

Westshore Council of Governments
Regular Meeting
Bay Village City Hall
March 11, 2015

9:30 a.m. - Meeting was called to order

1. Roll Call – In attendance – Mayor Sutherland (Bay Village), Mayor Summers (Lakewood) , Mayor Bobst (Rocky River), Mayor Patton (Fairview Park), Mayor Kennedy (North Olmsted), and Mayor Clough (Westlake)

Also in attendance: Fiscal Officer, Renee Mahoney, David Greenspan, District 1 County Councilman, Avon Lake Mayor Greg Zilka, We Share Fire Chiefs – Fire Chief Tony Raffin , Fairview Park, Fire Chief John Reese, North Ridgeville, Fire Chief Chris Huerner, Avon Lake, Fire Chief Chris Lyons, Bay Village, Westcom Acting Supervisor Ron Barlow, Donovan O’Neil, from Auditor of State Office, Westshore Enforcement Bureau officials Jeff Capretto - Narcotics, Gordon Polando - Hazmat, and Patrick Fiorelli - SWAT, Service Dept. Directors Scott Thomas, Bay Village and Paul Quinn, Westlake, League of Women Voters - Kathy Kosiorek and Conda Boyd

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of February 11, 2015 was made by Mayor Kennedy, second by Mayor Bobst; motion passed. Minutes are approved as distributed.

3. Commission Reports

- A. RTA – Mayor Clough reported that the Board is completing the evaluation on Joe Calabrese, CEO of RTA. Mayor Sutherland stated that Joe does a great job despite the challenges he faces. RTA is working on relocating the bus stops in Public Square.

- B. NOACA

Mayor Sutherland reports there is a Board meeting on March 13. The deadline for the TLCI grant was last Friday, March 6th. As a member of the External Affairs Committee the outreach they’ve been doing with the legislative delegation in N.E. Ohio has been extremely valuable. The new lobbyist is working to get our fair share of ODOT funds to this region. Mayor Bobst asked about the 1.7 million that had been freed up. Mayor Sutherland will send an email update after she meets with Grace Galluci, Director of NOACA. Part of that is how ODOT has changed allocation funding. Basically it is a reward back to NOACA based on the efficiency and efficacy of the projects. It is important to spend the money and complete the projects.

- C. Land Bank

Mayor Kennedy had no report. He will keep the group updated. Mayor Bobst requested an update on the demolition fund. Dave Greenspan noted there is \$41 million available in the fund for \$10 million in projects. Mayor Clough spoke about the owner of Dover Gardens, whose business, housed in a historic building, was heavily damaged when it was hit by a stolen vehicle. The owner is looking for assistance in getting it rehabbed. Mayor Bobst suggested CRS. Mr. Greenspan will look into the Dept. of Development. Mayor Patton noted that the county purchases underutilized properties, demolishes them, and returns the property to the city for use as park land. She will share this information with Cuyahoga County Treasurer, Jim Rokakis and invite him to attend a future COG meeting.

D. County Planning Commission

Mayor Patton reports the Annual Organizational Meeting is March 12th. They will be authorizing contracts with the Circle Heights Communities Alliance for shared economic development and district feasibility study and authorizing a contract with CSU Center for Housing Policy to assist with the Cuyahoga County Housing Study, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000, there was also a Solid Waste District report .

E. Cuyahoga County Mayors & Managers Association

Mayor Sutherland spoke about the upcoming trip to Columbus to meet with legislators. These meetings are very productive and all are urged to attend. Mayor Kennedy suggested they meet with the Governor again this year. Mayor Sutherland will try to arrange a meeting. Mayor Sutherland has reached out to County Executive Budish inviting him to a COG meeting. Councilman Greenspan will follow up with Executive Budish.

4. Old Business

WeShare – Chief Chris Lyons distributed a WestShore Area Rescue Association report which offers an overview of the history, benefits, mission and activities of the organization. Mayor Bobst requested a meeting be scheduled in April with Marilyn Geising. Cleveland Clinic, Bill Silisen, Dr. Smith, University Hospital, the WeShare Chiefs, and Mayors to discuss some of the concerns that have been raised in an effort to know what needs to be strengthened. The cities that have opted out should be included. Fairview Park is prepared with a report to support their reasons for leaving and will share it at the meeting.

