

Cuyahoga Falls City Council

Minutes of the Finance and Appropriations Committee Meeting

December 13, 2004

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

Mr. Flinn called the Finance Committee to order at 6:02 p.m.

Budget Discussions for 2005 Continued:

Information Services: There is a 19.77% change in this budget due to the e-government and increase in capital outlay. Mr. Konich indicates the cost is \$499,000 for e-government. Hardware is \$150,000; software is \$166,000 ongoing consultant services is \$183,000, which includes updates. There will be a contract for continued services of around 15%. The professional services that are directly linked to utility billing will be directly charged to their fund the same as Parks & Recreation. These portions will be up and running in early Spring, even in March 2005.

Print Shop: Down 11.4% over the budget year. Decrease in other operations relating to office supplies and equipment maintenance service. The Print Shops home base is through IS.

Income Tax: Change is 2.70% increase due to operating transfers. These employees handle the cost of administering the fund and keeping track of money. Transfers will be higher next year but the delinquent tax collections show less than last year. With a full time person, Mr. Gorbach hopes that this number will increase.

Utility Billing: Change of 9.24% due to the increase in capital outlay, increase in staffing by Ordinance 111-2004, increase in medical/dental charges, and an increase in other operations relating to direct charges. Susan Hale indicates the new equipment helps processing of utility bills. It microencodes the checks and has reduced our costs. The direct charges are higher due to e-government.

Building and Grounds: Change of 4.44% due to increase of medial/dental and other operations relating to utilities. The increase of \$27,000 of health care is a significant increase.

The Finance Committee recessed at 6:30 for City Council Meeting and reconvened at 6:40 p.m. to discuss Temp. Ord. A-181.

Pieces of Legislation this evening (second readings):

A-181	An Ordinance authorizing the Director of Finance to enter into a contract and/or contracts for the provision of hardware, software, and professional services to implement Phase I of the City's E-Government initiative to be known as Cuyahoga Falls Online, and declaring an emergency.
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Mr. Brodzinski indicates the Utility Billing and Park/Recreation piece will be rolled out in early March 2005 as discussed during budget. There are three equal payments for this ordinance. Mr. Gorbach asks when the income tax portion will be online. Joe indicates the W-2 copies are the potential hang up. We are certainly looking at it. Mr. Flinn indicates this is exciting.

The committee recommended bringing out Temp. Ord. A-181.

The Finance Committee reconvened at 7:00 p.m. for further Budget Discussions:

Police: Change is 3.5% due to increase in transfer to Police Pension Fund and other operation relating to direct charges. Some Capital needs are the 5 police Cruiser with new light Bars/Sirens at \$121,000 along

with a RS6000 Message Switch for the operation of the CAD/MDT System at \$11,650. There is also a request for a laptop computer for \$2,900 for auxiliary services that can be handles via remote.

Fire: There is a 2.31% change due to increase in medical/dental charges and capital outlay. Capital needs include Lifepak 12 Defibrillator (2 @ \$13,400 = \$26,800), Class 2 Breathing Air Fill Stations at the cost of \$10,000 and Master Stream Devices (2@ \$3000 = \$6,000). We are still doing the free smoke detectors and have installed over 3,000 detectors. As people call in, we carry the 10-year lithium smoke detectors and install as needed. Mary Ellen reiterates that the fire fighters come to your home and put in the detectors. The chief states it takes an average of 3 detectors per house. The initial purchase of detectors was from donations to the fire department. The payroll increase is due to the step increase and future raises. Health cost is up \$154,000 on just the fire department alone.

Technical Services: The change is only .06%. The capital needs for the Pre-emption Phase Selector that changes the lights as an emergency vehicle approaches an intersection. The Loop Tester is to help identify any problems below asphalt level.

Community/Economic Development: Decrease of 19.60% relating to contractual services. FY 2004 included funds for environmental assessment services for the US EPA Brownfield Project (funded with 100% federal grant). Part time has increased slightly, but the CD budget is basically the same.

Riverfront Centre District: Decrease of 3.3% in other operations relating to contractual services. Furthermore FY 2004 includes a \$25,000 supplemental appropriation increase due to a donation. We have already exceeded our revenue projection for 2005. We have a manager, a district leader, and some part time staff/laborers. We run two shifts during festival weekends and irregular weeks. Mary Ellen asks about security. Sue indicates we have budgeted for that for two shifts next year. The Chief has been doing surveillance right now. We are looking for an official role with minimal pay. Mary Ellen wants to ensure we have proper security at the festivals and throughout the parking deck. Mayor Robart indicates there are times that call for better security. We will have a staggered shift. We have somewhat of a history of timing where graffiti has occurred. If we install cameras, with the wireless capabilities, we may deter further problems.

CDBG Funds: Mrs. Truby indicates we received \$1,150,000. The master plans for State Road along with Chestnut and Fourth are already in progress. We need to find a vacant home that will be used as a model for guidance. We are looking at two homes this week. In Ward 7, the percentage of rentals is 47%. Sheriff's sales are usually very slow because a lender is involved.

Miscellaneous Business:

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