

## **CITY OF ROCKY RIVER**

**DECEMBER 1, 2017**

### **Finance Committee**

The meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Mr. Moran, Chairman of the Finance Committee, at 8:15 a.m. in the David J. Cook Council Chambers.

Finance Committee Members Present: Mr. Moran, Mr. Furry, Mr. Hunt, Mr. O'Donnell

Council Members Present: Mr. Shepherd, Mr. Klym, Mr. Sindelar

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Mr. Thomas, Director Costello, Director Mehling,  
Chief Stillman, Chief Lenart, Director Huff, Superintendent Rosemark

Also present: Judge Hagan, Judge Fitzsimmons, Clerk Comery, Commissioner Reyes

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Moran said that every year this meeting gives Council the opportunity to review the Budget process that began months earlier. This process also gives Council the opportunity to speak with all the Directors and see changes that are planned for next year and also some of the things they do to hold their budget in check.

Mayor Bobst stated that this process begins in July for the administration. The administration looks at mid-year activity to see if revenue and expenditures are where they should be and what the outlook is for the rest of the coming year. Director Thomas places the worksheets on the website in September to give Directors the opportunity to work with their team to submit their portion of the budget by the end of September. The Mayor meets with all the Directors and then the Budget is presented to Council in November. This has been the procedure for the last eleven years.

The Mayor said there is considerable stability with property owners as well as employers in Rocky River. There is growth in the income tax. This meeting is held once a year to discuss the overall budget and illuminates all the priorities for the coming year. But what is most important is the ongoing oversight of the monthly reports and the narrative that administration and Council receive from Director Thomas so they can monitor the budget monthly.

Personnel makes up the largest part of the budget and this year a new I.T. position is in the budget along with additional part-time employees for building, service and the Senior Center with other positions being consolidated. The city is looking into the dispatcher's program regionally along with the new police station.

Civil Service testing will bring additional costs due to entrance exams for fire and police. An Exchange Server has been built into the budget as a \$65,000 expenditure. The Mayor mentioned recycling which is extremely important and a cost effective activity. In terms of receiving revenue however from recycling, it is really a diversion of the landfill costs. Various grants will also be discussed this morning.

The largest part of the budget is the Capital Budget. The biggest project next year will be ODOT's paving of Detroit and Wooster Roads and the bidding for these two projects will be together. There will be full-depth repairs and requirements for ADA intersections with this project. It is anticipated that these projects will be completed in 2018-2019. The project will begin on Detroit at the I 90 Bridge area and on Wooster by Heinen's. This project will resume in the spring and complete the west end of Detroit and the rest of Wooster Road. Traffic will be maintained throughout this project for north, south, east and west traffic.

The Mayor also said that the City committed to Moody that the city's General Fund reserve would grow to 20-25%. The Mayor reported that from 2012-2016, the city is over 23%. This is extremely important when looking at short-term notes and bonding for projects like the police station.

The Mayor said there is a lot of detail in this budget. The percentage of appropriations that the city spent in 2012 is slightly over 80%; 2013 was 77%; 2014 was 77%; 2015 about 66%; and in 2016 just under 70%. If there is more information Council would like, please call her office or Director Thomas.

President Moran said that Council appreciates all these comments. All Council is prepared for their area as well as the whole budget. The Mayor added that \$72 million of appropriations flow through the City of Rocky River's budget. There are very few City Councils that have the responsibilities that this Council has with the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Court and Council should be applauded. The Court and the Wastewater Treatment Plant are a large portion of that \$72 million dollars.

Director Thomas briefly stated that he had some changes in the budget since November. The management decision was to wait until Council finished with Finance Committee before bringing them to Council. Some numbers have been finalized and firmed up in the last month. Director Thomas will have these changes to Council in time for the Public Hearing.

