

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Stow City Council held on Tuesday, September 20, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Adaska, Costello, D'Antonio, Lowdermilk, Pribonic, Rasor & Riehl

City Officials Present: Mayor Kline, Law Director Zibritosky, Finance Director Baranek, Service Director Wren, Director of Budget & Management Earle, Director of Planning & Development Kurtz, Police Chief Film, Fire Chief Stone & Clerk of Council Emahiser

Press Representatives: Stow Sentry

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### **Call to Order**

Mr. Rasor called the meeting to order and Mrs. Zibritosky led the prayer and pledge of allegiance.

### **Committee Reports**

Mr. Riehl reported on the Finance Committee Meeting of September 20, 2016 as follows:

1. Three items would be introduced in legislative form.

Mr. Pribonic reminded everyone that on September 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m., in these Chambers, there would be a Community Meeting/Open House regarding the City's Comprehensive Plan Update.

Mr. D'Antonio reported on the Roads & Safety Committee Meeting of September 20, 2016 as follows:

1. Two items would be introduced in legislative form.

Mr. Rasor reported on the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting of September 20, 2016 as follows:

1. One item would be introduced in legislative form.

### **City Officials' Reports**

Mayor Kline reported as follows:

1. Thanked Mr. Rasor for calling a Special Council Meeting this evening to coordinate with Tallmadge and Cuyahoga Falls City Councils at 7:00 p.m. for a presentation regarding potential regional dispatch services.
2. She had some very exciting news for the City of Stow and the Stow Fire Department in particular. Tomorrow Chief Stone and her were traveling to Columbus with Firefighter Sandy because she has been awarded the State of Ohio Fire Educator of the Year Award and she would be inducted into the Hall of Fame of Firefighters.

They were going down to represent the City and to show their support and love for Sandy. If there was anyone in the City of Stow who was well-known by nearly every individual, it was Firefighter Sandy.

They wished her the very best. It was certainly an honor that she deserved and had worked very hard to achieve.

3. Reminded everyone that this Friday was the Stow Football Game that was Homecoming. That meant that the Stow Homecoming Parade would be taking place, so Graham Road from Newcomer to the High School would be closed starting at approximately 4:45-4:50 p.m. for the duration of the parade.

The Bulldogs take on Nordonia for Homecoming. The game would follow the parade. She wanted to make sure that motorists were aware of that road closure and to remind everyone of the game if they were going to go.

Law Director Zibritosky reported as follows:

1. This would probably be her last City Council Meeting for a while. She was going to have a baby very soon. It would probably be her last one possibly for the rest of the year, depending on how that works out.

She would have either Nichole Welsh or Sara Fagnilli, both Assistant Law Directors, here upon request or if there was something special. However, for the most part, she didn't plan on having anybody here.

If Council had a special need for the law department while she was gone to have someone here during the meetings, they should let her know and she would make that happen.

Mr. Razor wished Mrs. Zibritosky the best.

### **New Business**

#### **MOTION:**

Mr. Riehl moved and Mr. D'Antonio seconded to donate \$500.00 from Council's Contingency Fund for the Close-Up Program.

Yes Votes: Adaska, Costello, D'Antonio, Lowdermilk,  
Pribonic, Razor & Riehl

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

### **Disposition of Ordinances & Resolutions**

Mr. D'Antonio introduced Ordinance No. 2016-94, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 143, C.O.S., ENTITLED "FIRE DEPARTMENT", PARTICULARLY SECTION 143.02 THEREOF, ENTITLED "FIRE FORCE", TO CHANGE THE TITLE OF DIVISION FIRE CHIEF TO ASSISTANT CHIEF AND ALLOW FOR ONE POSITION INSTEAD OF TWO.

which was read by title by the Clerk for the first time.

Mr. D'Antonio moved and Mr. Pribonic seconded for the suspension of rules.

Yes Votes: Adaska, Costello, D'Antonio, Lowdermilk,  
Pribonic, Razor & Riehl

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

Mr. D'Antonio moved and Mr. Costello seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 2016-94.

Yes Votes: Adaska, Costello, D'Antonio, Lowdermilk,  
Pribonic, Rasor & Riehl

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2016-94 was declared to be adopted by Council and, upon its signature by the Mayor, shall take effect in thirty (30) days.

Mr. D'Antonio introduced Ordinance No. 2016-95, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2008-128, WHICH ENACTED A NEW COMPENSATION AND FRINGE BENEFIT PLAN FOR GENERAL FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF STOW, OHIO, BY CHANGING THE TITLE OF THE POSITION OF DIVISION CHIEF TO ASSISTANT CHIEF.

which was read by title by the Clerk for the first time.

Mr. D'Antonio moved and Mr. Pribonic seconded for the suspension of rules.

Yes Votes: Adaska, Costello, D'Antonio, Lowdermilk,  
Pribonic, Rasor & Riehl

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

Mr. D'Antonio moved and Mr. Pribonic seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 2016-95.

Yes Votes: Adaska, Costello, D'Antonio, Lowdermilk,  
Pribonic, Rasor & Riehl

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2016-95 was declared to be adopted by Council and, upon its signature by the Mayor, shall take effect in thirty (30) days.

Mr. Rasor introduced Ordinance No. 2016-103, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A MORATORIUM ON APPLICATIONS FOR, AND THE GRANTING OF, ZONING CERTIFICATES FOR ANY BUILDING, STRUCTURE, USE OR CHANGE OF USE THAT WOULD ENABLE THE CULTIVATION, PROCESSING, DISTRIBUTION OR SALE OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED 12 MONTHS IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE CITY TO REVIEW APPLICABLE STATE AND LOCAL LAWS, TO PLAN FOR REGULATIONS RELATING TO SUCH USES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

which was read by title by the Clerk for the first time.

Mr. Rasor moved and Mr. Riehl seconded for the suspension of rules.

Yes Votes: Adaska, Costello, D'Antonio, Lowdermilk,  
Pribonic, Rasor & Riehl

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Rasor moved and Mr. Costello seconded for the adoption of Ordinance No. 2016-103.

Mr. Adaska stated earlier in Committee Mr. Costello had made an amendment to go from six months to twelve months. He thought twelve months was too long.

He had looked on the Internet this afternoon and a couple of days ago as well. Most communities were adopting these. Their Councils were all passing them at six months.

He thought if six months was not enough time, they could come back and extend it to twelve months. However, when they made it twelve months right out-of-the-gate like that, it seemed like they were telling the people that wanted to push that forward who had already talked to the State of Ohio and gotten approval, now they were going to have to fight the City of Stow because they didn't want them. That was what it sounded like to him.

He was not on either side of the issue, he was just saying that right now currently the CIC and the City were looking for ways to improve business in the city and bring in more tax dollars. Who knows, this might be an avenue for that – we don't know. It might be able to be done in a safe manner.

He thought six months was what most communities were asking for right now until it was delved into a little bit more. He thought twelve months was just telling any investors to stay out, we don't want you. That was his opinion.

Mr. Costello stated first of all it says a period not to exceed twelve months, so any time within that twelve month period if there was a decision made by the law department and the administration of what they wanted to do, they could come forth with that.

The reason he had asked for an additional six months was because they had the elections coming up in November and nobody was going to do anything until after the first of the year, so they had already lost basically four months out of the six months. That was why he had suggested they go to twelve months.

Mr. Razor stated he wasn't passing judgment whatsoever on the merits of medical marijuana, but he thought it was important not to allow this anywhere in Stow until they knew how a dispensary might affect nearby residential and retail properties.

Yes Votes: Adaska, Costello, D'Antonio, Lowdermilk,  
Pribonic, Razor & Riehl

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2016-103 was declared to be adopted by Council and, upon its signature by the Mayor, shall take effect immediately.

Mr. Riehl introduced Resolution No. 2016-104, entitled:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CITY OF STOW APPLICATION FOR A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FOR A STREET RESURFACING AND STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ON HIBBARD DRIVE THROUGH THE SUMMIT COUNTY'S 2017 CDBG PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

which was read by title by the Clerk for the first time.

Mr. Riehl moved and Mr. Pribonic seconded for the suspension of rules.

