

Westshore Council of Governments  
Regular Meeting  
Gemini Center, Fairview Park  
May 14, 2014

Meeting began at 9:39 AM

1. ROLL CALL

In attendance: Mayors Bobst, Clough, Patton, Summers and Sutherland; Fiscal Officer Steve Presley; County Councilman Dave Greenspan; Fairview Park Service & Development Director, Rob Berner

Absent: Mayor Kennedy

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept minutes of March 26 made by Mayor Sutherland, second by Mayor Summers; Mayors Bobst and Clough abstained; motion carried.

3. COMMISSION REPORTS

A. RTA – Evaluation of Chief Executive Officer & General Manager; expect completion by next week.

Mayor Summers indicated that the Federal Transportation Reauthorization Act (FTRA) is due for renewal this summer. Reauthorization is likely. CEO & GM goes to all of the legislative meetings to try to obtain additional funding. Funding for RTA comes from the FTRA (unchanged since 1992) and from sales tax. Revenues from passengers make up 25% of the total cost. State subsidies have been cut back.

B. NOACA – Mayor Sutherland reviewed the restructuring of NOACA. The full board will meet quarterly. The organization has added several new committees, one being Policy and External Affairs, on which Mayor Sutherland serves. Mayor Summers serves on the Planning Committee. With \$44 million at stake, members of Cuyahoga County will work to attain a unified block to achieve a fix it first, vs. fair share due to the fact that Cuyahoga has the oldest infrastructure.

C. Land Bank – the Cuyahoga County Land Bank is partnering with local Fire Departments to use some of the land bank properties for training.

Councilperson Greenspan discussed that in the County Executive's State of the County address, a proposal was made for \$50 million to be available for land bank activities. County Council will seek advice from its own bond advisors. He revealed that MetroHealth is looking for money for a campus, so the county must be careful with its bonding. He advised not to expect the \$50 million to be available any time soon. It's a long process to understand the need, but he will advocate for Westshore communities.

- D. County Planning Commission (CPC) – Mayor Patton had no report. Lakewood is initiating a citizen task force on recreation/active living. They have solicited a bid from CPC to facilitate that. They can offer these types of solicitation services. The task force will be citizen-led.

Mayor Patton suggested to the group that whatever the communities are planning, call the CPC first to see if they can offer any assistance. The CPC's new director wants to reach out to the suburbs.

Mayor Bobst reported that Mayor Licastro had asked for comments regarding DOPWIC scoring and about road projects and resurfacing vs. large projects, sewer projects, wastewater treatment projects, etc. Mayor Bobst spoke with him about the possibility of separating the dollars, e.g. a percentage go to resurfacing, a percentage to go to sewers. Typically sewer projects score because of the environmental impact plus they reach a large number of households.

Mayor Bobst suggested to Mayor Licastro that when evaluating using DOPWIC funds for resurfacing roads, the community requesting funding be required to submit something from the Cleveland Water Department that the water line and sewer system is in good repair; that they have televised it and a report on the infrastructure below has been produced so as not to throw good money after bad. If you are going to provide public works dollars for a project, you want to make sure the infrastructure is secure because if there is a collapsed sewer you'll have a bigger problem down the road.

Mayor Sutherland, an alternate on the DOPWIC committee, reported that this is an instance where the City of Cleveland is at odds with the suburbs. The City of Cleveland wants to focus on resurfacing; they don't want DOPWIC to fund sewer projects. The Westshore communities have taken advantage of DOPWIC funding, more for sewers than for road projects. Cleveland's need shouldn't preclude us from applying for funding for sewer projects.

Mayor Bobst suggested that it would be helpful to respond back to Mayor Licastro urging the continuance of funding sewer projects in the suburbs because that's where we need the help. The survey is expected to be complete before the next meeting.

- E. Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers Association – Mayor Sutherland reported that the trip to Columbus is scheduled for May 28.

Mayor Bobst mentioned that Rocky River and Lakewood maintained their bond ratings and briefly described discussed the impact of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 68, which covers pension liability.