### **Recreation Department**

Councilman Klym introduced the budget of the Recreation Department with the assistance of Recreation Director Christopher Mehling. The projected revenue for 2018 is \$3,195,462. Appropriations for 2018 are projected to be \$3,500,000. There is a 2.5% increase which breaks out to wages. There is also a \$225,000 reduction in the transfer from the General Fund. Appropriations and revenue for the Rec Department end up even.

Director Mehling stated that as you look at the revenue, the budget is very conservative. There are some opportunities that aren't set in stone and not in contract yet, especially with the ice rink and turf. Until Mr. Mehling receives the contracts, he hasn't included these numbers in the

budget. There is a lot of competition between service providers in the area for the recreation center and the staff needs to do a better job with senior and families with young children membership categories in 2018.

Mr. Klym said that health benefits are up about 6% and Mr. Mehling will be sharing a full time staff position with the Facility Manager, both of which affect the budget. Mr. Mehling said that he and Mr. Balla work very well together. They are both in need of hiring someone with a mechanical ability to help out on second shift, which will help with overtime management.

Mr. Klym stated that there will be a recruitment and retention program for the lifeguards and swim instructors again this year. Mr. Mehling said that continues to be a challenge for all the pools in the area. Mr. Mehling will also try to hire an intern to help out as well.

The Recreation Center will also be publishing a program magazine again for the Summer and Fall season to residents. Mr. Mehling said that residents love the online registration but they like to have the paper copy of the Program Guide.

The Lease agreement with the Cleveland Clinic has gone very well and the revenue dollars from that will increase. The Recreation Center is bringing on three additional classes through the Cleveland Clinic and hope to do a scholarship fund for families that use the Autism Center but can't afford the services. There will be a yoga class for parents and children, swimming lessons and another group exercise class for children with autism.

Mr. Mehling is also negotiating a new rate with Tivity, which is taking over for Healthways for Silver Sneakers. The Recreation Center had over \$122,000 just in Silver Sneaker swipes and visits this year. Tivity will pay the recreation center \$3.25 a visit per Silver Sneaker. Mr. Mehling, Mr. Ford and Chrissy Miller will be negotiating in January for an increase of \$3.50 a visit and also change the cap from 10 visits a month to 12 visits a month for the 2019 budget. The Mayor clarified that the 122,000 is only for the Civic Center and not the Senior Center. These programs are at the Senior Center also and there is a swipe count there. Mr. Mehling said the Senior Center amount per visit is less because the Senior Center is not considered a full facility. This will also be a part of the negotiations in January. Mr. Klym said that the Silver Sneakers has been a very successful program and Rocky River was one of the earlier adopters of Silver Sneakers.

Mr. Klym said there are 14 full-time employees and approximately 275 part-time employees and one retirement.

In terms of major expenditures for 2018 a payment is listed for the Recreation Center advancement of \$100,000 which is the repayment of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the advancement made from the general fund to provide short term funding upon the opening of the natatorium at the Civic Center.

Mr. Klym noted that program supplies increased including \$5,000 for replacement of skates for the Learn to Skate Program. Building maintenance was up 5% also but that is because of the agreement with Gardiner which should help with energy savings. Mr. Mehling thanked Council for the two new HVAC Units approved that have been installed over the lobby and the south

locker rooms at the ice arena. These two units are covered under the service agreement with Gardiner. Preventative maintenance will continue on those as well.

There is an ordinance in front of Council to replace an additional 4 HVAC units on the ice-skating rink roof. These units are 31+ years old and will be replaced along with the roof this year. These units will include the capability to add air conditioning/dehumidification to help with condensation when the ice is installed in August. Mr. Furry thought that with the maintenance agreement with Gardiner Trane that there wouldn't be an epic failure of all the units. The Mayor said that this is a whole project and those are part of it. These units are original to the building and Gardiner identified these for replacement. Mr. Mehling said that with the maintenance program, the city will see longer life with the new units. The roof will probably be replaced by metal over metal as the best of three options. Mr. Klym added that within the budget this year is the sum of \$900,000 for a new roof for that facility. RE Warner presented a complete tear-off which would affect programming; metal over metal and the steel beams existing can support this; and the third option is a coating with only a 10-year warranty if it is coated again.

