

Westshore Council of Governments  
Regular Meeting  
Gemini Center, Fairview Park  
March 26, 2014

Meeting began at 9:30 AM (called to order at 10:36 upon reaching a quorum)

1. ROLL CALL

In attendance: Mayors Kennedy, Patton, Summers and Sutherland; Fiscal Officer Steve Presley; County Councilman Dave Greenspan; Director of Purchasing –Westlake Larry Surber; Executive Director of Senior Transportation Connection, Janice M. Dzigiel

Absent: Mayor Bobst, Mayor Clough

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept minutes of February 12 made by Mayor Summers, second by Mayor Sutherland; motion carried.

3. COMMISSION REPORTS

a. RTA – No report.

b. NOACA – Mayor Summers reported that Cuyahoga County members of NOACA are holding their first caucus in order to promote a “priority based on need” distribution of funding. A spread the dollars around approach has been the norm for decades. This is considered an opportunity to secure resources which is estimated to be \$20 billion in resources. Because population and size hold a majority, a caucus would enable Cuyahoga County communities to align votes in order to receive funding for projects with the greatest need first. Lakewood has standing seat; Mayor Sutherland is the current representative of the Westshore.

c. Land Bank – No report.

d. County Planning Commission (CPC) – Mayor Patton mentioned the CPC Financial Report, Special Initiatives, Planning Project and Tree Canopy Report which were presented in an extensive meeting in the commission’s new headquarters. Its next meeting is in April.

e. Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers Association – No report.

f. Senior Transportation:

Janice M. Dzigiel, Executive Director of Senior Transportation Connection (STC) provided an overview of the Cuyahoga County Senior Transportation Connection program whose mission is to provide transportation to senior adults to enhance independence. STC is a non-profit organization.

Ms. Dzigiel presented a map of the service area and service brochure. Program contracts with organization or city and agree to service protocol, e.g. boundaries,

destination, what constitutes a priority. 90% of revenue comes from fee for service. Tailored to needs of each community. Cost structure is typically pricing group transportation group vs. individual. \$7 - \$8.50. Fees for service can be adjusted by what city wants to charge per rider. They are a United Way Partner Agency and receive additional support from philanthropy.

Ms. Dzigiel gave a summary of the Board of Directors. Mayor Kennedy is on Board of Directors – North Olmsted has been a strong partner since beginning of program. She then addressed questions of those present.

#### 4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Appropriations: Fiscal Officer Steve Presley presented the 2014 budget, noting the only major increase in departmental budgets is \$3,000 for Westshore Young Leaders Network. Members present discussed paying the increase in the annual dues by increasing the amount paid by the members or to use COG reserves for the amount over last year's dues. The group agreed to utilize the reserves for the amount needed in excess of the 2013 dues. A motion was made to approve the 2014 budget, taking the additional \$13,805 out of the reserves and billing at the 2013 level, made by Mayor Sutherland, seconded by Mayor Kennedy; motion carries.
- b. FirstAid4Autism: The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County offers training on many different subjects – autism being one. ADAMHS Board is free of charge offering classes both expanded to cover multiple shifts or condensed programs and willing to work with COG. It makes sense to combine attendees for efficiency. Councilperson Greenspan offered to coordinate with Mayor Patton to obtain and offer training through ADAMHS.

#### 5. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. 911 Consolidation: The group agreed to take a wait and see approach. Westshore Dispatch is doing an adequate job and consolidation created tradeoffs that may not be in the best interests of the Westshore communities.
- b. Simple Recycling: Mayor Patton introduced the program picked up by Fairview Park green team. Program provides bags, free of charge, in which to place recycled items and it is collected on trash day by Simple Recycling with no involvement by cities. Mayor Patton will send information to the group for their information and will contact the company if COG wishes to speak with a representative.
- c. Ready Notify: Mayor Patton described Cuyahoga County's new notification system, Ready Notify. Group discussed this program vs. Code Red, Nixle, and other emergency notification systems. Discussion followed regarding who would be the responsible administrator of the notification(s.) There is no cost to

communities for this program. Mayor Patton suggested that those present call the county to learn more. County contact information will be sent to all members.

