

City of Bay Village

Council Minutes, Committee Session
Council Chambers
Paul A. Koomar, President of Council, Presiding

December 1, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Present: Clark, Henderson, Koomar, Lee, Lieske, Tadych, Mayor Sutherland

Not Present: Mr. Vincent

Also Present: Law Director Ebert, Finance Director Mahoney, Recreation Director Enovitch, Community Services Director Selig, Police Chief Spaetzel, Fire Chief Lyons, Service/Safety Director Thomas, Assistant Finance Director Popovich

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUDIENCE

The following audience members signed in this evening: Conda Boyd, Lydia DeGeorge, Marty Mace, Pam Cottam, Suzanne Graham, Jerrie Barnett. Jennifer Rosa, Denny Wendell, Charles Ramer, Jeff Gallatin, Dick Majewski.

ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Mr. Lee advised that he is in the process of planning an Environment, Safety and Community Services Committee meeting on Monday, December 8. Details will be forthcoming.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS, STREETS/SEWERS/DRAINAGE COMMITTEE

Change Orders to contract with Nerone & Sons, Inc. (Deduction and Change of Completion Date) Walker-Nantucket Pump Station Improvements Project

Change Order to contract with Chagrin Valley Paving, Inc. (Deduction) 2014 Pavement Maintenance and Resurfacing Program

Change Order to contract with Dura Mark, Inc. (Deduction) 2014 Pavement Marking and Striping Program

Change Order to contract with Karvo Paving Company – (Deduction) 2013 Lake Road Resurfacing Project.

Mr. Tadych reported that this evening, at the special meeting of Council, he will introduce ordinances for change orders to the four contracts as listed above. The change orders represent reductions in both completion time and cost of the contracts.

Service Director Thomas added that these change orders are part of the four projects that have been completed this year under the contract amount.

Mr. Lee asked about a pipe that is protruding from the ground at the Walker/Nantucket Pump Station. Service Director Thomas stated that they will attempt to conceal the pipe in some way.

FINANCE & CLAIMS COMMITTEE

Mr. Clark discussed the six ordinances that he will introduce at the Regular Meeting of Council this evening:

Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Amended Agreement with the Life Force Management, Inc. for medical services provided by the Bay Village Fire Division, and declaring an emergency. (First Reading)

Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Attorney General for Delinquent Debt Collection, and declaring an emergency. (First Reading).

These first two ordinances are associated with the billing for emergency medical services and ambulance transportation. Fire Chief Lyons has recommended both of the pieces of legislation, and Mr. Clark agrees that it is a way to raise much needed funds to balance the budget for the year 2015. The agreement with the Attorney General for debt collection for EMS services is for those debts incurred by folks that are non-residents of the City. Chief Lyons stated that over the past five years we have accumulated upwards of \$40,000 in uncollected debts. The Attorney General's Office will collect these debts on behalf of Bay Village. They will include their fee for doing so in the charges (10% of the invoiced amount), so there is no cost to the City of Bay Village.

Ordinance amending Codified Ordinance 921.02 regarding Sewer Rental Rates, and declaring an emergency. (First Reading).

Mr. Clark stated that they look to make the sewer rental fee for residents \$360.00 per year. The rate was approved at \$335.00 last year, but the current rate in effect is \$360.00.

Mrs. Mahoney explained that the City is at the \$360.00 per year level if you consider currently the payments are \$90.00 for sewer per quarter, and \$12.00 for trash collection per quarter. Those are the amounts that were paid the last three quarters of the year. For 2014, annually, the rate was \$335.00 because the first quarter of the year was at a lower rate. The rate goes up next year by \$25.00, payable in the first quarter of 2015. The rates for all four quarters of the year will be the same as what was paid for the second, third, and fourth quarter of 2014. (\$90.00 per quarter).

Mr. Clark noted that this additional \$25.00 was originally intended to fund capital sewer improvements, but the cost of Bay Village's share of the Rocky River Wastewater Treatment Plant has increased.

Mr. Tadych questioned the reason for the asterisk without a reference in the ordinance. The asterisk was included in the previous ordinance to explain the changes made. It will be removed from the current ordinance.

Ordinance establishing the effective date for the Refuse Collection Fee, and declaring an emergency. **(First Reading)**

It is recommended that the Refuse Collection Fee remain at \$12.00 per quarter, and will continue as such through 2015.

The ordinance will be amended by reading this evening to change the second Whereas Clause to read 2015.