Mr. Klym said that the Equipment Purchasing Program will continue next year for the fitness room at the Rec Center but may not be able to purchase new equipment due to the Splash Zone pump that blew up and was very expensive to repair. There is a line item of \$15,000 for Pickle Ball Courts at Tri-City Park. Courts 7 & 8 will be used and it will not disrupt tennis.

There will be a budget for improvements at the outdoor pool such as flooring at the concession area, the men's locker room along with the purchase of some new deck chairs and shade umbrellas.

A number of bathroom upgrades in various parks along with updating benches and picnic tables with a new PVC product to replace wood with less maintenance is included in the budget.

Future Capital Equipment purchases would include roof repairs over the gym at the Umerley Civic Center. There is also a mention of new playground equipment in the parks in the order of original installation. The older Zamboni will also need to be replaced in the next year or two. There is another HVAC system replacement cost in the future at the Civic Center and gym on the back of that building which is the original from 2001.

Mr. Klym and Mr. Mehling said that the online registration continues to be a success. Mr. Mehling stated that there is a little over 112,000 to date with online registration. There has been \$105,679 in program online registrations in 2017. The Recreation Center would also like to create a Facebook page to help communication.

There was a small membership campaign and 63 new memberships were obtained. Next will be the gift card program, which made about \$14,000 last December.

Director Mehling thanked Council and the Mayor for all the support over the past year. He feels truly blessed at how well the Directors and Council work together. Mr. Mehling thanked Mr. Klym for his attention to the details and attending the Commission Meetings. Mr. Klym thanked Mr. Mehling for his interactions with the community at large. President Moran thanked

Director Mehling.

## **Municipal Court**

Mr. O'Donnell thanked Judge Hagan, Judge Fitzsimmons, and Clerk of Court Comery for attending this morning's meeting. Mr. O'Donnell stated that in 2017 there was a 2% wage increase for the Court employees but the Court did not move forward with the increase. None of the court employees received that 2% increase. The Clerk's office did receive a 2% increase last year. Both the Clerk's office and Court staff are budgeted to receive a 2% raise for 2018.

The Court Building is about 15/16 years old. The HVAC with Gardiner Trane is working well but the building is aging and there are things that will need to be addressed especially the flat roof, which has some minor leaks. The entire computer system will be over hauled in 2018. The Court does have a computer fund and should have enough money to cover the new computer system.

Mr. O'Donnell also mentioned that this Municipal Court operates in the black and there are very few, if any, Municipal Courts that operate in the black. Rocky River is very lucky that the Court is committed to do it again in 2018. At the end of the year the Court turns over \$50,000-\$70,000 to the city to help defray costs with utilities, etc. Mr. O'Donnell stressed, however, that he doesn't know how long this court will be able to maintain running in the black.

This is the fourth full year that North Olmsted has established its Mayor's Court. The Rocky River Court has suffered from declining revenues. Matters in this regard continue to get worse as North Olmsted continues to send the Municipal Court only those cases that North Olmsted knows cannot pay any of the Court costs or other associated expenses with handling a case. The North Olmsted Mayor's Court is putting this Court at a real disadvantage.

Judge Fitzsimmons stated that there is good news on operating in the black. The Court feels a tremendous partnership with the Mayor, Council and the Directors. Judge Fitzsimmons stated that other judges are shocked when they learn that Rocky River Municipal Court runs on collections that are received. The collections exceed their expenditures. The Judge said that the court, as of 2022, will no longer be making payments on the building as the building will be paid off. The payment is approximately \$250,000 a year for principal and interest. When that is paid off, that money will be a real cushion for the Court and feels that operating in the black will continue. All Municipal Courts have lower caseloads with an increase of heroin and mental health issues.