Yes Votes: Adaska, Costello, D'Antonio, Lowdermilk,  
Pribonic, Razor & Riehl

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Riehl moved and Mr. Pribonic seconded for the adoption of Resolution No. 2016-104.

Yes Votes: Adaska, Costello, D'Antonio, Lowdermilk,  
Pribonic, Rasor & Riehl

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

Resolution No. 2016-104 was declared to be adopted by Council and, upon its signature by the Mayor, shall take effect immediately.

Mr. Riehl introduced Resolution No. 2016-105, entitled:

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND APPROVING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE SUMMIT COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION; AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER FOR 2017 COLLECTION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

which was read by title by the Clerk for the first time.

Mr. Riehl moved and Mr. Pribonic seconded for the suspension of rules.

Yes Votes: Adaska, Costello, D'Antonio, Lowdermilk,  
Pribonic, Rasor & Riehl

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

Mr. Riehl moved and Mr. D'Antonio seconded for the adoption of Resolution No. 2016-105.

Yes Votes: Adaska, Costello, D'Antonio, Lowdermilk,  
Pribonic, Rasor & Riehl

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

Resolution No. 2016-105 was declared to be adopted by Council and, upon its signature by the Mayor, shall take effect immediately.

### **Disposition of Bills**

#### **MOTION:**

Mr. Riehl moved and Mr. Costello seconded to approve the release of the checks for the current Bill Listing.

Yes Votes: Adaska, Costello, D'Antonio, Lowdermilk,  
Pribonic, Rasor & Riehl

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

### **Committee Meetings Scheduled**

Planning Committee  
Thursday, October 13, 2016  
at 5:30 p.m.

Public Improvements Committee  
Thursday, October 13, 2016  
to Follow the Planning Committee

Finance Committee  
Thursday, October 13, 2016  
To Follow the Public Improvements Committee

City Council  
Thursday, October 13, 2016  
at 7:00 p.m.

**Recess**

Mr. Razor stated they weren't going to adjourn this meeting, they were simply going to recess it until 7:00 p.m. when the other two City Councils arrive and the Mayors give their presentation.

The way he proposed to do that was to allow the Mayors to take it away, give their presentation, go thru each City Council one-by-one, letting everyone fire away with questions, then run thru the City Councils again in case there were follow-up questions, and allow questions and comments from the audience.

**MOTION:**

Mr. Riehl moved and Mr. Adaska seconded to recess the Council Meeting until 7:00 p.m.

Yes Votes: Adaska, Costello, D'Antonio, Lowdermilk,  
Pribonic, Razor & Riehl

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 6:13 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was turned over to Cuyahoga Falls Council President Mary Ellen Pyke so she could call her meeting to order.

Ms. Pyke stated it was 7:00 p.m. on September 20, 2016. She called the Cuyahoga Falls City Council Meeting to order.

Cuyahoga Falls Council Members present were: Paul Colavecchio, Victor Pallotta, Jerry James, Carol Klinger, Mary Nichol-Rhodes, Jeff Iula, Mary Ellen Pyke, Adam Miller, Russ Iona & Vince Rubino.

Cuyahoga Falls City Officials present were: Mayor Don Walters, Law Director Russell W. Balthis, Director of Information Services John Konich, Police Chief Jack Davis, Fire Chief Paul Moledor and Assistant Fire Chief Fred Jackson.

Ms. Pyke stated for the record, they had a quorum present.

Tonight they had been asked by the Administration to hold a Special Council Meeting to discuss the City of Stow, City of Cuyahoga Falls and City of Tallmadge forming a consolidated telecommunications center. For tonight's meeting, they would consider this a Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting, which she would chair. She turned the meeting over to City of Tallmadge Council President James M. Donovan.

Since Mr. Donovan had not yet arrived, the City of Tallmadge Vice President of Council Carol Kilway called the Special Tallmadge City Council Meeting to order. It was 7:01 p.m.

Tallmadge City Council Members present were: Carol Kilway, Kimberly F. Ray, John D. Rensel, Craig Sisak, Gene Stalnaker, Mary Tricaso and James M. Donovan arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Tallmadge City Officials present were: Mayor David G. Kline

Ms. Kilway stated they were also here for the presentation for the Stow/Cuyahoga Falls/Tallmadge Regional Dispatch Center. She turned the meeting over to City of Stow Council President Mike Rasor.

Mr. Rasor turned the meeting over to whichever Mayor wanted to bat leadoff on this proposal.

The Regional Dispatch Center Committee Members present were: Stow Mayor Sara Kline, Cuyahoga Falls Mayor Don Walters, Tallmadge Mayor David Kline, Senior Administrator of the Summit County Emergency Management Agency Valerie DeRose, Stow Dispatch Supervisor Ginger Hatfield, Stow Fire Captain Paul Amonett, Cuyahoga Falls Finance Director Bryan Hoffman, Cuyahoga Falls Director of Information Services John Konich, Cuyahoga Falls Law Director Russell W. Balthis, Stow Law Director Amber K. Zibritosky, Cuyahoga Falls Fire Chief Paul Moledor, Cuyahoga Falls Police Chief Jack Davis, Stow Police Chief Jeff Film, Cuyahoga Falls Assistant Fire Chief Fred Jackson and other Administrative and Technical Members that did not speak.

Mayor Sara Kline welcomed everyone to Stow City Hall. She thanked everyone for coming here this evening.

If people were visitors, she wanted them to know that they were welcome. She hoped they would make themselves comfortable. If they were in need of facilities, they were down-the-hall just past the reception desk to the left. There was also a water fountain and a small cafeteria with pop machines in there.

If people came in and they were out of copies of the PowerPoint Presentation, they had had some made last minute. So, if people did not get a paper copy of the PowerPoint Presentation, copies were now on the back table.

As had been mentioned, the purpose of tonight was to talk about a possible proposal to form a regional cooperative dispatch center. That was something that Stow, Cuyahoga Falls and Tallmadge have been discussing for a very long time.

In years past, many people would probably remember that there had been several iterations of discussions on the possibility of forming a regional dispatch. At the time, the timing wasn't right so it didn't come to fruition. However, here they were at it again.

They believed that the timing was right now. They believed now was the time to put their resources together to form a cooperative dispatch center to benefit their mutual cities, citizens and first responders.

One of the things that was evident was that dispatch was an essential service to all communities. It was imperative that all people who were impacted, whether they be residents, businesses, visitors or first responders, have reliable, quality and a responsive dispatch center.

There really weren't any functions of local government that were more critical than dispatch, because without dispatch, their fire and police departments couldn't function effectively and they really needed to find the most cost-effective and efficient ways to solve the costs that were rising, staffing mandates and also meet the level of service that all of the stakeholders have come to expect and rightfully so deserve.

Mayor Sara Drew turned the meeting over to Cuyahoga Falls Mayor Don Walters.

Mayor Walters thanked everyone for meeting here this evening. Yes, they have been discussing this for probably about a year. There were a lot of reasons. They would cover this evening why they felt the time was right to do this with the large investments that they had to make respectively and they would rather do together.

Just a little background, if you don't know, currently both Stow and Cuyahoga Falls operate their own separate dispatch centers - Cuyahoga Falls' center being in their newest station, Fire Station No. 5, and Stow's center being next door at the Safety Center. Neither of those locations could combine and allow for any growth, so they had to look for a neutral location where they could all come together.

Right now the size of who they dispatch for is: Stow handles about 62,000 and they dispatch for the City of Tallmadge, Village of Mogadore and Randolph Township Fire Department; and Cuyahoga Falls handles about 56,500 and they dispatch for the City of Munroe Falls and the Village of Silver Lake in addition to their City. Combined the two would have roughly 26 employees (15 from Stow and 11 from Cuyahoga Falls). That could change in the near future by one or two.

When you combine dispatch centers, it would allow a lot of things. Down-the-road it would allow efficiency, obviously, in staffing. More importantly, and he didn't know if it would be covered later on by the safety forces, but they had had some crises where they had to assemble at their dispatch center. One was the flood in 2014.