- d. Mayor Patton reported that County Councilperson Dave Greenspan will host softball tournament this summer in which participants are personnel from Westshore Fire, Police, and Service Departments. Proceeds go to CERT. Tourney is in Fairview Park during Summerfest which is the last weekend in June.
- e. Salt Supply: ODOT has sent out its annual contract with a deadline of April 4 for the 2015 season. They want an immediate commitment without divulging the price or the vendor or with little regard for the difficulty communities faced this past season with the current vendor.

Cargill HQ is in North Olmsted and therefore have a natural desire to take care of its hometown. They have a good relationship with North Olmsted. Members present concurred that the preferred vendor is Cargill due to its proximity. Truck turnaround with the two local vendors is Painesville vs. Whiskey Island. . Mayor Kennedy offered to help due to his good relationship with Cargill.

New salt storage facilities in Lakewood and Westlake are under construction, making acceptance of an early salt shipment unmanageable. Shipments are made at the convenience of the vendor. ODOT has also changed its shipment percentages, from 80% to 120% to 90% to 110%.

Mayor Summers suggested that the Westshore form a consortium to purchase salt; that the six communities should band together and ask for a request for proposal from both vendors and then determine the best approach.

Westlake Purchasing Director Surber has a draft RFP that can be used as a starting point and offered its use. He and Mayor Summers will put shape to the request. An RFP would be non-binding. Mayor Summers urged other communities to delay committing to ODOT in order to determine the best avenue for the Westshore communities including cost vs. value of service. Reported poor communication with current vendor.

Mayor Summers will contact ODOT directly to get an extension of the deadline for acceptance of the contract and oversee the RFP for salt supply.

- f. Proposed Dumping of Cuyahoga River Sludge:  
Mayor Summers introduced a letter addressed to the Ohio EPA question in which he expressed alarm about the environmental impact of dredging the Cuyahoga River and dumping the sludge into Lake Erie. There are three intake valves in the lake – no matter where in the lake it's dumped, drinking water in our region could be affected. The Army Corps of Engineers in Buffalo has said there would be no harm, but we have an obligation to look into it. Would like to see evidence that residents would not be affected. To be kept on agenda for follow up.

- g. **Complaints of Lifeflight helicopters over Lakewood**  
Westshore communities have not received frequent noise complaints regarding Lifeflight helicopters flight path over communities. They frequently fly over Rocky River and Lakewood; flight paths over I 90 brings them over other communities. Following patient drop off, helicopters refuel at Burke Lakefront airport. Non-emergency return flights are flights that can be directed over the lake. Group to ask the Cleveland Clinic to do all it can to mitigate noise and traffic over WS communities.
- h. **Supervision of Westshore Dispatch.** There is a need to have a separate dispatch meeting to discuss chain of command. Mayor Sutherland will ask Mayor Clough to set up meeting.
- i. **TI Training**  
Fiscal Officer Steve Presley reported that WS Police Chiefs have agreed to use funds from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund to purchase a portable training system that can be shared by participating communities. Training criteria can be changed for each trainee.
- j. **County Council Update:**  
Councilperson Greenspan reports that County Council has not yet received information about the County Executive's plan to seek borrowing authority for a \$50 million fund to demolish abandoned properties meeting tomorrow and is seeking advice from a bond attorney.

Councilperson Greenspan reports he is proposing a plan for the county to take over maintenance of its roads in communities on a rotating basis. Though roads in the Westshore aren't in poor condition, the county would maintain, through pothole repairs, crack sealing and striping its 2,000 lane miles in Cuyahoga County which would offer some relief to local communities. They are currently working on bridge repairs.

Meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.