Clean Fuels Ohio - Following up on the presentation made at the January meeting Mayor Sutherland asked the Mayors if they are still interested in pursuing a grant for a feasibility study. The earliest a feasibility study could be applied for is June 2015. Everyone was agreeable with that time frame.

5. New Business

ShareOhio – Donovan O’Neil from the Auditor of State’s office distributed handouts and provided a presentation on ShareOhio, a one-stop shop to help communities share resources, saving taxpayer dollars and better utilizing equipment. This free, voluntary, and flexible program to help facilitate equipment sharing would be especially useful in offering mutual aid, in an emergency situation. Although Pepper Pike has signed up there are currently no communities in Cuyahoga County with equipment on the system yet. Donovan gave a demonstration of the web based program. One of the biggest challenges is the need for an Indemnify Agreement. The Ohio Attorney General has said local governments are unable to indemnify each other for a listed amount when passing the risk of loss to the borrower when loaning out equipment. They have been working with the legislature to draft language (HB5) now in committee which would enable governments to exempt ShareOhio from the requirement. Mayor Patton asked whether cities can charge for the loan of equipment and how that would work. That is still being worked on as some communities also choose to send an operator with their equipment. Mayor Bobst asked if the current COG communities could share just between themselves. Donovan said this could be done. Mayor Bobst requested that Donovan send the Mayors an inventory list to distribute to their respective city councils as well as a draft agreement to share equipment between the COG cities. The Mayors would need a memorandum of understanding allowing Council to authorize the lease of equipment, with liability passed on to the user community.

WEB – Jeff Capretto distributed the WEB annual report and spoke about the worsening heroin epidemic. Efforts to combat the epidemic are focusing on prevention and education. CSU and Westshore Young Leaders Network have partnered on a Community Perception Survey on drug use. There is growing concern about marijuana use, medical or recreational, and it the belief that it is a gateway drug. It is much stronger today than it used to be.

Today's marijuana is a hallucinogen, creating the potential for more assaults and impaired drivers. Case Western Reserve University is offering a Youth Risk Behavior Survey that will aggregate data from 75 students in each school district and draw comparisons with national statistics as input to prevention education. He asked the Mayors if they would check to see if their schools would allow the survey. Jeff offered to speak to the superintendents.

Pat Fiorelli, SWAT Unit Commander, spoke about the demilitarization of the SWAT team's look. Their tact is now more conservative, dressing in blue like the police departments. He announced they will be hosting Alert Training at Westlake Schools. The use of robots for bomb threats is invaluable. Secret Service has requested police manpower from local cities for the RNC. No details are available yet. The RNC will be a Secret Service operation and no one has been assigned to it yet, so until that time no planning can be done. However, they will be reaching out to the suburbs for a lot of help.

Gordon Polando, Hazmat Team Leader reported that they are preparing for the RNC . The WMD groups have identified their lead agencies for the different threats they're seeing. The federal RAD group (Radiation Protection Group) has been identified and they're a regional response group out of Chicago. They are working to outline equipment in the area and where there are gaps in equipment and training, and who will do the training through the public safety groups. They will be training for the next 14 months and getting the certifications needed to access federal funds to enable them to request the use of needed equipment. They have been advised by the Fusion Center that professional protestors will be coming to Cleveland and acts of civil disobedience are expected. Equipment for crowd control is a concern. Activities will be assessed by a group from SWAT, Hazmat, FBI & the Bomb Squad. Most activity is expected to be concentrated downtown.

Chief Hughes introduced the new Westcom Supervisor Ron Barlowe who distributed the Westcom Annual Report. It is projected that the county phone system will be changing over May 6, 2015. They are currently focusing on training.

Mayor Sutherland reports that as required by the Auditor of State the COG must acknowledge the monthly financials. Fiscal Officer Mahoney requested a Motion to accept the COG monthly financial report for February. A motion to accept the COG finance report was made by Mayor Bobst; seconded by Mayor Kennedy. Motion approved.

Councilman Greenspan will check on the Dover Gardens request. Mayor Kennedy will check for non-loan funding for repairs to the building. Mr. Greenspan is holding a Town Hall Meeting at Fairview Park City Hall March 19th at 7:00 p.m. where County Executive Budish is the featured speaker. The scholarship program is being repealed/replaced with a new program due to underutilization.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Kennedy; seconded by Mayor Summers. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

The next meeting of the Westshore COG will be Wednesday, April 8th at 9:30 a.m.