

December 9, 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 December 9, 2014 at 7:35 pm in the meeting room of the city building. In attendance were committee members: Jim Martin, Leslie Roden, and committee chair Dennis Dinkelacker. Mr. Sunderhaus was excused. Also in attendance were Council Members: Bill Clark and Amy Richter, President of Council Debbie Slaughter, Mayor Sam Keller, Safety Service Director Tom Braun, Auditor Theresa Ciolino-Klein, Assistant to Auditor Patty Henry, Fire Chief Bob Klein and Tax Commissioner Greg Nolan.

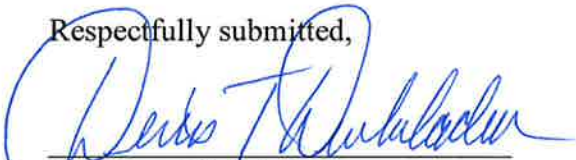
The focus of this meeting is to discuss several items that either have been or need to be discussed by all. The first topic of discussion is pertaining to the possible purchase of an aerial ladder truck for the Fire Department. Chief Klein presented to the committee and others in attendance the current issues with our existing aerial ladder truck; rusting tanks, hydraulic issues and several other nickel and dime expenses throughout past years. Our existing ladder truck is 27 years old, which happens to be the oldest active aerial ladder truck in Hamilton County. In 2013 alone, the city spent over \$20,000 in repairs on said ladder truck. Chief Klein was presented with some exciting information on a demo aerial ladder truck, which could possibly save the city anywhere from \$250,000 to \$300,000, if said ladder truck meets the Fire Department's and city's needs. We were originally budgeting \$900,000 for said ladder truck. Chief Klein, the Mayor and Safety Service Director gave detailed specifics for said demo aerial ladder truck. The committee and others in attendance were discussing possible creative financing for said ladder truck. After much discussion on various topics and shared input from committee members, administration and others in attendance, it was agreed upon by the committee to have Chief Klein, his staff and the administration to have the aerial ladder truck brought down to the city and demonstrate its capabilities.

The second topic of discussion this evening is pertaining to our carryover balance from previous year, changes in expenses, increased revenue and the addition of line item(s) for said aerial ladder truck. Theresa had contacted the state pertaining to establishing a capital project fund for setting aside funds over a period of time. The Auditor stated that said funds can be moved/transferred from said special fund/line item, back to the general fund if the city fell into a financial crisis. The city is looking at an approximate carry over from this year, estimated at approximately \$200,000 to \$250,000, which would give an approximate total of \$500,000 to \$600,000 for the 2015 year. All of the financial questions were answered either by the Auditor or the Assistant to the Auditor. After much discussion by the committee, administration and others in attendance, we were all in agreement that the aerial ladder truck and future purchases try to be paid in full (instead of bonding or loans). These equipment purchases are necessary to maintain the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and businesses of the City of Cheviot. Our Auditor brought to everyone's attention that any and all surplus funds (now and in the future) need to be somehow invested in some type of growth fund, savings account, CD, etc. The Auditor is going to speak with the Treasurer and get his professional opinion on which investment would be most beneficial to our city.

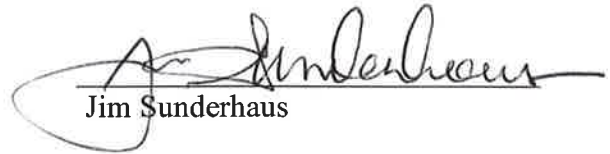
The third topic of discussion this evening is pertaining to taxing accountability. Our Tax Commissioner, Greg Nolan, stated to all, that he has a very satisfied with receiving and identifying all individuals employed at local businesses within our city. Mr. Nolan also stated that his office is receiving quarterly statements from business owners and individuals reporting their tips. These statements are coming from our local bars, beauty salons, restaurants and any other business that may generate tips as a way of payment. This is an issue that Mr. Martin and the committee were very pleased to hear that Mr. Nolan was able to make progress on. Thanks Greg. Mr. Nolan had also addressed that the Attorney General will be coming into play within our city in the near future pertaining to the collection of unpaid taxes.

The final topic of discussion for this evening is our proposed 3 Mil levy going to vote in May of 2015. We as a city, cannot afford to plan street construction with the current evaluations as they exist. Our current street levies generate approximately \$130,000 between the two levies and this proposed levy would generate approximately \$330,000. One levy to expire in 2015 and the other to expire in 2016. After much discussion by the committee and others in attendance, we were all in agreement that if the May levy would pass, this council would rescind the 2016 levy in good faith to our citizens. Thank you to all in attendance for your input and continued support. Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis T. Dinkelacker, Chairman



Jim Sunderhaus



Leslie Roden

Jim Martin