

Westshore Council of Governments Meeting
Bay Village City Hall

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mayor Koomar called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Present for the meeting were Mayor Koomar (Bay Village), Mayor Cooney (Fairview Park), Mayor Bobst (Rocky River), Mayor George (Lakewood), Mayor Clough (Westlake), and Mayor Kennedy (North Olmsted). Also in attendance: Fiscal Officer, Renee Mahoney, Mark Spaetzel, Bay Village Police Chief & Chris Lyons, Bay Village Fire Chief, & Susan Murnane, LWV

Approval of Minutes: Minutes were distributed for review and approval. Mayor Kennedy moved to approve the January 8, 2020 minutes. Mayor Clough seconded. The Minutes were approved as written.

Fiscal Officer's Report: Renee Mahoney distributed the December financials, ending the year in a positive cash balance. Discussion followed with Mayor Cooney moved to receive the December Financials. Mayor Clough seconded. The motion carried.

Mayor Koomar reported that Governor DeWine had \$2 million available from drug related efforts. WEB received a grant of approximately \$52,313 from that fund to be used to help offset their operational costs. WEB will continue applying for additional grants. In 2019 \$250,000 in grants was received, if a local match is needed it will be brought before the COG.

Renee shared with the Mayors that Bay Village Law Dept. will be looking into a new COG agreement and will be meeting with the chiefs to discuss. Mayor Koomar mentioned the Bay Village chiefs will be talking to the other COG chiefs to get their input.

Commission Reports:

RTA - Mayor Clough reported that the Annual Board meeting will be held in March when the President and Vice President of the Board will be chosen. Shaker Heights Mayor Weiss will start his term. Mayor Welo ends her term. A one-day retreat is being planned for April or May to discuss future plans. The RTA is doing well financially with the services currently provided.

NOACA - Mayor Bobst reported there will be meeting Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at the Crawford Museum to discuss the hyper-loop, and the impact of electric vehicles. The meeting is open to elected officials and the public.

Land Bank - Mayor George noted that she will touch base with the County Executive on becoming the COG representative.

County Planning Commission – Mayor Bobst announced there is a meeting tomorrow to discuss the Urban Tree Canopy grants. Mayor Bobst will get an update at the Planning Comm. Mtg. If the Mayors would like more information on the grants or programs available such as tree lawn plantings, removing and replacing diseased trees. Mayor Bobst will pass along information and legislation and will follow-up. She asks for current tree legislation from the COG cities.

The Solid Waste District reports directly to the County Planning Commission. There was discussion on recycling efforts and the companies that collect recycling coming back to community's mid-contract in an effort to revise the recycling contracts. Contaminated loads are adding to their costs. Mayor Bobst will share a spreadsheet she has of each refuse & recycling contract in the county and the community's household cost. Diane Bickett, with the Solid Waste District, is available to assist the Mayors when contracts are out for bid.

Cuyahoga County Mayors & Managers Association – Mayor Bobst mentioned school funding has become a big issue with the state legislature. In underperforming schools students can opt to receive vouchers to get their education outside of their school district. Mayor George met recently with the state legislators in Columbus and they are discussing changing the voucher fund to get the funds from the state instead of the districts.

Old Business: None

New Business – Police Chief Mark Spaetzel and Fire Chief Chris Lyons provided an overview of the chief's collaboration with the Westshore COG on the 50th anniversary of the unique partnership between the Westshore COG and WEB. The COG police chiefs meet 7 times yearly and communicate on a regular basis. Chief Spaetzel spoke about the different units of WEB and the specialized training for each unit. This training is then brought back to their respective departments. The police departments work collaboratively with all the other cities' police departments. Chief Spaetzel cited the greatest challenges to local police forces currently are funding and the opioid crisis. Mayor Kennedy said that from a mayor's perspective another challenge is finding that fewer people are talking the test for police officer fire fighter and suggested the unions get into the high schools to start recruiting efforts. The numbers of qualified applicants are down considerably from past years.

Chief Lyons distributed a handout on Westshore Fire Departments: Local Accountability – Regional Collaboration outlining the role of the Fire Departments in the Westshore COG with respect to mutual aid. County support is always available if needed. The role of the Westshore CERT, as a branch of FEMA, serves an ancillary role providing support as needed in emergency situations. The fire chiefs meet 8 – 10 times a year.

Mayor Koomar mentioned that he had attended the Opioid Settlement Distribution Meeting in Columbus the previous day. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the results of current developments in the National Opioid Litigation and specifically how Ohio is responding and the proposed plan to move Ohio, the state, counties, cities, villages, townships and others, forward in seeking recovery for the opioid epidemic. The group heard from Governor DeWine, Attorney General Yost and members of their staffs about the joint commitment to move Ohio forward in both the local government and state litigation. A foundation is being set up to handle the equitable distribution of funds to the states and cities. There will be restrictions on the use of the funds, favoring education and prevention.

There being no further business, Mayor Koomar convened the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

The next meeting of the Westshore COG is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.