#### 4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. First Aid for Autism: Fairview Park hosted an autism seminar this past Monday. All communities in Cuyahoga County were invited to send a representative(s). The feedback was that the program was excellent. The attendance was low, but departments were able to send representatives who would carry the information back to train other members of their safety forces.
- B. Proposed Dumping of Cuyahoga River Sludge: Mayor Summers reported that there will be no dumping of Cuyahoga River sludge this year. ODNR was not going to approve it. The current dike can support two more years. Mayor Sutherland offered that a plan was being considered to use dredge to pave over brownfields. Dredge is considered clean and it can be spread over an area to reduce the cost of remediation.
- C. Simple Recycling: Mayor Patton reviewed Simple Recycling to see if there was any interest in the program by Westshore communities. Fairview Park used them successfully along with Habitat for Humanity at its recent recycling event.
- D. Ready Notify: Mayor Patton had provided contact info to COG. She stated that the county will have a presence at Fairview Park Summerfest in order to register residents. Discussion followed about whether it would be prudent to use the application for weather notification by the county. To be discussed with Brandi Carney of the county. Cities discussed phasing out Nixle – but running both platforms until Ready Notify is running smoothly for all registrants. Discussion continued regarding the use of sirens. What do people gather from sirens? What type of emergency triggers sirens? Can't be heard from all locations. Residents call emergency services to determine why the sirens are sounding.

#### 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dave Greenspan – County Council Updates:

Councilperson Greenspan reported that he attempts to communicate with each community following emergencies. He asked that members contact him if help is needed from the County Emergency Operations Center.

Councilperson Greenspan also mentioned that the moratorium regarding county road maintenance has expired. He recently met with public works trying to make the moratorium permanent so that municipalities don't have to try to match for county roads. He believes the solution on maintenance of pot holes, crack sealing and striping is that the county set aside some funding to cover materials only. Two options: a city can do the work and county will reimburse for materials only or contract with county who will do the work (or contract out) – just pay them for labor. Funding would be county wide and need-based. The expectation is to have it ready for 2015. Communities may know in advance that they will receive some assistance. Dave Greenspan's staff creating report on the state of roads in the Westshore; he will forward the report to Westshore communities.

Mr. Greenspan reported that Lorain County will become a charter county. Different from Cuyahoga County in that the County Administrator will be an appointed position who must be a Lorain county resident.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Supplemental Appropriation for CERT: Steve Presley stated that donations made to CERT were not included in appropriations. Mr. Presley asked for approval to appropriate \$7,150 in donations from fundraisers and such in order for them to be able to use the funds for CERT programs and supplies. Motion made by Mayor Sutherland, Second by Mayor Bobst; motion carried.
- B. CERT: Mayor Sutherland brought up an incident in Bay Village involving a missing child requiring a multi-agency mobilization. She reported that the response was outstanding – the MetroParks brought in rangers, dogs, etc., the city of Westlake was ready to go as were Bay Village Auxiliaries, and CERT was mobilized. Everyone did an excellent job; the process worked as it should with great communication between all agencies. Everything worked as it should. Mayor Sutherland expressed appreciation for all of the cooperation received. Although the situation was successfully resolved before they were needed, CERT was mobilized and ready to assist. Nearly 40 volunteers were ready in approximately two hours.
- C. Tub Grinder: Rob Berner, Service Director of Fairview Park, asked for clarification of the agreement covering the shared usage of a tub grinder by Westshore COG members. Currently, the cost of operations is split evenly by all. Usage shows averages don't equal what the percentages call for. Fairview Park uses a small portion of the total volume.

Fund will be reviewed annually to determine maintenance and annual distribution costs. The increase in expenses is due to the age of the equipment. It was suggested that the Finance Director discuss the cost issue. Chips produced by the tub grinder are available to all participating cities. Westlake and Bay Village residents are also able to purchase wood chips directly because these communities provide the labor to operate the grinder.

The group discussed the history of the grinder. Maintenance and repair is becoming increasingly more expensive; it may be time to consider purchasing a new machine. Communities are each billed separately – funds do not come from COG. Mayor Summers suggested that there may be inequity with regard to the tub grinder but sees tradeoffs in other areas, e.g. Narcotics investigation.

The grinder was purchased in 2003 for \$143,000. The Tub grinder is used for materials that can't be disposed of by regular chipper. There is no daily usage, but

on an as-needed (~monthly) basis. Should the grinder need to be replaced, discussion will likely follow on maintenance distribution costs. Leave on agenda. Bay Village and Westlake share a windrow machine which creates material much like a fine potting soil. Proceeds from sale of mulch and windrow machine material are used supplement maintenance of the tub grinder.

- D. Mayor Bobst asked members which supplier they were using for asphalt supply, voicing her concerns that their current supply was not hot enough for road repair. Mayors present suggested several companies with local supply.
- E. Lakewood did not participate in ODOT contract. Participating with Beachwood and Brecksville.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.