

**VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS
COUNCIL WORKSHOP
6:00 PM
MARCH 26, 2014**

ROLL CALL: BIRO, BLOAM, CONTIPELLI, DUSZYNSKI, HARRIS, HENLEY

Also in attendance, Todd Sciano and Heather Vlasuk sitting in for Law Director Jon Greenberg

ISSUE 1:

PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS– MR. BLOAM

COMMENTS:

Mr. Bloam explained the handout from Public Works as the top projects that Public Works is recommending for 2014. He explained that the total of all the projects is \$305,000.00. Mr. Contipelli and Mr. Bloam explained that this is not a wish list; these projects have to get done. The list includes crack sealing repairs to Harvard Ave, Grant Ave, and E. 49th Street. Full and partial depth repairs to Grant Ave, Canal Road, and the Police Station parking lot, also parking lot improvements to 4620 E. 49th Street.

Mr. Unger asked Mr. Sciano if the Engineering costs were in the total for all the projects. Mr. Sciano stated that for some of these projects there will not be any costs because they are just sealing the roads. If the project is under \$200,000.00 and there are any Engineering costs, it is billed at the regular billable rate per the contract. He explained that last year they did two large projects , and the Engineering costs were a percentage of the projects. He stated that there were two million dollar projects last year, and per his contract the Engineering costs were a percentage of the total. These costs were included in the total of the projects. If you add the contract price and the Engineering costs, it is still below the amount that we borrowed for the project.

There was some discussion of the amount of money that we borrowed for the projects in 2013, and how much we still owe. Mr. Contipelli would like the Clerk to get Council an encumbrance report showing what we still owe for the projects. Mr. Sciano talked about the sidewalk projects

for approximately \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00 that Council agreed to go forward with 2013. He asked the Clerk if the project comes in under that amount is there still money left in the account for another project. The Clerk stated no, the money would be left in the General Fund.

There was a discussion on the Harvard Road project. Mr. Sciano stated that we borrowed \$800,000.00 for the project, and we got a grant for \$262,000.00, and \$160,000.00 in a 20 year 0% interest loan from the County. Mr. Contipelli and Ms. Biro discussed encumbrances on the projects, and Mr. Unger told them that he would get them the report. Mr. Sciano explained that with the \$800,000.00 from the Village, the \$262,000.00 in grant money, and the \$162,000.00 loan, this will be enough to finish the project, then we will have to start paying back the loan portions. Mr. Sciano explained that this would be enough for the total project, and the engineering costs.

Clerk Unger explained that we started the year with 2.1 million in the General Fund. Your estimated revenue for the General Fund in 2014 is 9.457 million, and your budgeted expenses for the General Fund in 2014 is 9.558 million. This is without Capital Outlay, which is used for large equipment and projects. Since our budgeted amount is more than our estimated revenue, we subtract \$100,000 and now our General Fund is at 2 million. Council has already spent a little over \$400,000.00 in Capital Outlay which brings the General Fund down to 1.6 million dollars. We had some unexpected medical costs, and retirement payouts which would bring the General Fund down to 1.5 million. So if you're asking me if you can afford these new projects, I'm telling you that at this time, you have the money in the bank, it depends on what you want to spend it on.

Mr. Bloam explained that the Public Works Committee is recommending these projects to Council and asked Council what they want to do. Mr. Bloam explained that these are needs and not wants for our Village. Ms. Harris said we can't keep pushing these projects off until the next year. Ms. Biro asked Mr. Sciano if there is any Issue 2 money grants that are available for these projects. Mr. Sciano explained that we are trying to go for these grants, but we are competing against many communities. She also asked if we could piggy back on any projects by the electric, gas, or water companies. Mr. Sciano doesn't see any projects by them in the future in our Village, but he will keep checking.

Mr. Contipelli asked if anyone was against any of these projects. Nobody objected, and they will move forward with the necessary legislation.