There are very few staffing changes at the Court. A two-day part time probation department employee left and will be replaced with a full-time probation employee.

Judge Fitzsimmons addressed the various consolidation articles and she said she does not see it working or happening. What the consolidation stresses is that smaller courts do not have the ability to have a Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Human Trafficking Court, a Veterans Court to deal with the specific problems of people they are seeing. Rocky River Municipal Court does it. If it wasn't for Rocky River Court, Cleveland Municipal Court would not have their specialized docket courts. Rocky River joined with them and Rocky River Court puts their

people into their Courts all the time. Rocky River staff still does the ultimate supervision but the Cleveland Municipal Court is getting the mental health, addiction, human trafficking and veterans from the Rocky River Court.

Rocky River Court Probation Department now does pretrial services where they put people who are dangerous regarding contacting their partner on GPS. There is a state fund that is used for the GPS monitors to make everyone safer.

The other big movement facing the Courts is people cannot stay in jail if they cannot pay their fine or cost. Within 24 hours they need to be released. This is also affecting the collections.

Mr. O'Donnell also mentioned that Judge Fitzsimmons is putting on a CLE in two weeks with the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court for a number of attorneys concerning the heroin epidemic.

Clerk of Court Comery addressed Council saying that there are over 360 Mayors Courts in Ohio that all work the same way and they only exist in two states, Ohio and Louisiana. They are not part of the Justice System. The Rocky River Court works the best they can with North Olmsted. Mrs. Comery also works with a Collection Agency to help with collections. The Attorney General also has a collection plan whereby anybody that is sent to them by the Court, during the tax season, before any checks are mailed, payment is sent to the Court.

- Mr. Shepherd asked if Rocky River Court ever did operate in the red, for the Courts that run at a slight loss do all the cities that participate in that Court contribute to offset the loss? The answer is yes; they would contribute proportionately.

The Mayor said that everyone recognizes that the Clerk of Court along with the Judges are leaders among leaders. Mrs. Comery has held positions statewide. The Judges are leaders in the County for the work they have done. Rocky River is very fortunate and the Mayor is confident that the Court will continue to run in the black. The Mayor thanked the Court for everything that they do.

Judge Fitzsimmons also announced that Judge Brian Hagan is the incoming president of the State of Ohio Municipal Judges in 2018.

Mr. Moran said that the programs Judge Fitzsimmons and Judge Hagan have put on regarding the Heroin Epidemic shows the extra time and effort that they give to help the people that go through the courts. Council realizes it and thanks them for everything they do.

### **Wastewater Treatment Plant**

The WWTP, represented by Superintendent CarrieAnne Rosemark, was the next department to present its budget, under the leadership of Councilman Furry. Mr. Furry had recently distributed the 2018 fiscal budget review as well as the proposed operating budget.

Ms. Rosemark introduced Daryl Radeff who is retiring after 30 years at the end of the year and presented Daryl with a certificate of recognition.

There are 18 total employees plus one-part time intern and the number will continue to be the same for 2018, with two retirements.

Ms. Rosemark stated that 2017 was a very busy year at the WWTP. One Maintenance mechanic position has been eliminated and a new position "Instrumentation Maintenance Technician" has been added. This position is intended to be able to work on the control and monitoring systems in the plant, including flow meters, level sensors, pH analyzers and SCADA computer systems. This position will stay under the direct supervision of the maintenance foreman and pays the same level as maintenance mechanic. This position requires the operator to have a WWTP operator's license along with more background training and experience.

A large portion of the year was spent with the Teamsters negotiating an agreement. It was a lot of hard work for both sides. The overtime line item was significant this year. Two employee operators had significant health issues and needed to take time off. Those positions require most of their time off to be covered by other employees. In the new agreement, there is a window of time that this position does not need to be covered under certain circumstances. The WWTP is working towards controlling the overtime line item.