Ordinance amending Codified Ordinance Section 181.36(b) regarding disbursement of Municipal Income Tax Funds, and declaring an emergency. (First Reading).

This ordinance provides for the distribution of 98 % Municipal Income Tax Funds to the General Fund of the City of Bay Village, and the remaining 2% to the Accrued Benefits Fund. This is in line with our past practice, and Accrued Benefits are projected to be about \$140,000 for the 2015 year. This 2% allocation of Municipal Income Tax Funds substantially funds that account.

Ordinance to make appropriations for the current and other expenditures of the City of Bay Village for the Fiscal Year 2015 (First Reading).

Mr. Clark advised that the goal was to put the 2015 Budget, both operating and capital, on first reading this evening. A new copy of the budget has been distributed to the members of Council

Mr. Lee asked if the numbers for the Rocky River Wastewater Treatment Plant have been confirmed. Mrs. Mahoney stated that they have been approved by the Mayor. The increase for Bay Village from 2014 to 2015 is almost 14%. The increase from 2013 to present is 50%.

Mr. Clark thanked Mrs. Mahoney and the administration for the good work they have done in the budget process. He stated that one of the things the Finance Committee asked was to look at the Police Department without a civilian dispatch crew implemented for the 2015 year. The numbers in the budget show a complement of 24 police officers. Mr. Clark stated that he was working under the impression that we would have 23 officers, including the Chief. Mrs. Mahoney stated that in conversations with the Police Chief, before we started this process, the plan was to reduce by one patrolman through attrition. Twenty-four was the total until starting the plans for civilian dispatch. We did not have 24, because we were always in the process of hiring people, but 24 was the normal complement. If we go back to no dispatch, and not do anything in that regard as of January 1, 2015, the complement of the Police Department should be 24.

Mr. Koomar stated that the budgeted officers for the last two years, if not three years, has been 23 officers total. Mrs. Mahoney stated that for 2014 it was 23 officers, with a blank space for the 24th officer. Mrs. Mahoney did not do an analysis of that type for 2013.

Mr. Clark stated that he thought the expectation was that we have a retirement coming up. Filling that position would keep the complement at 23 officers. That is the expectation that the Finance Committee had in reviewing the budget.

Mrs. Mahoney stated that technically for 2014, only 22.5 officers were budgeted because 2 patrol officers were budgeted for 75% of the year. If we are not going to have civilian dispatch, we should add back a patrolman.

Mr. Koomar stated that we are not saying we are not going to have dispatch. We are working through that process.

Mr. Tadych noted that in the budget itself it says that the 24th position remains vacant. How can it remain vacant if we are filling it elsewhere?

Mrs. Mahoney stated that all the previous iterations of the budget included civilian dispatch. She took dispatch out, and we should add a patrolman back if we are not going to talk about civilian dispatch.

Mr. Koomar said that we are talking about civilian dispatch. Mrs. Mahoney stated that it seems like the topic of dispatch has stalled, so we should include the extra officer until we decide, yes, we are going to go with dispatch, or, no, we are not.

Mr. Koomar stated that his understanding last week is that the Finance Committee had discussed 23 officers. We were going to start there. If the intent is to go to dispatch, to show 24 officers is heading us in the wrong direction. Mrs. Mahoney stated that we need to decide if we are going to do civilian dispatch or not. Mr. Koomar stated that we are working through that. Mr. Lee stated that we are not going to hold the budget up until that thorough vetting process is completed.

Mr. Henderson stated that we had 23 officers without dispatch this year. Mrs. Mahoney stated that this was in anticipation of dispatchers. Mr. Henderson stated that we are still in anticipation of dispatchers, so what has really changed. Mr. Clark commented that this might be a fair question for the Police Chief, as well. We operated at 23 in 2014, kept position number 24 vacant, so the question is adding another patrol person would be adding more cost to the budget. That wasn't the expectation that the Council had. It was to keep it the same.

Mr. Koomar commented that he would agree with Mrs. Mahoney that the Council said we are not going to move forward with analyzing the use of civilian dispatch and looking to getting that vetted as Mr. Lee said. Putting the 24th officer on, when we are heading in a different direction, sends the wrong message to the officers and to the public of what we are doing. It is just a timing issue here, with the efficiency of moving the budget ahead, we haven't had the time to vet the civilian dispatch. The understanding from the Finance Committee was that we were going to maintain the same number of officers as 2014, until we finish our analysis of civilian dispatch. Mr. Clark added that we would fill the position of the retiring officer. Mr. Clark and Mr. Tadych agreed that this was the expectation. The budget indicates that the retiring officer is due to leave May 31, 2015. Mr. Henderson added that ultimately when we implement civilian dispatch there would be a savings.