At any given time, they have two employees, they could have a minimum of two, working the dispatch center. They have to man the phones and there are a lot of calls coming in, however, they only have two of the professionals there at that time. If they were combined, they were looking at probably four or five to handle that crises if need be. They hoped that never happened, but they would have the capability of more employees to be there on-site at any one given time instead of being at separate locations.

That was just a background on who they dispatched for currently.

Mrs. Hatfield stated she was currently the Dispatch Supervisor for Stow. She also participated in a lot of committees and was involved in a lot of the things in the county that have to do with 911.

As many of them knew, they, as Summit County, were under some state mandates for PSAPs. PSAPs are public safety answering points. Stow was a PSAP and Cuyahoga Falls was a PSAP.

ORC 128.571 mandates that each county is limited in the number of wireless 911 answering PSAPs that may be funded from the 911 Local Government Assistance Fund. So, right now, Stow and Cuyahoga Falls each receive money monthly based on cell phone billings. It amounts to anywhere from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per month. They were each receiving that right now.

Summit County was currently allowed to fund five wireless answering PSAPs. Those were currently Akron, the Summit County Sheriff's Office, Swisscom (which was Copley, Barberton and Norton), Stow and Cuyahoga Falls. Honestly, you don't have to be Einstein to look at a map, see the future and see that Stow and Cuyahoga Falls sitting right next to each other are probably not going to each maintain that funding.

Come January 1, 2018, that law stipulates that they may only fund four wireless answering PSAPs, so, come January 1, 2018, she thought Stow or Cuyahoga Falls logically, one of them, was going to lose the money if they don't combine.

Our Legislators have formed a Steering Committee, which had been established to kind of make recommendations for consolidation of PSAPs. It was supposed to accelerate the reduction in the number of PSAPs eligible for funding and accommodate next Gen 911 technology.

They have also been working on the PSAP's Operation Rules, which they had actually recently passed. They did have some time to come into compliance. Everybody has to be in compliance by May 12, 2018. Some things that go along with these PSAP's Operation Rules are minimum staffing, training and technology requirements.



She knew they were feeling the pressure, but the Legislators really had good intentions when they were passing these laws. They really want every resident to get the same level of care and service across the state. They don't want a smaller PSAP to deliver less care than a larger one. So even though they kind of felt like they were in tough times, their intentions were good.

If they were to consolidate Stow and Cuyahoga Falls, they could meet that January 1, 2018 deadline of getting down to four wireless answering PSAPs.

The cost of needed upgrades for dispatch radio consoles, 911 telephony software and CAD have escalated to a point where joint costs would be more economical. They were all faced with software and hardware that was nearing their life expectancy. Stow and Cuyahoga Falls were kind of in the same boat with that. So the question was do they replace them separately or do they replace them together?

Ms. DeRose stated she was with Summit County Emergency Management. Her roll was on the 911 Coordinators, so she was not affiliated with any communications center. She just wanted to give them a little brief background on how public safety answering points have come about in Summit County.

Back in May of 1988, they had 18 primary public safety answering points and 3 secondary. Now they were down to 12. As Mrs. Hatfield had talked about, the State Legislators had the best in mind for the public, but they didn't understand how dispatch goes. To them they see consolidated dispatch. They were pushing for that. So the dispatchers are charged to do more with less.

They see the funding changing. They see the requirements changing. They see the technology changing. However, they didn't see anything slowing down in the centers. They knew that the Legislators, the way they are now, maybe in a year or two would be pushing them even more to consolidate.

Like Mrs. Hatfield had said, because of the size of Summit County, they were allowed to have five public safety answering points that receive funding. In a-year-and-a-half, they will be allowed to have four public safety answering points that receive funding. Two more years after that they don't know what they are going to be able to receive.

The bottom line thru the conversation is this is the time now for everyone to make their own destiny and be pro-active instead of waiting to be forced into something.

Captain Amonett stated he was with the Stow Fire Department. They were going to talk briefly about how the system works and how they got here.

There were two things they were going to hear consistently thru this process. One was cost-savings or if not cost-savings, a better use of your money as far as getting better service or better product to the consumer who called 911, or that when they were building and when they were buying, bigger was better. Mrs. Hatfield had talked about the cost of this stuff being so expensive that there was an economy of scale with the money.

The other thing was time constraints. They have had some constraints put on them timewise that were kind of out-of-their-control but drive them towards doing this now versus doing it five years, eight years or ten years from now.

A dispatch system, Stow's personnel and Cuyahoga Falls' personnel, was essentially made-up of three specific pieces of equipment. They have a radio system, a CAD computer dispatch computer system and a phone system. Some of these upgrades are coming up right now, which was what makes this the time to do this.

The radio system was currently reaching an end-of-life or end-of-service-life. Motorola was here in the room. They could answer questions about that if they would like to talk

to them. But, ultimately, where the radio system was was they are being driven to upgrade. This upgrade was a much more robust, much more sophisticated and much safer system for public safety.

On the other hand, they were making this move in the 2016, 2017 and the outside 2018 time frame and they had to do it ultimately or the radios wouldn't work. They were making that move.

So one would argue that if you were going to do this and if the Falls has to do this since they were in the exact same position as they were, then if they were going to make this move, it made sense to do it one time, set this equipment up and move to it versus having to move it or trying to orchestrate this in two separate operations. So, there was some value in doing this on a schedule if they could accommodate that.

The replacement cost of this equipment was the same if they did it separately or they did it the same. For the radio system, as an example, they were going to pay either way as far as Cuyahoga Falls and Stow went. There was a cost involved in maintaining a dispatch system.

Community dispatch or the software that drives CAD, their system, Stow had managed to pull off a significant and pretty unique economical upgrade. They were here last year and had spoken with City Council. They were able to do that thru Kent State University. They helped them put together a much more economical package to a significant cost savings.

They would like to explore in this joint dispatch center doing that across-the-board. Otherwise, at some point, their partners in Cuyahoga Falls were looking for a very expensive CAD upgrade. By yourself, stand alone, it was a very pricey piece of software to purchase.

The phone equipment was probably the easiest one to explain. At some point, both Cuyahoga and Stow have to purchase a phone system. If they buy one phone system, it is less than two. So, at the end of the day when you upgrade phone systems, if he had to put one in one building and one down-the-street, he could just buy one that was maybe just a little bit more money. There was a direct cost-savings there as far as their capital output and making their purchasing went.

To keep this brief, the radio upgrades they were going to do either way. They were either going to do them independently or collectively individually, but either way, they were going to buy that equipment. He would much rather buy it, move it into the new facility with a clean cut-over with training and no loss of service to anyone's residence versus trying to do this in their existing radio rooms.

There was a clear cost-savings with the CAD model that they used and a clear cost-savings in not buying duplicate phone equipment. And, ultimately, as Ms. DeRose had talked about the State and PSAP money, not only does the money go away, but at some point the State who wants to drive this consolidation will find other means to drive consolidation.

If the money wasn't enough motivation, they would find some other way to drive them towards consolidating and they were right next door to each other. If they were going to consolidate, it was the two of them and it needs to be on some time frame when they could do this around the phone and radio upgrades.

Mayor Sara Kline stated that Captain Amonett, Ms. DeRose and Mrs. Hatfield had already touched on it, but just to reiterate, some of the cost-savings and cost-sharing that they were really looking at were driven by on-going operational efficiencies if they combine and initial capital savings, using as an example what Captain Amonett just said about the phone systems, and also cost-avoidance for all parties.

Whether you have a contract, like Tallmadge does with Stow, or whether you are a primary PSAP, like Stow and Cuyahoga Falls, we all have costs and we all would like to not only be efficient with the money we have to spend, but have as much cost-avoidance in the future as we can.

The other item that they really wanted to drive home to the public and to everyone here was yes, dollars and cents were very important in this equation. Certainly they were a large factor in the decision-making process. However, at the end of the day, when someone relies on 911 because he is a person having a medical emergency, he is a person that needs the aid of the police department or he is a first responder in the field who relies on dispatch as his life-line to safety, it is imperative, it is absolutely critical, that we have a high-quality responsive dispatch center to address all of those needs.