Another big project was the Sewer, Flow and Strength Study. It went very well. They are 50% through the No Feasibility Alternative Study as required by the NPDES permit. This study is intended to present to the Ohio EPA information illustrating all options related to closing and eliminating bypass events from the Excess Flow Primaries. The final project should present the four cities with a plan of improvements, both operational and capital, that will lead the WWTP in the direction of no bypass as determined by OEPA rules. The Hazen and Sawyer Engineering Firm will be contacting Finance Departments to go over financial information.

The WWTP is 99% done with the 2014-2017 Capital Improvement Project. The 2018-2020 OPWC funded Capital Improvement Project is moving along. AECOM is doing the engineering work for that.

Superintendent Rosemark applied for DOPWIC/OPW funding very similar to the project last year, but DOPWIC has changed the way they are scoring regarding funding already received. This deducted some points from the application along with an error and Mrs. Rosemark is working on an appeal.

The 2018 Budget is similar to previous years. A repair was made in 2015 to a waterline in the front parking lot of the WWTP and that repair has saved a significant amount of water. The usage this year is down by \$60,000 a year. The WWTP is still looking at ways to improve.

The Contract repair line item has been significantly increased in this budget because of the electrical equipment that needs to be repaired or replaced. A lot of equipment is obsolete and purchasing refurbished items is getting expensive. The control panels need to be replaced also.

A farmer that is interested in receiving material from the WWTP has contacted Superintendent Rosemark. Mrs. Rosemark anticipates lowering this line item. Bids will go out in January to be ready by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Professional Service line item has decreased significantly because the WWTP does not have to pay for the Sewer, Flow and Strength Study again this year.

Maintenance of Equipment stays the same, however the WWTP has aging equipment.

The 2013-2016 loan will have two payments coming out of it along with the 2014-2017 will have one payment out of it.

Mr. Shepherd commented that the City of Rocky River is the only city that is paying less than what it paid in 2014. Mr. Furry said it is based on the Strength and Flow Study. The Mayor said that all cities are doing work in the collection system now because of the EPA. A percentage point is meaningful in the overall cost.

Superintendent Rosemark said that she has a six-year Capital Plan. There are significant needs at the plant and Superintendent Rosemark is hoping for access to the DOPWIC funds.

President Moran thanked Superintendent Rosemark for bringing Daryl in prior to his retirement.

### **Senior Center**

The Senior Center, represented by Director Deborah Huff, was the next department to present its budget, under the leadership of Councilman Sindelar.

Mr. Sindelar stated that the Senior Center attained National Accreditation this year under the direction of Director Deb Huff. The Senior Center is a very welcoming place and volunteers are happy and excited to be there. The projected revenue and expenditures are always even. It is an enhancement to the City.

Director Huff said the Senior Center is an incredible place to work and thanked Council for the opportunity to work there.

Director Huff said that the numbers on the Budget are very similar to last year with an increase in Professional Services and that is a result of an increase in programming. The Senior Center did receive National Accreditation last January. After celebrating, the Senior Center moved on with the Strategic Plan and goals were set. Director Huff hired Mrs. Cyndi Williams this fall as a full time Administrative Assistant. Mrs. Williams has a strong technology background and technology was one of the goals that was set. The Senior Center acquired the My Senior Center Swipe Card System. Director Huff is looking forward to doing the statistical reports at the end of the year! The Transportation Scheduling Program was acquired this year too. This has assisted managing the rider list and also made it easier to schedule. There were over 200 new riders that registered for transportation this year.

The Westshore Collaborative Website will be launched sometime this month. There are eight other Senior Centers on the westside that are working on this site. The Senior Center received funding from the Community West Foundation in the amount of \$25,000 to help with the design of the website. Director Huff distributed cards with the website address on it to Council. The American Society of Aging thought the website was a unique idea and invited Director Huff to

speak at the American Society on Aging Conference in San Francisco in March.