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Mrs. Mahoney stated that there would not be a savings, it would be a net zero with an extra officer taken off the desk and put on the street.

Mrs. Mahoney stated that she will redo the budget if the Finance Committee is telling her to take off a police officer. Mr. Koomar stated that this was his understanding from the Finance Committee to be consistent and allow us to work toward the plans for dispatch.

The appropriation ordinance will be amended by reading on December 8, 2014.

Mr. Clark addressed Fire Chief Lyons about the capital expenses for the Fire Department. There are a number of capital expenses planned this year: the Fire Station study, and acquisitions for much needed equipment. The budget also includes a vehicle, and Mr. Clark asked Fire Chief Lyons to talk about the priority of that vehicle since one was purchased last year.

Fire Chief Lyons stated that this capital purchase, in his opinion as the Fire Chief, is not a luxury, but a necessity. To go back in history to about 2007, Bay Village had in existence for 20 years plus what was commonly known as the Dive Rescue Team. This Dive Rescue Team was very expensive, both in terms of manpower, overtime, and capital equipment. It was costing the City probably about \$50,000 per year to run this team. During that course of time, from 2007 to 2009, the Mayor and former Fire Chief Sammon looked hard at that team and did a cost benefit analysis. They determined that even though we had a target hazard of five miles of coast line that we need to protect, this team didn't seem like it fit the bill. The team was cancelled. One of Chief Lyons major tasks coming in and taking over as Fire Chief and Chief of Rescue was to figure out an alternative. Our coast line of Lake Erie is for us in emergency services what is referred to as a target hazard. It is one of our most dangerous things that we have to deal with as a rescue team. We have lost more people to the waters of Lake Erie than we've lost to fires or other emergencies combined.

In light of that, the Fire Chief noted, he has put a lot of time, effort and energy, over the last several years, in coming up with an alternative plan. Council has partnered with the Fire Chief to implement the plan of a Water Rescue Team, both rescue swimmers and our surface ice rescuers. Whereas, the Dive Team cost the City about \$50,000 per year, this Water Rescue Team is costing the City about \$5,000 per year. This vehicle is one of two vehicles that is very necessary and the primary vehicle used in water rescue. The current Car 18, Ford Expedition, is 14, going on 15 years old. The fleet manager states that the vehicle is on its last legs and is ready to go anytime. When it goes, it won't make sense to fix it. It will cost more to fix it than the car is worth. Chief Lyons stated that this is the overarching need for this vehicle. There is a pick-up truck that is used, and this Expedition that is used. These are the two primary vehicles that are used to transport both the men and the equipment. There is no replacement or substitute for that. If we take one of our other vehicles it would get stuck in the sand, and we don't want to expose ourselves to that risk.

Mayor Sutherland stated that the Finance Director, Safety Director, and the two Chiefs sat down and hashed out how the capital dollars could be massaged to give us the funding for the projects. The recommendation is that we get that vehicle.

Mr. Lee asked Service/Safety Director Scott Thomas about the sewer camera truck. He noted that this is one of our big-ticket items this year. There was some discussion about potentially being able

to obtain a demo model. Is that still an option? Mr. Thomas stated that it is an option and the company states that the vehicle will be available to the City. They will be getting it in the middle of December. They will only keep it for a month and it will be available for Bay Village at a very good price. The actual cost of the vehicle is over \$339,000; we will get it for about \$250,000.

Mr. Clark asked if there is a benefit from the trade-in we are anticipating. Mr. Thomas stated that the trade-in would be part of that. Mr. Lee asked if the \$252,000 that is in the budget will come down at all with the demo model. Mr. Thomas stated that he is hoping to reduce that by \$2,000. The company will give us about \$15,000 for the trade-in; Mr. Thomas believes we can get around \$25,000 for the old vehicle on e.gov. Mr. Lee asked if we borrow the net amount of the vehicle with the sale of the bonds. Mrs. Mahoney stated that we would reduce the debt according to the final cost of the new vehicle.

Mr. Koomar asked Service/Safety Director Thomas about the total cost of the proposed fuel monitoring system. He noted that while all see the value in that, \$30,000 seems to be a steep price tag. Mrs. Mahoney stated that she did include the fuel monitoring system in the budget packet. The amount of \$30,000 is pretty much the going rate.

