

January 28, 2014

City Council
City of Cheviot, Ohio
3814 Harrison Avenue
Cheviot, Ohio 45211

RE: Finance Committee Meeting

To All Members of Council:

The Finance Committee met on January 28, 2014 at 7:00 pm in the meeting room of the city building. In attendance were committee members: Jeff Baker, Jim Martin, Jim Sunderhaus and committee chair Dennis Dinkelacker. Also in attendance was Council Member: Bill Clark, President of Council Debbie Slaughter, Auditor Theresa Ciolino-Klein, Tax Commissioner Greg Nolan, Assistant to Tax Commissioner Brenda Manz, Police Chief Joe Lally and Fire Chief Bob Klein.

The focus of this meeting was to further discuss RITA (Regional Income Tax Agency) with representatives from the Village of Lockland and the Village of Addyston. Unfortunately, the Village of Lockland representative (Krista Blum) was unable to attend due to a sickness in the family and the Village of Addyston representative (Margret Dozer) had automobile issues. Ms. Blum was kind enough to send some bullet points (pros and cons) with contracting with RITA for tax collection. Listed are the positive thoughts by Ms. Blum: individuals at RITA are helpful, always willing to answer questions, respond promptly, RITA collects the taxes in a timely manner and distributes monthly payments to the village (minus the 3% retainer), RITA sends letters to residents and businesses alike to ensure they are in compliance with their tax code. With the mention of the aforesaid items, listed are (cons) concerns Ms. Blum addressed: there is no person on site to answer questions or assist in tax filing, residents are given a 1-800 number to call, although RITA does do their best to collect, they do not proactively go after non-filers or residents who have filed, but not paid their tax liability (they only take the collection process so far), rental property owners are trusted to report changes in tenants and there is no one ensuring this happens, due to a small staff, there is no one who has time to take on the role as "Tax Commissioner" to ensure compliance of their tax code, and as a result of this there is some loss of tax revenue simply because there is no onsite staff keeping track.

After much discussion on this topic and shared input from committee members and others in attendance, it was agreed upon by the committee that this issue be revisited at the end of the 2014 fiscal year. Thank you to all in attendance for your input and continued support. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis T. Dinkelacker, Chairman

Jim Sunderhaus

Jeff Baker

Jim Martin