Another goal was fundraising and the Seniors Council created a sub-committee for fundraising. They raised \$500 just this month. They have sold the Senior Center bag, a monthly gift basket drawing and the Danny Boy Dine to Donate on Tuesday night and made \$211 on that. The volunteers are doing the leg work on these projects. Another Committee that was created was the Marketing Committee. The Marketing Committee is partnering with Rocky River High School Marketing Class and the students have been coming to the Center on Monday afternoons and teaching the Seniors about Instagram, tweeting and also a Facebook page. Director Huff passed out pens with the Senior Center information on it for part of their marketing campaign.

Giant Eagle again donated \$5,000.00 for Transportation for Seniors. The Mayor also noted that Director Huff is applying to NOACA for a grant for a new vehicle to provide Senior transportation.

Director Huff said that the Senior Center has been planning more local trips as opposed to overnight trips.

Mr. O'Donnell asked Director Huff what the biggest challenge is at the Senior Center. The biggest challenge for her has been staffing and trying to get everyone on board for new ideas.

President Moran thanked Director Huff for her time.

### **Police Department**

Councilman Hunt thanked Chief Kelly Stillman for attending the budget hearing for 2018.

Chief Stillman said that the Police Department is fully staffed with 33 sworn officers, himself, his executive staff assistant, two administration lieutenants and four police secretary, animal control officer and two Community Service officers. The Mayor added that she and the Chief have been working on the staffing of dispatch. Centralized dispatch in the Westshore makes some sense. This has been discussed for years and currently is on hold. The Mayor understands the needs of the police department.

Mr. O'Donnell asked the Chief what the biggest challenge is for him. The biggest challenge for the Police Department right now is the opiate crisis. Narcan is obtained through the County Health Department through a grant. The Chief said that approximately 80% or more of the calls to the Police Department are opiate-fueled calls. The police administer a nasal dosage and the fire department administers it in an injection.

Mr. Hunt asked the Chief about the revenue lines in the budget. Chief Stillman said that POPAS is still surviving, however the numbers for revenue is down. The younger hires do not need the overtime so there aren't as many volunteers to work POPAS.

Mr. Hunt mentioned that the Police Department is looking to purchase three vehicles. Two vehicles out of the POPAS fund and one vehicle out of the City's Capital Budget. The purchases will be the Ford Utility Vehicle.

The Chief would like to continue the Watchguard Body Cam Program. His goal is to purchase a body cam for every officer in the department. Chief would also like to purchase more Tasers so each officer has their own. Tasers run about \$700 and the cartridges are \$30-\$50.

Mr. Klym asked about the car replacement that is only three years old. Chief Stillman said that three years or 100,000 miles is a good shelf life for a line police car.

Mr. Hunt asked about the “Cradlepoint” system. Chief Stillman said that law enforcement is now a technology-based environment. The MDT’s – mobile data terminals – are connected now with Cradlepoint. Cradlepoints are highly durable and have a much better connectivity than the air-card. It also allows the police to implement an AVL Program (automatic vehicle locator).

The Mayor said that in this budget, Council sees the budget money for the architect to do the specifications and plans. It’s this budget where Council decides if this is going to happen. A time will be set with the Council President, the chair of Finance along with other Council members to go over the options. The administration feels very comfortable but wants Council to be comfortable also. Council’s decision will be taking that first step to approve the architectural fees.

The Mayor also announced that Chief Stillman will be sworn in as the President of the Cuyahoga County Police Chiefs’ Association. He will be the Chief of Chiefs. Chief’s swearing in will be at Westwood Country Club in January.

Chief Stillman also added that the compliment of the Police Department has been 33 for many, many years. His goal would be to get the compliment up to 35 or 36 police officers.

Chief Stillman thanked Director Thomas for his direction and leadership. The Chief also thanked the Mayor, Safety-Service Director and Council.

President Moran thanked Chief Stillman for his time this morning.