Mr. Tadych asked about the vendor SlideRenu for the painting of the slides at the Aquatic Center. Are they the only company that does that type of work to restore the climbing apparatus at the slides? In our budget it is \$47,000. They are in Avon Lake; and I know they did a fine job on the slides. Have we looked for other companies, and is there a possibility of maybe reducing the number at this point?

Recreation Director Enovitch stated that we have had other companies come out and paint those supports, only to have them peel because it does not adhere to the supports. SlideRenu does have a unique product that will adhere to the supports and that is the product we are recommending.

Mr. Tadych asked if we will go out for bids for other companies. Service/Safety Director Thomas stated that the cost SlideRenu has given us is a very good cost based on what we have seen, aquatic-wise. They do have a patent on that particular type of product which will obviously give us what we want for it to last for a number of years. To go out to bid on that price will not give us what we are looking for. We did bid the painting of the slides and this was the same company that was the successful bidder. Mr. Koomar noted that they did a nice job on the slides. Mr. Tadych commented that he is just looking for a savings.

PLANNING, ZONING & PUBLIC GROUNDS & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Mrs. Lieske had no report this evening.

RECREATION & PARK IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Henderson had no report this evening.

SERVICES, UTILITIES & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

Fiber Optic Cable

Mr. Koomar stated that Council had the question of the ability to use the Board of Education fiber optic lines in the project to install fiber optic lines to the City Service Garage.

Finance Director Mahoney thanked her Assistant Finance Director Ruth Popovich, noting that she put a lot of work into this. Mrs. Mahoney displayed a drawing and explained the lines illustrated that the Board of Education owns now. They have 60 lines coming out of the Board of Education building, 12 lines go to Normandy, 12 go to the Middle School, 12 to Glenview and 24 to the High School. The 24 at the High School are spliced; 12 stay at the High School and then 12 go out to Westerly School. If the City came in and wanted to connect into the school line, we would have to take 6 lines from Normandy. We would have to go into the Board of Education building physically, splice their wires, and connect for our lines. The lines would be spliced at the High School, and spliced at Westerly. This would leave Normandy and Westerly with only 6 lines each. Then we would have 6 lines out to the Service Garage. What we are intending to do, instead, is run 12 lines from City Hall straight out to the Service Garage. Going with the Board of Education lines, we would be putting the schools at risk. Currently, our Fire Department uses 6 lines. Two are for the computers, 2 are for the phone, and the other one is for the Fire Alarm Line. Mr. Oswald from Bailey Communications also told us that he had the problem at one point with one of the school systems he does is that 2 of the lines became dirty and they had to switch to another line. If we left the schools and ourselves with only 6 lines each, it puts all of us at a risk. There was a meeting with Bay Village School Superintendent Clint Keener last week and he agreed that he did not really want to give up his lines. Mr. Keener is willing to let the City use their pole rights for 64 poles from here to Westerly School. They pay about \$3.60 per pole per year. They would be willing to let us run our line along their pole rights at no charge to us. From Westerly out to the Service Garage we would have to work with CEI for the pole rights for 41 poles, which is included in the bid from Cable Concepts, and ready to move forward. Once they get the pole rights from CEI, there is a two-week period needed for installation. Law Director Ebert is preparing a Memorandum of Understanding to use the schools' pole rights.

Mr. Koomar stated that the homework done by the Finance Department is very helpful. Not being experts with fiber optics, there was a feeling there was a lot of capacity. This example proves that we don't have that much left over, and not knowing where technology is going to go we don't want to be forced for change a few years down the road.

Mr. Clark asked the proximity of the fiber optic lines to the schools. How far apart will the lines be and in the event that one of the two is cut, would we have capacity to join up under the schools? Mrs. Mahoney stated that the lines will be right on top of each other. If the Board of Education had something catastrophic happen to their lines that would down our lines. If we have a separate service going on, if their line gets cut they could use our lines.

Mr. Lee asked if there are sufficient funds appropriated to pay the cost of this line as well as the new phone system contemplated by Finance Director Mahoney. Mrs. Mahoney stated that the fiber

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optic installation was one bid and then we have \$50,000 left for the phones. The phones will be bid out when the fiber optic installation is complete.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Jerrie Barnett asked if she needs an ambulance to come to her house and transport her to the hospital, does she pay for that service?

Fire Chief Lyons stated that Mrs. Barnett's taxes pay for the service as part of the city services. Nothing further will come out of her pocket.

Mrs. Barnett asked if the City is still picking up leaves. She was informed that they are still picking up leaves.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Paul Koomar, President of Council

Joan Kemper, Clerk of Council