

Westshore Council of Governments
Regular Meeting
Bay Village City Hall
September 9, 2015

9:40 a.m. – Mayor Bobst called the meeting to order

1. Roll Call – In attendance – Mayor Summers (Lakewood), Mayor Bobst (Rocky River), Mayor Patton (Fairview Park), Mayor Clough (Westlake) Absent: Mayor Sutherland (Bay Village), Mayor Kennedy (North Olmsted)

Also in attendance: Fiscal Officer, Renee Mahoney, David Greenspan (Cuyahoga County Councilman – District 1), Joan Mason (Gateway Health), Tricia Granfors (CERT), Jen Demaline (Bay Village Human Resources Manager), Elise Hara Auvil (EHA Solutions, Ltd.), Fire Chiefs Jim Hughes (Westlake) & Tony Raffin (Fairview Park), Conda Boyd (League of Women Voters)

2. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the May 13, 2015 meeting were approved as submitted.

3. Commission Reports

- A. RTA

Mayor Clough reported that a new station has opened in Little Italy and it was very well received. Mayor Summers noted that ridership is up on the west shore line and growing at the rate of 10% quarterly. Overall it is up 35%. It was asked if this was in response to the traffic issues caused by the Shoreway work. Downtown commuters have been experiencing delays of up to 1 hr. for what should be a 20 minute commute. It's going to get worse before it gets better. We're a year away from the new bridge opening up. Mayor Summers would like a representative from ODOT to come to a meeting to explain the transportation issues.

- B. NOACA

Mayor Summers reports NOACA is highly focused on trying to leverage all the dollars, beyond the roughly 40 million dollars that comes to this region, a 5 county area, for projects in this region. Cuyahoga County has disproportionately lost its share of revenues. Grace Galluci is helping to bring our share back. The annual meeting is coming up.

- C. Land Bank

Mayor Bobst reported that Rocky River has a project, the Executive Club, which will be demolished before the end of the year. She thanked Mr. Greenspan for his involvement, Mr. Greenspan reminded everyone that if they are 80% of the way through Round 1 cities can apply now for Round 2. If cities have not applied before they can apply for Round 2. The criteria involves the property being a nuisance, tax delinquent, or abandoned property. If a property is a nuisance or tax delinquent it can be occupied. Most are abandoned.

- D. County Planning Commission

Mayor Patton reports there is a meeting next week. Glen Coyne came last week and talked about the Housing Commission. A new chairman is needed for the Commission.

- E. Cuyahoga County Mayors & Managers Association

At a recent meeting Tim Cosgrove talked about statewide advocacy and how the municipalities can have a greater influence and speak in a more unified voice. Discussion will continue to move forward. They held a brainstorming meeting to determine what is needed. A conference call has been scheduled for later in the month to formalize an agenda to determine strategically what we are going to do first, second, and third. A lot

of this deals with the governance of that organization and how to be a more effective part either of that organization or to have that organization have greater representation for those issues that we are concerned about. In the spirit of strengthening that organization with that infrastructure already in existence how can that be leveraged and be a stronger voice throughout the state. Those discussions will be continued later this month on a conference call.

4. Old Business

Share Ohio – M. Bobst requests that if you haven't forwarded your equipment inventory to Mike Thomas, Rocky River Finance Director, please do so. They will be added to the Share Ohio database. They are waiting for some feedback from the group. Please let Mayor Bobst know if you aren't interested in having your equipment inventory added. Waiting for Westlake, North Olmsted & Lakewood. Mr. Greenspan reports that Cuyahoga County is in the process of going on Share Ohio.

Mayor Bobst reported that Marc's radio system reduced the user fee. It's been cut in half. The cities are pleased about this and it is meaningful to all of the cities' budgets. Mayor Clough appreciates Mayor Bobst's efforts on this steering committee. This was a statewide advocacy that was a good model. The Fire Chiefs mentioned that a proposed half a cent monthly cell phone tax may be raised in order to further reduce, or possibly eliminate, the user fee altogether.

5. New Business

Motion to acknowledge receipt of the WEB financials from May, June, July, and August. Renee noted that the cost for CERT was down from previous years. Mayor Summers moved to accept the reports. Mayor Clough seconded. Motion carried.