### **Safety Services**

The Service Division and Capital Improvements Division, represented by Director Mary Kay Costello and Commissioner Reyes, was the next department to present its budget, under the leadership of Councilman Shepherd.

Mr. Shepherd began by stating that the Safety-Service Department in the administration building consists of three full-time employees and two part-time employees. Ron Gottschalk switched to Safety Service last year. He divides his time with Safety Service and technology but with a new IT employee, Ron will be full time in the Safety-Service Department.

Mr. Shepherd said that in the Service Division there are 49 full-time employees, which is a six-person increase. The increase of staff is two people in refuse, two people in sewers, an arborist and an additional employee in the Parks Department. Director Costello is not asking for any additional laborers this year. There are no official retirements at this time.

Director Costello said she is looking to purchase a 2½ ton dump truck to replace a 2001 dump truck, 1 refuse packer, one Vac All, street sweeper, semi-trailer for the Transfer Station and 3 scooters. The mechanics do an excellent job, but parts are getting difficult to purchase for these older vehicles. Also, a new vehicle for the Mayor's car as well as other administrators to use during the work day. The Mayor said that the city uses these vehicles like a fleet.

Mr. Shepherd discussed the Capital Projects: The ODOT paving project for Detroit & Wooster Road. ODOT covers 80% of the asphalt travel lanes. There is also a requirement for ADA compliance at each intersection plus full depth repairs on both roads. The city will pay about \$2.3 million. Director Costello will have the full cost with the new legislation. Breezevale Cove is budgeted for storm water line replacement. The administration is still working through the easement paperwork. Director Costello also included headwall and sanitary pump for contingency purposes, grouting and relining sanitary lines. The developer is aware of construction easement, the easement itself and what needs to be done there. The developer is also aware of the sanitary pump situation. However, the city can do the project without the developer. The city will have paving projects throughout the city as well.

Another Capital Project will be the grouting and relining of sanitary lines, investigation into Lake Road invert replacement and investigation into the Morewood Parkway sewer replacement from Wagar Road to the railroad. The Spencer Road Sewer Improvement has been on the budget list for years. There is a section of Spencer that needs to be improved when needed. Director Costello will also apply for DOPWIC funding for the Oak and Collver sanitary, storm and water line replacements. This will be a 2-3 year project. Waterline work replacement will be a Cleveland Water application if DOPWIC is successful, other water lines approved are Riverwood, Homeland and Eriewood. Other projects will be sidewalk corrections in West River Estates due to the large trees that have grown damaging the sidewalks. Trees will need to be taken down but a new tree will be planted to replace. This will be completed over a three-year span. There will also be other sidewalk work throughout the city. The architectural services for the Police facility and phase 2 of the security work at City Hall will also begin this year in conjunction with the police facility.

Capital Improvements for public land: This will improve the entrance at Martin Park along with something to happen in the median of Hilliard Blvd. with natural elements and moderate maintenance but will add some visual interest. A sprinkler system for Downtown Detroit is in the budget as well.

Director Costello said that she will go over every project with Council as it comes up through the year. Director Costello thanked Councilman Shepherd for all his support through the year.

The Mayor said that the Safety-Service budget did increase because of the re-aligning of the two receptionists.

- Mr. O'Donnell thanked Director Costello for her attention to detail daily.
- Mr. Shepherd said that when Director Costello gets involved with a concern from a resident, it is taken care of and he doesn't hear back from the resident again.

Mr. Reyes thanked everyone for their support. Director Costello thanked Mr. Reyes for his time and commitment to his job. President Moran thanked Mr. Reyes and his entire staff for everything they do to make the City of Rocky River great. President Moran said that this outline gives Council the intelligence to know what the plan is and the capabilities of answering questions by the residents.

The Mayor added that the Service Department is looking at a beach-grooming piece of equipment to help clean the beaches.

### **Fire Department**

The Fire Department, represented by Chief Lenart, was the next department to present its budget, under the leadership of Councilman Hunt.