ISSUE 2:

PROCEDURE FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS - MS. HENLEY

COMMENTS:

Ms. Henley stated that at the last Council meeting we had 26 pieces of legislation, and after voting for each individual piece of legislation, she wondered if we could group the legislation and only vote once. She has seen other communities do it this way and wondered if we wanted to change the way we voted for our legislation. She feels it would save a lot of time.

After talking to the Clerk, he said it was an unusual month. We normally have 7-9 pieces of legislation per month, and he feels the way we do it is very professional and cleaner than other communities. Ms. Duszynski agrees that it would be easier, but feels that Council should continue to do it the same way we always do it.

All of Council feels that the procedure for Council Meetings should not change.

ISSUE 3:

LEGISLATE ALL OF THE MONEY FROM THE SPEED CAMERAS TO THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND – MS. BIRO

COMMENTS:

All of Council is in agreement with this suggestion, and will move forward with legislation.

MAYORS REPORT:

We recently received a call from North Shore Railroad. They informed us that on Friday, E. 49th Street will be closed to Harvard Avenue. They have an emergency repair, and they have to partially close the street to make the repairs.

Cub Scout Pack 378 from Independence will be attending our next council meeting in April.

Received a call from Angstrom Graphics on E. 49th Street. It turns out that last year Cuyahoga Heights School had asked the County to reevaluate the assessed value of their property, and because of it, the County changed their property value from 5 to 8 million dollars which will cost them hundreds of thousands of dollars in new taxes. They told the Mayor that they were going to appeal the decision, and the Mayor stated we would support them in any way we can. The CFO explained to the Mayor that this will have a huge impact on their bottom line.

Ms. Biro asked if there is some way to reach out to the school and see if there was something we could do. Mr. Contipelli, who is the liaison to the school, will talk to the school board and see what is going on.

The Mayor received a request from Planet Aid asking to put up donation boxes in the village. They are asking to pass legislation to regulate the donation boxes. He will pass the information on to Council and see what they want to do.

Concerning the North end of the Village, specifically the Cuyahoga Foundry area, Mr. Casini is reporting that an individual has approached Mr. Supek to rent out part of the building. Mr. Casini is going to make sure that it is up to code.

Mr. and Mrs. Faragone are leaving tomorrow to move to Colorado and be with their children. If you get a chance stop and wish them well.

Dave Sammons father passed away, and Angel Motz' sister also passed away, and Mrs. Boning from Bohning & Associates also passed away.

There was some conversation on the new Firefighters Credit Union, and also knocking down the Willow House. Ms. Henley was surprised it was so close to the street. The Mayor explained that it is the exact building that we have been showing Council from day one. The picture we used in the State of the Village Address was an example of what it could look like, not an actual rendering, and maybe that is what is confusing everyone.

Mr. Bloam made the motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Duszynski for discussion concerning personnel. All agreed, none opposed. Motion carried.

Mr. Contipelli made the motion to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Duszynski. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

LAW DIRECTIONS REPORT

Ms. Heather Vlasuk gave us an update on the Building Department procedures. The Village is working with MBIS to modernize the department and streamlining processes. In the next several weeks they will be working with Mr. Casini to streamline the processes.

The second update is a status update of Optittraffic, the company that will put up the speed cameras. We are working to create the citation format, and we will be drafting some legislation to refine the Ordinance based on some conversation with them regarding procedures. The Mayor also stated that we will be sending a letter to all residents explaining what the cameras are, and how they work. We will also be sending this information out to all businesses. He believes this will have a positive safety impact on our streets.

She will start work on legislation concerning putting the money from the cameras into the Capital Project Fund.

Lastly, we are in the homestretch of regulating landfill regulations. She said the State regulates most landfills, what they haven't regulated are clean hard fill. She is working with Todd Sciano on the permits. It will be a two year permit where you will be dropping off and picking up clean fill. This legislation should be prepared and ready for the next Council Meeting.

WHEREFORE, there being no further business before this Council, Ms. Duszynski moved, seconded by Mr. Contipelli that the Work Session be adjourned. All voting aye, none opposed; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.