She could guarantee that right now, in Cuyahoga Falls and in Stow, we have those kinds of dispatch centers. If we are unable to control our own destiny and as Captain Amonett, Ms. DeRose and Mrs. Hatfield talked about, we are forced to make decisions that perhaps we don't want to, we may find ourselves receiving dispatch services as a community from dispatch centers that are not where we want to be.

That was very important. Mayor Walters, Mayor David Kline and her had talked about that for a long time. A really important piece of this is to be able to control our own destiny going back to the critical importance of dispatch.

Mr. Russ Balthis stated he was the Law Director for the City of Cuyahoga Falls. He was asked to talk a little bit about if they decided to go forward with this, how would they structure it legally? He and Mrs. Zibritosky had talked about that at length.

There were two real ways they could look at it. One option, which he would talk about first, was one that they currently used and they were all very familiar with, was service contracts. That was currently how the City of Stow dispatches for the City of Tallmadge. Stow operates a dispatch center and Tallmadge has a contract with the City of Stow for dispatch services. The City of Cuyahoga Falls does the exact same thing for the City of Munroe Falls and the Village of Silver Lake. That was one option.

Another option was what they called a Council of Governments. That was the option that Mrs. Zibritosky and him definitely would recommend for the group. It was something that was established by the Ohio Revised Code. There was a process that each community would have to go thru to create this entity and it was a separate political entity. It was something that a lot of the communities that have created dispatch centers in northeastern Ohio have used and around the State. A working group has met with the Red Center and Swisscom to talk about it.

When you ask yourself why would you want to go with a COG over a service contract, there were a few big factors that they looked at? First, with a COG, they feel that that is a better position to spread out liability between the communities to where if you have one City that is providing the services in the contract, it is a little bit harder to gauge liability. With a COG it was more even split. They also feel that a COG works better for potential growth to other communities, as opposed to trying to work with one municipality in a contract relationship.

He thought probably the biggest thing, the good thing about a COG, was that it would form a Council of Governments, which would have a representative, say the Mayor of Cuyahoga Falls, the Mayor of Stow and the Mayor of Tallmadge, and it provides stability. That was the entity that would govern the COG, so if one Mayor were to change as the result of term limits or whatever, the COG itself would stay predominantly the same. There wouldn't be a complete change like you would go thru in the case of a service contract.

They would be happy to answer more questions as they moved on about this, but Mrs. Zibritosky was going to talk a little bit about how a COG is formed and then labor implications with their employees.

Mrs. Zibritosky stated she was the Law Director for the City of Stow. When it comes to actually forming the COG, each member would form an agreement which would establish the COG, talk about how the membership would be represented and talk about the purpose of the COG.

From there, once the COG was formed, the COG would then establish its own bylaws. The bylaws would do things like discuss how the governing procedure would work and how each entity may withdraw, because once they created the COG, they would have an option – they don't have to be part of it forever if it's not working. So it would create a withdrawal process.

It would also create a membership process – how they might add in new members. It would also appoint a fiscal officer and designate how the officers were going to be selected and how to amend the bylaws.

Another important thing that the bylaws would eventually do was it would set-up a schedule of fees and dues. It would at least create a formula for how to do that. Then, once the COG operates, it would create its own schedule and that would be what each member would pay into the COG.

Of course, the COG would also have to make an annual report to each City, each City Council, of all of its activities of that year. So each City and each member would be fully kept apprised of what the COG was doing.

Some important points that she wanted to make sure everybody knew, in terms of Councils, because they had each City Council here, was one the formation agreements would have to go thru each member's Councils. So nothing could be done without it going thru the Councils first.

Another touch was before any money was appropriated to the COG, each member had the option to donate money, services and/or pay the schedule of dues. That appropriation would have to go thru the member's Councils.

Also, the Cities would have to individually, whether they were a member City or they contract with other Cities, which was also an option, that City Council would have to approve any contract for services with the COG – the contracting for dispatching services.

Then, of course, if a member wanted to withdraw from the COG, that City Council would have to approve that withdrawal process.

So, there were several different touch points overall that would involve each member's Councils and the whole Cities, but essentially a COG would still be its own separate entity, would create its own bylaws, would create its own governance of its own employees and all of that.

Then they had the labor matters. As a separate entity, it would be a separate employer. What does that mean for them? Specifically for Stow and Cuyahoga Falls, they each have separate dispatching employees. They each have separate contracts with their bargaining units. Those contracts would cease to exist once they formed the COG and moved. They would then be employed by the COG.

How does that work? They would essentially terminate the existing contracts and then once the employees were employed by the COG, the dispatchers could then determine if they wanted to organize. If they die, they would have to follow all of the procedures with the State's Employment Relations Board and then, once all that was completed, they would essentially bargain with the COG.

Then they would have a separate bargaining agreement that would be between the COG, as the employer, and the new dispatching entity. There would be some changes

ultimately. However, it would be similar in the sense that they would still have dispatching employees that were represented most likely by a labor union.

Mayor Sara Kline stated one thing she wanted to make crystal clear to everyone who was listening, everyone in the room and everyone who may be listening at home, was that Mayor Walters and her were committed and have pledged that if you have a job in the dispatch center today in Stow or Cuyahoga Falls and you want a job in the dispatch center that may be formed under a COG, you will have that job.

She wanted to be very clear that they had high-quality dispatchers and they needed those dispatchers to run a potential combined dispatch center. She recognized that there may be people who were close to retirement or for whatever other reasons may choose not to seek employment with the new entity should it be formed, but Mayor Walters and her wanted to make sure that there was no misunderstanding about that fact - that if you have a job today in Stow or Cuyahoga Falls as a dispatcher, you will have a job if you want it in the new dispatch center that may be formed under the COG.

She knew there were a lot of dispatchers here with their families. She just wanted to make sure that they knew that that was very important to her, Mayor Walters and Mayor David Kline as well. He certainly was in full agreement of that too.

Mr. Hoffman, the City of Cuyahoga Falls' Finance Director, stated this was all great, but you need a place to actually come to work and you need a place to dispatch from. He had been intimately involved in the process. It was a process because both Stow and Cuyahoga Falls operate a dispatch center. They currently had roughly five consoles each. He knew that their dispatch center in Cuyahoga Falls was fairly new in the fire department and they had capability to expand in that dispatch center.

The first step to their process was looking at if they could do this within the two dispatch centers that they currently operate. The dispatch center in Cuyahoga Falls could go up to about ten potential consoles. He thought Stow's could house just about the same number.

When they started looking at that and looking at a COG or the opportunity to expand, because they really felt this would be a very regional type dispatch operation, they felt that even ten consoles may not be enough. They needed the room to expand even further than ten consoles.

So they started looking for a separate location. They started looking for a place that they thought would be something that would be easily accessible from a variety of different places within Summit County as well as in a central location.

They started with three separate buildings using that type of criteria. One was the Stow Board of Education's property, one was the NEONet building on Graham Road (which is almost catty-corner from Krieger's) and the Summit County Health Department's building. Those were the three buildings that they thought could house this regional dispatch center.

They toured all three. The Stow Board of Education's property was tossed out pretty quickly. It just didn't have what they were looking for. However, the NEONet and the Summit County Health Department's buildings really had close connectivity to their fiber, were central locations between Cuyahoga Falls and Stow and had what they needed to build a regional dispatch center.

So they asked Motorola to take a look at both those locations. Once they got into the Summit County Health Department's building they noticed that the cost would be quite a bit less with that building, mostly due to walls, office space and those types of things that were already built into that building. Plus they really liked the location because it was right next to S.R. 8 and was easily accessible from a variety of places, because if they expand, they really want accessibility from S.R. 8. Therefore, they really focused in on that building.

After they began to look at that building they began to engage the Summit County Health Department in terms of a lease agreement. They have somewhat of a very rough draft right now. There are still some terms to be worked out.

However, what they really liked about the Summit County Health Department was they were another government entity that has been really open to them going into that facility. Their Board has been very flexible in wanting them to be there and they really only wanted to cover their costs in that building, which was providing them a very low cost option to house the dispatch center.