The Mayor announced that the administration is going to the newspaper with an ad for a new ladder truck. The specifications are done and Chief Lenart said they did their homework and looked at many demos. Chief Lenart took the trucks to the tight parts of the City as well as being sure the truck can fit into the garage. Chief Lenart is excited to see who bids and what comes back in the bidding process.

Chief Lenart said that 2017 was a busy year and the fire department accomplished a lot. The Security Grant from BWC in the amount of \$52,000 put auto loaders into all the ambulances and upgraded the cots. The new ambulance purchased last year came with an auto loader. The Department finished the second year of the turnout gear replacement program. The gear does get used a lot and washed often for cancer prevention. The Department has purchased personal rescue devices for each person. The Fireman will be going to training this month and hopefully each fireman will get personal bail out devices to help preserve their lives. The new ambulance has functioned very well for the fire department.

Firefighter Alex Hearn resigned this year because he was called back to the Eastlake Fire Department. Firefighter Matt Daugherty was hired to replace Alex Hearn. Mr. Hunt asked Chief Lenart about the Drop Program. Chief Lenart replied that he has about 8 personnel in the Drop Program. They could retire tomorrow, as their retirement is set. When they decide to leave they can and cannot work in the Drop Program past 8 years. Chief Lenart has worked hard to keep people on the Civil Service List to limit exposure to overtime. Within the next four years, more than half the department will be in the Drop Program. There have not been a lot of applicants for the Civil Service tests. Chief Lenart is trying to sell the City of Rocky River to get the best applicants he can.

For 2018, Chief Lenart will do the third year of the Turnout Gear Replacement Program, which will mean another 9-10 sets of gear. Chief Lenart is also asking for bulletproof vests. The world is changing and with the active shooter threat, vests are needed. Firemen are getting killed every year.

Last year Chief asked for a Gear Washer and Extractor Dryer to help preserve the gear and fight cancer. Chief applied for the FEMA Grant but was denied. BWC did come out for a grant

firefighter specific and he has applied for that. If he doesn't get this grant, he would still want to purchase the washer and dryer. At this moment, the gear is laying all over the fire station to dry. A heated dryer breaks the fabric down on the gear and it takes 3-5 days to completely dry it. With a cool air dryer, it takes 2-3 hours.

Chief Lenart needs to upgrade his Fire Reporting software with the State and Federal Government. The current software will no longer upgrade to work on the new operating system. The \$8,000 figure is high but he built enough in to have the new company transfer all the files from the old and import then onto the new system.

The future horizon shows the Chief needing to replace ambulances. Medic 67 was originally bought in 2000 and was hit in an accident in 2005. Medic 63 and 67 are aging. Medic 68 is under warranty and they are running it a lot before the warranty is over and then rotates the two older Medics to preserve their lives. Three years down the road, the same rotation will take place. Unfortunately, all fire equipment is expensive and every year the prices are going up. The Service Garage does a great job maintaining the vehicles. The number of runs has declined slightly, but a new facility at the Normandy will be opening and Chief Lenart conservatively estimates that the department will be there 100-150 times.

Chief Lenart said that the projected revenue for 2018 will be \$550,000 through ambulance billing.

- Mr. Sindelar asked if the insurance issue has been resolved regarding the ladder truck. The Mayor responded it is not resolved, but by putting out for bids for a new truck it will give the administration an absolute number to use with the Insurance Company. Progressive Insurance has been responsive.
- Mr. Sindelar asked if the union will be onboard with the new truck. The Mayor and Chief said yes, and that the union has been engaged at looking at the demos and giving input on needs and wants. The demos have all the bells and whistles.

As there was no further business by members of Council, President Moran moved to close the meeting.

Vote: Moran – aye                      Furry - aye                      Hunt – aye                      O'Donnell - aye  
          4 ayes                                      0 nays                                      **PASSED**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

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James W. Moran, Chairman  
Finance Committee

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Susan G. Pease  
Clerk of Council