living (COLA) increases for Non Bargaining personnel. These increases were offset with the savings from the hiring of a replacement for the recently retired Director of IT Services at a lower step.

Operations expenditures - \$17,040 increase. Increase to Miscellaneous Contractual Services (54005) \$22,000 mostly for daily offsite data backup and replication services.

Technical Services

Personal Services - \$19,301 increase. Cost of living (COLA) increases for Non Bargaining, and AFSCME personnel.

Operations expenditures - \$41,678 increase. Mostly due to several one-time Other Operations initiatives: Property/Building Maintenance and Repair (53021) for mono-pole painting \$16,000, and WCFI antenna move \$2,700; Software (53045) for fiber management software \$2,500, and radio upgrade \$4,600; and Tools & Equipment (53047) for new Automated External Defibrillator AED purchase for bucket truck, and shop.

Mr. Josh Kington, Director of Information Services, was present on behalf of the Information and Technical Services Departments. He stated that the virtual environment software was a system that was put in place five or six years ago. The system, itself, is working, but they are coming to the end of life. They want to be in front of replacing as opposed to replacing it when it too late, because if they wait and it went down, the entire city and City Hall could be shut down for a couple of weeks while they waited for new equipment to be delivered. It is expensive to maintain right now, and the vendors, when it reaches a certain point, are not willing to maintain it any longer, so they would either have to go through a third party to do so, which would be expensive, if they even could replace parts. It was in the budget for 2023, but they are taking a hard look at whether it is something needs to be moved up to 2022.

Mr. Brillhart asked where they are adding battery backup to the traffic signals. Mr. Kington stated that that is part of the plan in terms of traffic control and upgrades. They actually have two additional battery backups at the Barney's intersection and Front Street and Bailey Road. They have it budgeted to add two more of those battery backup systems every year at a cost of roughly \$6,000 each.

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Mr. Brillhart asked what percentage of the City's traffic signals have battery backup. Mr. Kington stated that they are located at most of the major intersections where there is heavy traffic.

Mr. Brillhart asked if the new traffic signals usually have a battery backup. Mr. Tony Demasi, City Engineer, stated that as part of their roadway projects, all new traffic signals get the battery backup installed.

Storm Drainage Utility Fund

Personal Services - \$110,562 increase. Cost of living (COLA) increases for Non Bargaining, and AFSCME personnel. In addition, several employees have scheduled merit increases in 2022, and there was a change in fund distribution for the Water Utilities Superintendent. Former Superintendent was charged equally to Sewer and Water Funds, and this was changed to 1/3 for Sewer, Water, and Storm Drainage Utility when the new Superintendent was hired. We feel this is the best allocation, as this management position serves all three funds equally.

Debt service - \$28,142 increase, which relates to the scheduled payment for an additional sewer jet truck leased in 2021. 2022 City of Cuyahoga Falls Budget Department Highlights 10

Water Fund

Revenues - \$1,649,825 increase. The largest contributing factor to this increase is related to an OPWC grant (State funding) for Magnolia / Loomis waterline replacement.

Personal Services - \$74,794 increase. Cost of living (COLA) increases for Non Bargaining, and AFSCME personnel. In addition, several employees have scheduled merit increases in 2022, and we have two new positions in the Water which are allocated equally to Sewer and Water Funds. In addition to other duties, these new positions will be heavily involved in system maintenance.

Operations expenditures - \$110,076 increase, which is due in part to the following: Chemical Supplies (52005) +\$27,295 for the anticipated increase in raw materials; Filtration Services (52008) +\$50,000 to analyze and replace green sand and zeolite; and Office Equipment (53032) +\$12,000 for replacement of personal computers and ice machine, and new tablets for work order system.

Capital outlay - \$3,694,787 increase. The Five-year Capital Plan 2022-2026 for this fund is on page 244 and will be discussed in detail at the budget hearing. Capital Projects change from year to year and are generally not comparable. Some significant projects for 2022 are as follows: Magnolia / Loomis waterline replacement \$2,476,787, and Portage Trail Extension Waterline (Valley to Northampton).

Sanitary Sewer Fund

Revenues - \$2,142,810 increase. This is due to the increase of costs of contractual sewage disposal with the City of Akron and Summit County to our customers.

Personal Services - \$71,128 increase. Cost of living (COLA) increases for Non Bargaining, and AFSCME personnel. In addition, several employees have scheduled merit increases in 2022, and

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we have two new positions in the Water which are allocated equally to Sewer and Water Funds. In addition to other duties, these new positions will be heavily involved in system maintenance.

Operations expenditures - \$2,123,621 increase. As noted in the revenue section above, sewage disposal costs with the City of Akron and Summit County are projected to increase \$1,068,038, and \$1,010,774, respectively for a total increase of \$2,078,812.

Capital outlay - \$672,500 increase. The Five-year Capital Plan 2022-2026 for this fund is on page 233 and will be discussed in detail at the budget hearing. Capital Projects change from year to year and are generally not comparable. Some significant projects for 2022 are as follows: Highpoint Lane Sewer \$300,000, Gorge Trunk Line \$250,000, and Broad Boulevard Sewer Lining (5th to 8th) \$200,000.

Debt service - \$360,410 increase, which relates to the estimated payment associated with the Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) system which we did not have in 2021.