They were very open when they asked, because this was going to be a long-term dispatch center, if they were ever able to sell the building, what would happen? They said that they would be able to offer it to them first. So the selection process for the Health Department's building was the best option available to move a dispatch center into.

He had passed out a diagram of the potential layout of the Health Department's building (a copy of which is attached to these minutes). They had sort of put consoles in there. They could easily fit 16 consoles into that dispatch center for expansion in the future. That was the proposed layout that they would have on the table for them.

Mrs. Zibritosky stated essentially they had talked about the formation of the agreement – each member's Council was going to have to pass legislation forming the COG and then become members. She believed that their time frame was to actually get the COG established by the end of the year. From there, they would go forward and create the bylaws and the governing body would then be able to do some of the things that they had to do regarding possibly contracting with the Summit County Health District for a location, trying to secure a lot of the purchasing agreements for the equipment that's needed, etc. Then, of course, bring forth appropriation legislation and a schedule of fees for what each Council and each member City would have to do from there.

The first goal they have is to actually create the COG by the end of the year. She didn't know all of the deadlines that they had to meet in the law, but she knew that by 2018 there was a lot that they had to accomplish. That was the first goal. From there, they were going to have to move pretty quickly on creating the bylaws and getting the funding that they needed from there.

Mayor David Kline, from the City of Tallmadge, wanted to thank the Councils. This was historic. He had been working for the City of Tallmadge for 38 years as a Councilman, so he knew what they were going thru. He knew their Council had gone thru it in 2008. However, what a historic event to have all of these Councils here in one room to talk about such an important thing – the best thing that they could provide to their residents. That was really what they were all here about.

He could truly tell them that merging dispatch centers works. The City of Tallmadge, in 2008, went thru this process, should they join a COG with Stow and all the surrounding communities or should they go under contract? At that time, they elected to go with a contract.

He could truly say that Tallmadge had not skipped a beat. Yes it was scary. He had police departments and dispatchers there. He was the Service Director at that time. He was not on Council at that time. However, they went thru that.

There were ads in the Columbus Express and in the Stow Sentry saying that the world was going to fall apart. He was happy to say that they were here today to say that Tallmadge Dispatch was not falling apart. They had excellent dispatchers. A lot of their dispatchers from Tallmadge were still with Stow.

It works. It was very good for the communities. Now was the perfect time. When they did it in 2008, it was very difficult because really they weren't talking much about COGs, joining dispatch centers and things like that. Collaboration was just starting in the forefront.

This was a perfect opportunity. They were mandated to do something. So Tallmadge Council has a unique opportunity. Do they sit back and just be a contractor or do they want to be a piece of it and joint the COG? He thought that was what they were here to say.

He thought the COG, from his aspect, for their safety forces and for their residents was really the best way to go. He wanted the 18,000 people in Tallmadge to have the confidence that they were here for the betterment of all, not only Tallmadge, but Stow, Cuyahoga Falls, Mogadore, Munroe Falls and Silver Lake. It wasn't just the three entities who were here, it was a much larger picture. It was going to happen. Something was going to happen going down. Together they would be stronger and better.

If anybody would like to see the potential new dispatch center, the Summit County Health Department's facility on Graham Road, there was going to be an Open House on September 27, 2016, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. He invited anyone interested in touring the facility to do so at that time.

Mayor Walters stated that the Cuyahoga Falls and Stow Dispatchers were very respected in the County. They have been getting calls from other Mayors and other entities just on hearing rumblings of what they were looking to do, that want to already join in. It was all about regionalization where they could share resources and spread that cost out because they want to provide the best service at the lowest cost.

To do that, they do need regionalization. Mayors and other entities have been calling both him and Mayor Sara Kline who were interested just in hearing what they were doing. So this could be bigger than what they were talking about tonight. Bigger isn't always better, but bigger usually equates to more savings because you spread out that cost as well.

The only reason that is is because there are 12 dispatch centers currently in the County. Cuyahoga Falls and Stow are very well respected. Tallmadge is in with Stow. So that is why people would gravitate towards this COG if it is formed, just because of the professional work that they do. He just wanted people to know that there is a lot of interest outside of just who is in this room.

Mayor Sara Kline stated that all of the members of the respective Administrations represented wanted to say thank you to all of them for their time and attention. She only half-jokingly always said that dispatch was one of the things that she truly never thought she would need or know anything about in her life. However, in the past several years, she had learned more about dispatch than she had ever could have imagined. She was sure many of them felt like they had gotten a crash course this evening in all things dispatch. They appreciated people's time and attention.

The bottom line is if this is an idea that you agree with them is worthy of pursuit, they need your assistance, cooperation and legislative approval. This truly is, as Mayor Walters and Mayor David Kline had talked about earlier, about all of our communities. It is about our residents, our visitors, our businesses and our first responders, so they need them to participate in this with them and they need them to go on this dispatch journey with them and be full a partner in this process.

They thanked everyone for their time and consideration this evening. They were going to open up the meeting for questions and discussions. She knew Mr. Razor had a plan on how he was going to do that with the City Councils. After they were done with questions and discussion from City Council Members, there would be an opportunity for questions and comments from the audience.

Ms. Berkey, in the back of the room, would be walking around with a microphone when they got to the public comment time. If people were interested during that time in asking a question or making a comment, they should please raise their hand and Ms. Berkey would come around with a microphone.

Mayor Sara Kline turned the meeting over to Stow Council President Rasor.

Mr. Rasor stated that he liked baseball analogies, so he was going to put it this way. They were going to do two innings. Stow would bat last as the home team, but they would give each Council two chances to ask questions, because he was sure people would think of other things after hearing some of the questions.

Mr. Rasor turned the meeting over to President of Council Donovan, of Tallmadge City Council, to allow him to call on members of his Council to ask questions. He thought there were enough microphones they could pass around to hopefully get everyone's questions answered.

Mr. Donovan wanted to echo what Mayor David Kline had said. Their process of going thru and having Stow handle their dispatch was really pretty seamless. There weren't too many bumps. He didn't really recall having any problems. There was a lot of discussion and a lot of fear, but it all went pretty smooth.

(Due to a microphone malfunction, some of Ms. Ray's and Mr. Rensel's comments were inaudible.)

Ms. Ray, Tallmadge City Councilwoman At-Large, applauded the Committee for the work they had done. The City Council People, at least in the City of Tallmadge, knew that regionalization works, because it does work for Tallmadge.

Even though they were going down to four centers that would be funded, and eventually in the future there could be three centers, she asked if they had explored the idea of forming a county-wide dispatch center, including the Summit County Sheriff's Department and the City of Akron?

Mayor Sara Kline stated she would start and then Mrs. DeRose could jump in a little bit. To answer Ms. Ray's question, they had had conversations with a number of entities. They also have some upcoming meetings. She and Mayor Walters had a meeting next week with some county officials.

However, at this point in time, for a variety of reasons related to scale and quality of service, they were focusing on northern Summit County with the potential for, based on the outcome of their conversation with county officials, maybe a county agency that might be interested.

So, her answer is directly no, they haven't explored the idea of a full county-wide, but they were certainly making every effort to make it as broad as they could make it and still be manageable and maintain the level of service that they currently had.

Ms. DeRose just wanted to add that several years ago they had hosted Summit on Dispatch where they talked about the new radio system, how they all went to the 800 trunking and the future of 911. So the answer is yes. The County has always looked at that.

Executive Pry was very pro-active. They were now updating Executive Shapiro. She was going thru the lessons learned like Mayor Sara Kline has done. She couldn't speak for any of the individual 31 political subdivisions, but there has always been on-going conversations. So, she would say yes the door is always open and they all want to work with their partners.

Ms. Ray stated while she appreciated them providing them with proposed capital costs, she noticed that there were no costs in there for people. She would appreciate being provided with more details.

Mr. Hoffman stated, concerning the cost that he had provided on the sheet he had passed out (a copy of which is attached to these minutes), what he wanted to do there was to show, because there were a lot of ifs, what ifs and those types of questions still



out there and they have to really drill down to specifics on a lot of these things, in the \$1,490,000 quoted number, that was an actual quote from Motorola. They could provide that quote to them.

