

Westshore Council of Governments Meeting
Bay Village City Hall

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Present for the meeting were Mayor Koomar (Bay Village), Mayor Cooney (Fairview Park), Mayor Bobst (Rocky River), Mayor George (Lakewood) and Mayor Clough (Westlake), and Fiscal Officer Renee Mahoney. Also in attendance: Bay Village Fire Chief Chris Lyons and Judith Weiss, LWV. Mayor Kennedy (North Olmsted) was absent.

Mayor Koomar called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Mayor Clough announced that there is pending legislation extending until June 30, 2021 giving authority for local governments and other state agencies and political subdivisions to hold public meetings electronically. Once signed by the Governor, the legislation will take effect immediately.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the October 14, 2020 meeting were distributed for review and approval. Mayor George moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mayor Bobst seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

Request for a Motion to convene into Executive Session to discuss personnel compensation due to a retirement. Mayor Bobst moved to convene into Executive Session. Mayor George seconded.

Fiscal Officer's Report: Renee Mahoney distributed the September financials reporting they are within budget. Mayor Cooney made a motion to accept the financials as distributed. Mayor Bobst seconded. Motion passed.

There was discussion regarding the 2021 Budget with regards to each city's dues and payroll calculations. An adjustment may be needed due to the retiring WEB officer's payout and because he did not participate in the health insurance program. A Motion to approve the 2021 Budget was made by Mayor Clough. Mayor Cooney seconded. Motion to approve the Budget passed.

There was a mention about the Law Enforcement Trust Fund which stands at approximately \$350,000. These funds can be used for things such as SWAT vests. The chiefs get together to agree on items exceeding \$50,000.

Committee Reports

RTA - Mayor Clough reports that the RTA is in good financial shape. They received \$111 million in CARES Act funds with no restrictions on how it was used. There is a carryover balance so there is no need to request a ballot initiative for 2-3 years based on current projections.

The system re-design should be out soon. Their Master Plan will be reviewed identifying capital needs in the future. They are planning to replace rail cars due to receiving additional funds from the federal government. They are putting forth \$5 million each year out of their General Fund into the Capital budget for that effort, and are doubling that effort to \$10 million for future Capital needs.

NOACA: Mayor Bobst had nothing new to report.

Land Bank: Mayor George told the group she should be receiving material to review soon.

County Planning Commission: Mayor Bobst announced they plan to finalize their selection for Executive Director by the end of the year. The HR liaison will review and get back to the committee.

Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers Association:

Mayor Clough expressed the group's concern about what is going to happen with the income tax, whether people are going to be able to ask for a refund for those working from home and how that might affect a city's ability to tax workers that work in their city. This exemption is extended to 30 days after the end of the state of emergency.

Old business: None

New Business:

Bay Village Fire Chief Chris Lyons reported on the Fire Alarm Update. Beginning at a chiefs meeting in 2018 and an opportunity was explored, which would eliminate third party monitoring and the annual costs associated with it. Bay Village tested the concept and went live in 2019. Funding from the approved West Com budget was used to purchase the software needed to operationalize it at the dispatch center.

Each city has a number of municipal buildings. Each building has a fire alarm and a telephone system. By code each fire alarm must have two phone lines, one primary and one backup to dial out and send a notification of fire, smoke or trouble to send that signal out. The signal is then sent to a third party monitoring the site, they in turn send a signal to WestCom, then they send it to the local fire dept. Every city pays to have phone lines in buildings. There is a yearly cost to maintain the additional phone lines and monitoring each location monthly. In 2019-2020 Bay Village purchased equipment to monitor the fire alarms and placed it at WestCom for a one-time cost of \$11,000. Now the signal goes directly to WestCom thereby eliminating the \$6,000 annual cost to a third party (Gilmore). This system is available to all municipalities. IP communication is also an option to eliminate phone line charge.

NFPA Code allows 90 seconds for the signal to reach a 3rd party monitoring system, and another 90 seconds to be recognized, then sent to WestCom. Our new system saves money, and more importantly time, with no increase in personnel and gives a specific location in the building where the problem is. Mayor Clough asked how many cities are currently doing this. Mayor Cooney mentioned that his Fire Chief Raffin is talking about it.

Chief Lyons is available to assist or answer any questions the mayors may have about implementing this in their communities.

Mayor Koomar brought up the smaller size of fire rescue boats in Bay Village and Lakewood vs. the Rocky River police boat. There was a brief discussion regarding the cross training of additional personnel. Mayors Bobst, George and Koomar will talk about this in January. Mayor Bobst mentioned that Rocky River receives a grant from Memorial Day – Labor Day, it's primarily for recreational boating.

There was a brief discussion regarding how the communities that use the Rocky River Municipal Court are assessed their portion of court costs which is based on an amount equal to the amount of their fines. Rocky River pays the majority of the costs for the court, which is substantial. Mayor Bobst called the Governor's office as there was no CARES Act money for the courts and they were required to remain open. Mike Thomas, Finance Director for the City of Rocky River, called the Financial Officer for the Ohio Supreme Court for assistance.

There being no further business Mayor Koomar moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:08 pm. Mayor Bobst made a motion to adjourn, Mayor Clough seconded.

The COG meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 9th will be cancelled.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. The City of Fairview Park will host the 2021 meetings.