Mr. Russ Kring, Water Utilities Superintendent, was present on behalf of the Water and Sanitary Sewer Departments. He stated that, for storm water, they are continuing to look at the Littman Parkway area for a new culvert to construct next year. Preston Park and Lynn Drive is a storm sewer project that has some old pipe. They are looking to do something within the park to solve the problems that are making their way onto private property located there. Third Street and Wadsworth Avenue has a new section of storm that is not in decent shape. They have some work planned for 13th Street in preparation for the new school that will go in that area to improve both storm and sanitary drainage prior to the school being put in place.

Mr. Kring stated that the Magnolia Avenue and Loomis Avenue waterline replacement is a big one they are hoping to do next year. Half of that will be paid for or reimbursed by OPWC grants. That replaces the water lines on both streets from Tallmadge Road down to Main Street. It is an old line, so they are excited to get that area replaced. The Portage Trail Extension waterline Valley Road too Northampton Road is an area where ODOT is going to be doing a project in a couple of years. The residents and future businesses there were interested in having city water, so they want to get a waterline in there ahead of the ODOT project to give the folks something to tie into and have city water instead of well water. They are taking it to Northampton Road and looking at the possibility of turning it and going down Northampton Road, as well, but that would be an issue to work out with Akron.

Mr. Kring stated that for the Highpoint Lane sewer that is an area that has some maintenance issues. They hope to replace the main on Highpoint Lane to free up the maintenance guys when they go out to clean out Highpoint Lane. They are going to pave Broad Boulevard next year. This sanitary sewer runs right down the center island of Broad Boulevard. They would like to go in and line it and make it structurally sound again which will allow them to renew the sewer and then pave Broad Boulevard.

Mrs. Penta asked how that repair is going to work with the expansion of Portage Trail. Mr. Kring stated that there is large ravine that runs through Valley Vista and crosses Portage Trail. After the

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2014 flood, a big section of the pipe washed out and caused Portage Trail to flood. If they need to widen Portage Trail, they can widen it without having to deal with Valley Road.

Mrs. Penta asked about Babb Run. Mr. Kring stated that Babb Run has consistent erosion problems that they have been dealing with for the last five or ten years. They want to go in there and repair some of the old, corrugated metal pipe and strategically add some catch basins to capture water before it is able to cause erosion.

Ms. Loza asked how long the Magnolia-Loomis water lines project will take. Mr. Demasi stated that they anticipate the project to begin next April. It would be done some time later next year, hopefully by the end of summer.

Mr. Stams thanked Mr. Kring for all their work in Ward 8. They take time and visit with the residents, and he is grateful for the impression that makes on the residents.

Civil Service

Operations expenditures - \$4,500 increase. Increase in Advertising (53001) \$2,500, and Miscellaneous Contractual Services (54005) \$2,000 associated with an estimated increase in open competitive and promotional examinations.

Human Resources

Personal Services - (\$15,400) decrease. Change in distribution of employees' salaries and benefits to the Self-Insurance Fund. The distribution to the General Fund department in 2021 was Human Resources Director 75%, and Human Resources Coordinator 55%. For 2022 it will be Human Resources Director 50%, and Secretary I 50%. It is our goal to distribute costs to the Self-Insurance Fund based on an estimate of how much time is spent on health care, and this is a significant responsibility for this department.

Self-Insurance Fund

Revenues - \$205,290 increase. A good portion of this increase is related to the anticipated increase in prescription (Rx) rebates of \$115,094. Hospitalization increase of \$94,448 relates to contributions from additional employees in the City.

Personal Services - \$44,613 increase. Change in distribution of employees' salaries and benefits to the Self-Insurance Fund. See above Human Resources personal Services section.

Operations expenditures - \$353,928, primarily from Non-Operating increase of \$373,955 related to an estimated overall increase in medical and prescription claims.

Workers' Compensation Fund

The City is in the Group Retro Program.

Revenues - (\$51,719) decrease, which is related to an estimated decrease in refunds from the Bureau (\$51,169).

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Total expenditures - (\$15,856) decrease. Based on projections from our consultant, State Workers' Compensation claims are estimated to decrease (\$29,000), which is offset by an anticipated increase in administrative costs \$15,294.

Ms. Vicki Steiner, Human Resources Director, was present on behalf of the Human Resources Department. She stated that, in 2022, they are hoping to implement a system and get approval from Council to look at an applicant tracking system that will be electronic for the applicants, as well as enable the civil service secretary to be able to send information out electronically to candidates.

In the Self-Insurance Fund, the majority of increases in that fund are with the medical expenses. Medical prescriptions have come in a little lower, but they are gaining some revenue in new employees who are contributing to the plans. The stop-loss insurance is the major factor in the increase for claims that are over the \$250,000 limit. Open enrollment started today, and they have implemented a new system in the employee portal to do that.

Mr. Stams asked if the rise in medical claims was being driven by the prescriptions or by the hospital visits. Ms. Steiner stated that their pharmacy is up, and their claims are down. It had a lot to do with COVID and physicians not seeing individuals. What they struggle with are the claims that are over that stop-loss threshold. Working with the benefit consultant, they were able to negotiate a rate quite lower than what it came at with Medical Mutual.

Mr. Stams asked if there was a preferred hospital with the plan. Ms. Steiner stated that they have three different health plans. They did go out and market the medical insurance for 2022. They had four different vendors. The Health Care Committee reviewed all the responses and received input from the unions. Medical Mutual, who the City has been with since 1997, came in at the last minute and finally got a contract with Unity Health Providers, so the Health Care Committee decided to make the recommendation to stay with Medical Mutual instead of making any intrinsic changes to the networks, with Western Reserve as a local provider.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.