What he had wanted to show in the capital costs structure was kind of what both dispatch centers were facing in total costs – if they did nothing and maintained dispatch centers exactly the way that the operations are currently running today. Then, he wanted to kind of contrast that with capital costs if they were to combine and put a joint dispatch center together.

Captain Amonett had mentioned that Stow has taken one step towards regionalization – that was moving to the Kent State University's system for CAD, which was a cost-savings in and of itself. They were hoping that Cuyahoga Falls could do something very similar to that. They had had some preliminary discussions and they were open to that. He thought that would work quite well.

As costs come into light and as they move forward on this they would be happy to continually update the Councils on costs and what those are as they move forward.

Ms. Ray stated that her final question was regarding the forming of the COG, how would those costs be allocated...and as more members come into the COG, how would they be a part and would any money be rebated to the original members of the COG?

Mayor Sara Kline stated loosely, and she was sure the law and finance directors would jump in, there were two components to this. One would be an original capital buy-in, if that was the right term, for founding members of the COG. That was likely going to be a formula based on population as well as percentage of share. A combination of those two seems to be the most fair way to do it.

So if down-the-road they have another entity, and she was just going to use our friends in Hudson as an example, please don't read into that, they are just using them as an example because they are about the same size as us, if Hudson was to join two years from now and they were to come in as a capital buy-in, then the plan would be yes – to amortize the capital costs that we have already spent minus, obviously, two years of depreciation, and then rebate or somehow reallocate those back into their on-going operating costs.

Bear in mind she was not a finance director, so she was sure she was using incorrect terminology to some degree, but yes, the long story short, the more partners we can bring in, eventually the lower each founding member's capital costs will be.

For on-going operational costs, that is going to likely be a formula between call volume and population. The challenge with simply doing calls for service is not all calls for service are the same. Different communities have different kinds of calls for service. For example Cuyahoga Falls runs its own utility company. The City of Stow does not. Their dispatch center handles calls for utilities. We do not. So it is not really apples-to-apples to simply do it on calls for service.

As we have talked thru this, it is our belief that if this is formed, larger entities, like Stow, Cuyahoga Falls, Tallmadge, maybe Hudson and places like that, would want to be full voting partners. Smaller entities that join may only want to be contractual members. She would anticipate that it would be a slightly higher per call cost if you were simply a service member, a contracted agency, as opposed to someone who has an investment in the capital side.

Mr. Balthis stated he had very little to add. However, he wanted to note that the fee structure would be something that would be approved by the COG. That would be the Board. So, whoever the members of the COG's Board were, whether it be the two Mayor Klines and Mayor Walters, they would have to vote and approve what that would be. Then that offer would kind of go to the Cities and the Cities would have to accept it,

much like how Tallmadge would negotiate with Stow today on their costs and services and the same way that Cuyahoga Falls negotiates with Silver Lake and Munroe Falls.

Mr. Rensel, Tallmadge City Councilman At-Large, stated they had been talking a lot of cost-savings in a COG. Ultimately they were responsible to the people who elected them and they weren't concerned as much about cost-savings upfront, they were concerned about efficiency of services. He asked what would happen to them?

This came up when they were working with Stow in 2008, what was going to happen to response times? What does this entity have as a measuring board to provide and insure Tallmadge residents that services would remain the high quality that has been stated?

Mayor David Kline stated Mr. Rensel had asked a great question. Their No. 1 priority here was to provide the service to their residents. They had been fortunate to do that with a good contract with the City of Stow.

As a COG member, he thought their safety forces would have that team. They said the Mayors would be the COG persons, however, he would be assigning his safety forces to be the oversight of that. They would guarantee that if there was a problem or anything going on, they would track it, fix it and keep that under control, just like they had done in the past with the City of Stow.

They had a great working relationship. If there was a problem, the Chiefs get together, they have an oversight committee, they look at it, they figure it out, they come up with an action plan and then, thru the help of Stow, they fix it. People could rest assure that as long as he was around, the other Mayors or even the Councils, the No. 1 priority was to provide the No. 1 quality dispatch center in the area that they could. Forget the cost, it was really about quality.

Mr. Rensel thought they had done that. He was only asking about Tallmadge's potential with the COG – that they come up with a unified...system. There was a possibility that Tallmadge, even though it was only 15% of the...as outlined, they have higher...lines because...So they generally have...calls for that reason.

All he saying was that he wanted see that the...to Tallmadge was the same as the...to Stow or Cuyahoga Falls. He was sure the people in Mogadore would like to see the same. So he was just asking, as this forms together,...and that the residents see that.

Mr. Sisak, Ward 1 Tallmadge City Council, stated he had a couple of technical questions. Recently, in Tallmadge, they had upgraded their radios to P25 compatibility. He asked what the Cities of Stow and Cuyahoga Falls were running their systems on at their dispatch centers?

Captain Amonett stated they used the exact same radio system. The City of Tallmadge was ahead of them on the upgrade. Mr. Sisak stated so Stow hadn't upgraded them yet. Captain Amonett stated Stow was not done internally. It was pre25. It was what Motorola calls subscriber units. The portable and mobile radios that are in the field have not been upgraded at this point. That was in-the-works to be done at some point.

Mr. Sisak asked if that would be a cost strictly to the City of Stow and their safety forces? Captain Amonett stated that subscriber units are individually the responsibility of the communities or departments out of their budgets.

Mr. Sisak asked about Cuyahoga Falls? Mr. Konich, the Director of Information Services for the City of Cuyahoga Falls, stated they were currently P25 compatible on all of their subscriber units. All the consoles need to be upgraded by the middle of 2017. Those were where it was going to force them to have to use the P25 compatible subscriber units.

Mr. Sisak stated as far as efficiency, he thought of the radio system as a redundancy. He asked where would the powers be, what was the circumference, what was their diameter, however they wanted to present it, as far as coverage whether it was located at the Summit County Health Department's building or somewhere else within the region? He asked if there would be repeater towers? Would they continue to have some shared radio channel? What was the thought on that?

Captain Amonett stated Mr. Sisak's question essentially was what is the radio infrastructure? Essentially when the P25 upgrade that they were talking about was completed, and this was the console purchase he was talking about as well, it was dispatching equipment as well as subscriber units, it was an IP based system, so he could plug and play it through fiber optics at any number of locations.

He was working today at Stow Fire on a five tower site countywide radio system. On the backside of the P25 upgrade, they would be in ten sites, the hilt...would be tied-in fiber opticwise thru NEONet, which he believed was the current plan, which was actually kind of a coincidence because they had looked at their building.

Ultimately, they were adding one of those ten sites right here on this campus at the Stow water tower. So the IP tie-in will be from the Health Department's building, thru this water tower and as part of a cost-sharing agreement, the County of Summit has agreed to let them use their equipment on that water tower free-of-charge to make that tie-in.

Mr. Sisak stated so what Captain Amonett was telling him was there was no consideration with the distance that...Captain Amonett stated no, there was no discernable change from the Health Department's building to Cuyahoga Falls' dispatch center to where Stow's is now.

On the dispatch end, they both transmit and receive via that fiber optic cable. They don't talk on a two-way radio any more. They talk into a Dell Computer, it processes it digitally and puts it out over the antennas, so theoretically from an IP standpoint, any hardened facility that they were happy with for the dispatch center they could talk out of.

Mr. Konich stated and for Cuyahoga Falls, another advantage of doing this merger was that they currently have a tower that they communicate as well on Portage Trail, across from Bolich Middle School, and also now that Stow was putting their infrastructure in, that was going to give them redundancy. That was going to give them redundancy that they had never had before. That was kind of the advantage of doing a merger – they get to share all of their toys. They were all in one sandbox now that they could use.

Mr. Donovan stated he had a question regarding backup. He asked what the failsafe was to the center going down? He asked who would take those calls? Where would they be shifted to that could cover an area this big in the event of some catastrophe?

Ms. DeRose stated part of the new requirements, mandates and also to answer the question Mr. Donovan had asked concerning service and quality of service requiring a continuity of operations or COOP planning, they always say right now their 911 System in Summit County is transparent because once in a while they do have a hiccup with their telephone company and a 911 line will go down. The general public doesn't know that. The dispatchers do and they can automatically route it to any other public safety answering point.

