

Westshore Council of Governments
Regular Meeting
Bay Village City Hall
May 13, 2015

9:32 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, Eddie Krause, Cuyahoga County Director of Regional Collaboration, Karlton Laster, Special Assistant, Cuyahoga County, League of Women Voters – Janice Patterson

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of March 11, 2015 was made by Mayor Clough, second by Mayor Summers; motion passed. Minutes are approved as distributed.

3. Commission Reports

- A. RTA

Mayor Clough had nothing of significance to report. RTA is still trying to handle Public Square traffic issues. The Brookpark station is on track to be completed in time for the RNC in 2016.

- B. NOACA

Mayor Summers reports nothing out of the ordinary. Deer continue to be an issue. The TLCI grants will be voted on at the June meeting. Karlton Laster wanted to remind the group that the 2015 CMAC grant due date is June 12, 2015 at 4 p.m.

- C. Land Bank

Mayor Kennedy had no report. Mayor Sutherland reported that a Bay Village property is still going through the process. Mayor Bobst reports Rocky River received a grant from the county demolition fund and will be demolishing the Executive Club building on Center Ridge Rd. The property is approximately 2 1/2 acres. They also have a CMAC grant in process.

- D. County Planning Commission

Mayor Patton reports they had a brief meeting recently and the topic was a housing project in Olmsted Township.

- E. Cuyahoga County Mayors & Managers Association

Mayor Sutherland asked for feedback on the recent Mayors Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., which several of the Mayors attended. Mayor Clough said the event was good for networking. The Mayors got to interact with Federal Directors and getting contact information for future reference. Mayor Bobst met with the head of grants.gov. and reports that all federal agencies are now required to put any federal grant opportunities on grants.org. Lisa Barno sent a power point presentation to the Mayors on grants.gov. Mayor

Bobst sees opportunities for partnerships or regional efforts. Mayor Sutherland feels these meetings are worthwhile, getting things accomplished locally. This is the first year the meeting has been opened up to all Mayors in Cuyahoga County. There are opportunities available by attending. Mayor Bobst noted that in order to apply for these grants you need to update your information annually, in advance of applying for a grant. Mayor Clough reminded all that no extensions are given. Mayor Bobst will resend the grants.gov to all the COG Mayors. Lisa Barno is trying to get the Kaufman presentation, a consulting group out of St. Louis, involved in economic development and education.

4. Old Business

Share Ohio – Mayor Bobst met with Donovan O’Neill and Michelle Sties of Share Ohio and wondered how we can move forward. Share Ohio is requesting an updated Excell spreadsheet equipment inventory list from each city to upload to their system. They feel it will assist the cities in making decisions on equipment purchases and to be ready in case we decide to share with the other COG cities. If the group decides to move forward there would need to be legislation for a Memorandum of Understanding. Both Mayor Summers and Mayor Bobst noted most of their equipment is highly utilized and used every day. Mayor Bobst also stated that Rocky River also has a very high utilization rate on their equipment. Mayor Sutherland noted our sewer truck is used every day. The county’s Office of Emergency Management can access equipment in the event of an emergency.

Mayor Summers asked the group if there was any interest in applying for the study on fleet conversion to natural gas with Clean Fuels Ohio. At this time there was no interest. Mayor Sutherland stated that she would rather apply for a grant from CMAC to pay to retrofit fleets for diesel fuel.

5. New Business

Fiscal Officer Mahoney requested a Motion to acknowledge the receipt of the COG monthly financial reports for March and April. A motion was made by Mayor Kennedy; seconded by Mayor Summers. Motion approved.

Mayor Sutherland is requesting that Law Director Ebert research an internal process for accessing the Law Enforcement Trust fund. There should be an acknowledgement process whereby the Mayors are advised of spending of funds. Fiscal Officer Mahoney presented a summary of what the funds can be used for. It should enhance police activity, not supplant something that is already in process. Funds come from confiscated money or property that has been sold. Mayors authorize money spent in their communities. Chiefs have the authority to spend but feels that in the interest of transparency it is best if they get authorization from their Mayors. 10% of the first \$100,000 should be used for community education and prevention. All of the chiefs have to approve any purchase. The chief in charge of WEB has final authority. Mayor Summers suggests the cities look at renting some of the task specific equipment, or borrow when needed.

Eddie Krause. Cuyahoga County Director of Regional Collaboration and Karlton Laster, Special Assistant. Mr. Krause came to speak to the Mayors about the function of their office. He praised the COG for their long history of collaboration. He feels this group is a model for sharing services; Westcom, refuse collection, etc. They are a collaborative team working to promote sharing of services, collaboration between 59 cities with a focus on helping each community prosper. There are 380 different contracts with municipalities for shared services such as Master Plans, Housing Plans, public infrastructure; such as sewer upgrades. Mike Dever, the new Public Works Director maintains county roads, sewers and bridges. He has an understanding of infrastructure aging streets/sewers. They can assist with back office services such as health care. Jeff Mowry, Chief Information Officer can assist with IT issues. For Public Safety concerns the Impact Unit is available to all communities through the Cuyahoga County Sheriff’s Office. There is hope that someday hospitals will also be willing to be involved. They are currently working with the business community to strengthen the Storefront Renovation program and the block grants. Nate Kelly, is the Interim Director, Department of Development. Mayor Patton had concerns about the Storefront Renovation and CDBG. Mayor Bobst inquired about the anti-poaching agreement which has expired and is up for renewal. There have been no changes made. Mayor Bobst has issues

with the wording and feels it would be better received if it was worded “business attraction, retention and expansion” instead of “anti-poaching”. Discussion followed. Mayor Bobst asked if Eddie or Karlton would come out to the cities and speak to their councils about the agreement. Mayor Clough stated that prior to the agreement there was little evidence of poaching.

Mayor Sutherland asked if the county would consider taking over the special teams such as the bomb squad, Hazmat, & the dive team. The special teams are expensive with overtime, training and specialized equipment. Glen Coyne of the County Planning Commission spoke about assisting the cities with developing and revising Master Plans. The Dept. of Development will be meeting on May 28th. Fleet maintenance and energy audits are available as shared services. Mike Foley, Cuyahoga County’s Sustainability Director and Shanelle Smith, the First Deputy Sustainability Director are available to assist communities in their efforts. On June 5 Cleveland State will be holding Ted Talk speaking about leadership

Mayor Patton reported a serious problem with Mastic Rd. The county responded quickly

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Bobst; seconded by Mayor Summers. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

The next meeting of the Westshore COG will be Wednesday, June 10th at 9:30 a.m.