Joan Mason from the Gateway Group discussed the regionalization of health care benefits. Joan reviewed the results of an employee benefits survey that was completed by each of the cities in the Westshore COG. She offered an opportunity for an independent health care audit. The next step would be for Gateway to create a proposal with the scope of work for what she has discussed with fees, and the time frame in which she could accomplish the work. Mayor Bobst added that as part of the analysis they should look at each community's employee Wellness program. There was further discussion about the inclusion of wellness programs. Joan distributed a copy of her Power Point presentation.

Tricia Granfors of CERT was present to report on her decision to retire Dec. 30, 2015. She spoke about the growth and value of the CERT regional team, its accomplishments over the years and the options for continuing the program. She offered three options for the COG to vote on: 1) Find a successor within the cities. It needs to be someone who has experience in municipal government. 2.) Create a full-time position under the COG and expand into Neighborhood Watches, & public safety events across the west shore, or 3.) Discontinue the program. She also reviewed the recent CERT disaster training at Cleveland Hopkins Airport. Tricia distributed a list of the CERT coordinator tasks. She reported that CERT is not a 501C3. David Greenspan noted that they can apply for grants through the Friends of the Community Foundation. Mayor Bobst asked Tricia to put together a list of all activities that she is involved weekly, monthly, & quarterly that would add up to a full-time position so the COG will understand what the needs are for CERT moving forward. She will submit electronically prior to the next COG meeting. Mayor Summers noted that creating a full-time employee would be a personnel decision. Mayor Bobst suggested that possibly the position could come under the umbrella of the WEB.

Mayor Bobst shared details about her meeting with all the Chiefs in the west shore. The Westshore Fire Dept. report was distributed. Mayor Bobst had sent out an outline looking at key consolidation focus areas that included fire inspection, fire prevention, outreach & education, training, purchasing, and overtime reduction. She asked for info from each of the respective depts. and their current status, and how it relates to the recommendations of the consolidation feasibility study. The report also described needs within their departments. She asks for the

communities involved to review the report and meet with your individual chiefs to provide any feedback. The next step, when the JIC meets again, will be to look at the priorities that exist within each dept. and prioritize, with Mayor's assistance, those areas of potential consolidation. The hope is that they can develop a path forward and if there are areas that are obvious for consolidation to move along in a timely manner. Chief Raffin spoke about our current mutual aid and collaboration between communities. Mayor Bobst noted that there were 607 instances of automatic aid implemented through Westcom for the westshore. She thanks the chiefs for their efforts in putting the report together.

There was further discussion regarding PCAP consolidation, due to going with Call Works, the county consolidation of the call taking system, we may already meet the standards of consolidation. Additional concerns of the group were discussed.

County Councilman, David Greenspan, reported that they are starting the 2016-2017 bi-annual budget process and the county Executive is calling for a 10% across the board reduction in expenditures. They will get the budget by Oct. 13. Sales tax and property tax revenues were up.

Dave noted that the county has the Westlake Bradley Road project carryover. It was recently disclosed that in 2012 there was a shift in accounting focus regarding receiving federal and state aid for road and bridge projects. Basically no money was sought from the federal govt. or state for road and bridge projects. There are currently 18 projects that are being submitted as part of capital budget to the state. The county is applying for the money now for Bradley Rd. The projects will be done but it's just a matter of when. They are now 3-4 years behind in funding for those projects.

Dave asked if the group still wants Armond Budish to come to a COG meeting it would probably be November. He will confirm.

The anti-poaching protocol is being circulated again. There is no enforcement from the county.

The Community Development Supplemental Grant program, currently in committee, proposes to use 15% of the casino revenue to help with CDBG-like projects in the communities, with no ITA anchored to it. It has wide support in council. Council is talking about increasing the 15% to 25% which could be worth one and a half to two million dollars a year. Hopefully the legislation will move forward and the monies would be available by the end of this year.

Mayor Clough noted that they are receiving the new property tax valuations and he has concerns that the county is using the suburbs to offset revenues that are not coming in from other cities. Increases were in the range of 8 - 12%. The county is ramping up for appeals. There is a focus on making sure all residents of the county are benefiting as a result of tax dollars coming in. Further discussion followed.

Updates were sent out regarding CDBG and storefront renovation application deadlines.

Prior to adjourning the meeting Mayor Bobst introduced Alisa Hara Auvil, a former HR Director, now in HR consulting.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Bobst; seconded by Mayor Summers. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

The next meeting of the Westshore COG will be Wednesday, October 14th at 9:30 a.m.