The one thing that they will have to take into account when and if this goes thru is what public safety answering point is robust enough to handle another community's calls? However, that is all mandated in the new requirements – the continuity of operations, the standard of service, the level of training and everything. So, in 2018, those requirements are already in-place. Cuyahoga Falls and Stow right now do have that redundancy built in and they do have alternate PSAP centers, so it really would be no different.

Mr. Donovan stated that he understood the function of that, but where or who? He guessed there wasn't an answer to it quite yet.

Captain Amonett stated Mr. Donovan wanted a practical answer of who would answer the phone calls? Ultimately when the COG gets formed and this is built, they would reach an agreement with one of their sister dispatch agencies, most likely one of the suburban agencies.

In all reality, the City of Akron's Dispatch Center answers roughly 50% of the 911 calls in Summit County. So they would look for a neighbor who was willing to do that, as we would for them. The Swisscom Center or one of the other centers here in Summit County so there is some redundancy. However, the COG would make a decision with Ms. DeRose's help tactically on what is the best location to answer our calls when we are down.

Mr. Razor handed over the meeting to President Mary Ellen Pyke of Cuyahoga Falls City Council.

Ms. Pyke stated that Ms. DeRose talked about competing in the County for funding. She asked how many consolidated dispatch centers did they have currently?

Ms. DeRose stated she didn't know if they would actually call them consolidated, but Swisscom, which was Copley, Norton and Barberton, was a COG. Then they had several other communication centers - 12 that answer for other communities.

The Summit County Sheriff's Office has service contracts in-place, Twinsburg has service contracts in-place and Macedonia has service contracts in-place. So they are more of service contracts and other agencies are contracting with them.

The Sheriff's Office also dispatches for like Metro Parks. Then they have the City of New Franklyn, which dispatches for themselves and Clinton. So they were kind of piecemealed around.

She could provide them with a sheet that articulates who does what for whom. Ms. Pyke requested that Ms. DeRose do that. She asked Ms. DeRose to include in that how many residents those different entities were serving? Ms. DeRose stated absolutely.

Ms. Pyke thought anytime we join services like this, everyone is worried about the staff and what is going to happen to them. She was assuming that the continuity in their health coverage would continue, but how would they look at health coverage? She asked if one City would cover it or would it be an equal share amongst the COG? She asked what has been considered as far as that?

Mr. Balthis stated that would be something that the COG would ultimately make the decision on. He thought what they would have to look at is whether they would want to negotiate with one of the Cities to add those employees onto theirs or if they want to hire a consultant and go out into the market and shop to see if they could join a group. They haven't gotten to that stage yet.

When the employees join the COG initially, at that time they would not be members of a bargaining unit, but they would have the right to form one. So at that point, it would be something that would be negotiated – the terms and conditions of the health care.

Ms. Pyke stated that their City Engineer was here, Tony Demasi. She asked him to touch on May's flooding at the Summit County Health Department and what has been done to prevent that?

Mr. Demasi asked if Ms. Pyke was talking about the May 12, 2014 flooding that occurred? Ms. Pyke stated she was.

Mr. Demasi stated Summit County completed a project to alleviate that flooding. They installed additional drainage and larger drains. The very large rains they had had since then that had caused flooding in other places repeatedly had not caused any flooding there. What they had done had abated at least those heavy rainstorms that they had seen since May 12, 2014.

Ms. Pyke stated so they didn't have any flooding in 2016 that he was aware of. Mr. Demasi stated they did all across the City, but he wasn't aware of any that was there.

Mr. James, Ward 7 Councilman for the City of Cuyahoga Falls, stated his ward was the eastside of the Falls – the Waterworks area.

Ms. Pyke had covered a question that he was going to ask when it came to the health coverage of the dispatchers that would be leaving and joining. His other question to follow thru on that would be wages. He asked if they would be going into the new jobs with the same wages, more wages or less wages? Is it going to be an offer that's going to be tantalizing to them or is it going to be more of a lateral move?

Mr. Balthis stated they have been looking at both contracts with the City of Cuyahoga Falls and the City of Stow. They have also been talking with some of the current union leadership. They understand that dispatch is a very important community service. They understand that they have very talented people.

He could assure them that the City's intent, he knew from talking with the Mayors, is to definitely be fair in the approach. There is no way that they would plan on low-balling people or anything like that, if that was his question. He thought they would try to make them comparable.

Did he think that all employees would have the exact same wage today as they would at the COG? He wasn't sure that that would be the case. Also, he would assume that if the COG were to form a union, it would then be negotiated with the COG.

One thing he would note was traditionally the Councils would be used to approving those collective bargaining agreements. However, in this case, it would be the COG itself that would approve those agreements and then, of course, a vote of the union members.

He thought the market has a certain impact on what the prices are. He knew from the COG perspective it wouldn't make sense to come in really low on wages to know that you probably then would have a union and then go to fact-finding shortly thereafter. Those were things they would be working with the employees to try to be fair and responsible all the way around.

Mr. James stated that he figured there wouldn't be any kind of low-balling. The governments in these Cities are above-par, so that wasn't anything that he was trying to insinuate. He was just trying to get an idea for the dispatchers of what they might be facing down there in the near future.

He thought that these talks here were very beneficial tonight. He thought they were getting a lot of stuff on the table, a lot of thoughts and a lot of good positive feedback. He, personally, was looking forward to seeing how this turns out. He would like to see it follow-thru to fruition.

Mr. Colavecchio, Cuyahoga Falls Councilman At-Large, stated that he did have a comment and a question or two.

His comment was to the dispatchers here tonight. They really were the unsung and unseen heroes along with police and fire who were the visible faces. Their job is tough behind the scenes. He didn't think they got the recognition that they rightly deserved.

Now that they had this public forum, he wanted to recognize the invaluable service they have. He was very encouraged that all of them would keep their jobs. This was not something that they were a replaceable part of. The training and the years of experience were crucial. The seamless transition that they were looking for would only be aided by them staying in their jobs. He asked them to all stay.

He asked concerning the other communities throughout Ohio that employ a COG system if there was any downside? He asked if there was something that goes negative where services aren't provided in a manner that they would want to see in their communities or do expenses go awry for whatever reason or is this always a significant savings?

Mr. Balthis stated one comment that he would raise and he believe Swisscom had raised as a downside of a COG was by creating a COG, you are creating a new political subdivision. That means you would have a new entity that needs to be audited by the State Auditor, so you have that process that has to happen.

You have a new employer, so you need people running the finances and doing the HR functions. Obviously, when a COG would negotiate, they would need attorneys to negotiate for the COG. So the downside is you have a lot of the work that a lot of the communities were already doing now the COG would need to do.

The upside of that, however, is that what is very common in a community, for example hypothetically the City of Cuyahoga could provide IT or technologic support to the COG and then that would be taken into account in the service contract and the City of Stow could provide financing, check writing or HR services. So, although you need to duplicate those services from like a legal perspective they have to have a separate one, practically they could absorb that into the Cities that were already doing it. That was something he thought Swisscom had raised as a potential downfall to a COG.

Mayor Sara Kline stated that the only thing she would add is there is no better idea than one that you steal from other people. COGs are not a new concept. They aren't a new idea. They have been used extensively throughout Ohio specifically and especially for dispatch. So they are certainly not breaking new ground with this idea.

Mrs. Zibritosky and Mr. Balthis have done a tremendous amount of research and work into why a COG is a better option. She felt confident that their reasoning is sound and the reasons they have put forth that a COG would better serve all partner communities into the future makes a lot of sense.

Ultimately it will be up to every member of the COG to insure that that COG is functioning efficiently and appropriately, whether it's about service, finances, personnel or all of those things. The good thing is they would have checks and balances amongst all the partner agencies, even on the COGs Government Board if it is formed.

Mayor David Kline stated in the City of Tallmadge, when they created this, it was real easy for their police officers and firemen to walk in the door, talk to a dispatcher, see her face and do everything. Now they were up in Stow so they are talking on the radio.

It just wasn't that hand personal service that they used to get before. So if you are used to dropping your report off at the desk at your dispatch center, it will now be located at a whole different location. That is a downsize that they had experienced, but they overcame it. With technology it was very simple to overcome that.

Mr. Iula, Cuyahoga Falls Councilman At-Large, stated he was very interested in this. It sounds very good. It was really great to see so many Councilmen from all three cities. He knew quite a few of them.

He asked because their dispatch center was only about ten years old, if they combined with Stow what would they do with the dispatch center they had right now? He asked if they had any idea?

Paul Moledor, Cuyahoga Falls Fire Chief, stated he would love to have his room back. It is not that it isn't being used very well for dispatch, but they would repurpose it. There were a lot of things that they needed, as they all knew. They would love to have it back.

Mayor David Kline thought a regional shooting range would be perfect.

Mrs. Pyke stated that she did have a couple more questions.

She wanted to speak to the dispatchers. They have an opportunity now when they are bargaining.

She worked at a job that was open 24/7. She worked at the hospital. So she really hoped they looked at a shift differential.

She thought it was important that somehow you say to the people who have to stay up at night and miss their families in the evenings that there is some sort of reward to this. She had spoken earlier to Mrs. Hatfield about this, so she knew that she felt this way.

She also thought it is important that you honor seniority. It is important when people have put in a great length of time and have committed to a position that you honor that.

She didn't know how the voting would go, but she was asking that they please look at this not as to what's just best for one person, but what's fair and the best way to do this.

She did like the idea of the Summit County Health Department's building as a regional location just for the fact that it is right by the expressway.

In their first meeting she had had the privilege of meeting with other members of the Councils and the Administrations in August. They had talked about the Cuyahoga Falls microwave. She asked if anybody knew what they had brought that up for? They said it would be used as a backup.

Mr. Konich stated that currently that was what they used to communicate with the dispatch consoles to the Summit County radio towers. They go thru the microwave link. There was a microwave link that goes from the tower at Portage Trails to Blackstone. That is how the dispatchers thru their consoles can communicate on their consoles to the radio system.

They would still employ that. Right now Stow has the same set-up, but they are going thru NEONet, which is the building that is right down-the-street from the Summit County Health Center. Their fiber goes thru there as well as their fiber. So they now are going to have two towers that will be able to serve that purpose. They can't use both of them at the same time. They can only use one of them at a time. However, that will be a redundant link. If one goes down, they will be able to switch over.

Ms. Pyke wanted to ask a question that she knew her constituents would ask. If this moves forward and she calls the dispatch center and says she needs help and lives at an address on Chestnut, she asked how dispatch is going to know which Chestnut she is calling from – Cuyahoga Falls or Stow?

Mrs. Hatfield stated that it kind of depends upon how it comes in. If it comes in on 911, they have phone systems that can help interpret that with latitude and longitude. If they are calling from a landline, it is going to give them an exact address. If they are just calling on the ten digit line and giving them that address, all those lines are still going to be separate. They are still going to answer Cuyahoga Falls police to your ten digit line so they are going to know that you are calling for Cuyahoga Falls versus another community.

Russ Iona, Cuyahoga Falls Ward 8 Councilman, stated he had three questions focusing on financing. Our Law Directors talked about the difference between the COG versus the service contract and gave them some generalities. He asked if there were costs

associated with forming this COG? They had mentioned a Fiscal Officer and, obviously, the amount of time they were putting into it.

What was making him think about that was Mayor David Kline, who he knew and trusted, stated that the service contract was working out great. He realized that they had to look at putting things together, they might run out of funding and regionalization, but if something was working really well, he asked if there was some way they could incorporate them, especially if they get some other smaller entities that might be interested?

He asked if it was possible to get something from Mr. Hoffman in reference to the cost-breakdown of \$1,490,000 for Motorola? He had said that he would provide them with that breakdown. He asked if that is something they would bid out? Is it something they were just going with one provider? He asked if there was a specific reason that they only had one provider on this?

Mr. Hoffman stated Motorola was kind of the only game in town when it comes to providing the radio system that works with the County's system. So Motorola would be considered a single source provider to provide these services.

He would get them the quote that they had received from Motorola to build the dispatch center. If he wasn't mistaken, he thought everybody used Motorola because of the Motorola backbone that they had in the County.

Mr. Balthis stated regarding the question of any added costs to the COG, he didn't see a particular added cost directly performing a COG versus a service contract. Both require a fair amount of negotiations, time, drafting, ordinances and Council approval.

He thought that the added work that the COG does generate is work that they are already used to doing because, for example a State Auditor's audit, the audit that the City would receive would be a little bit smaller because they wouldn't have a communications department that would need to be audited.

Yes there would be payroll processing and things like that, but then the City would have less of that to do because they would no longer have a communications department that they would need to do that work for.

He thought it isn't necessarily adding costs, it was just shifting them around a little bit differently. He thought the benefits of regionalization, it was hard to say now, but his gut would be, that that would overcome or outweigh cost of the little bit of additional governance that they would require with a COG.

He thought that the COG government structure also added significant value over a service contract and he thought it had a direct impact on those quality and service issues, which he thought would outweigh any minor costs. He, personally, did not see any unforeseen or additional costs just by choosing a COG versus a service contract. He didn't know if anyone else did.

Mayor David Kline stated that the City of Tallmadge did have a service contract. However, as part of that contract they are responsible for the cost of upgrades to the consoles. That was an open-ended cost.

So they know what their fixed rate is for providing dispatch service, but they know Stow is at the end of life for their consoles so they have to upgrade. Therefore, they have to pay for that capital upgrade.

It is a pay-me-now or pay-me-later situation. If it is a COG, by having a lot more people into it, it would reduce his cost eventually. Therefore, he thought the COG may benefit Tallmadge in the long-term, maybe not short-term, but long-term he thought it would.

Carol Klinger, Cuyahoga Falls At-Large Councilwoman, stated that Mayor Sara Kline had inferred earlier when they were talking about the Summit County dispatch that she



perceived that the size of their dispatch led to perhaps diminishing returns. She asked what she saw as to how large this COG could become before they run into diminishing returns and service?

Mayor Sara Kline thought it was more of a balancing act that would have to be flushed out as the COG potentially grew. She believed the primary factor that Mayor Walters, Mayor David Kline and her were all committed to in this process is the quality of service.

She thought they had lots of anecdotal evidence that, instead of talking about Summit County, let's talk about our friends in Cuyahoga County. There are all kinds of news stories that they see in the Plain Dealer and other media sources about some dispatch centers that are very large in Cuyahoga County where people talk about not getting the level of service that they rightfully should expect.

We would never want to be in that kind of position, so whether that is strictly size, quality of training of our staff or investment that we put in in retraining and maintaining the standards of care and staffing levels that we need, she thought the members of the COG, the Board of Directors, ultimately need to keep that in mind as they are making decisions.

If the City of Akron decided someday that they wanted to join our dispatch center, which she did not see happening so she could use it as a silly hypothetical, she thought the Board of Governors of the COG would have to think long and hard about if they had the capacity and would they want to do that?

That was a very different conversation than say the Village of Reminderville wanted to join. However, ultimately that quality of care, quality of service delivery to callers and first responders is really the tipping point of are we too large, can we manage what we have or not? That was an evolving process.

Ms. Klinger stated, in terms of COG the entity, she was assuming it would be defined in the bylaws that the COG can issue debt bonds. She asked if that was accurate? She also asked if that was typical?

Mrs. Zibritosky stated that was actually something that she and Mr. Balthis were looking into earlier today.

At this time, they do not believe that the COG can actually issue bonds on itself, only specific kinds by statute. There are certain kinds of COGs that can do that. She did not think this would be one of them.

However, the members can issue bonds and dedicate those bonds to the COG. It would just have to be done in the proper way.

Obviously, that would take the approval of the Council and the City that would do that and they would have to coordinate it with the bylaws so that can happen, it just has to happen thru one of the member Cities or all of them or however they choose to do it.

Ms. Klinger stated she assumed the COG could enter into a lease for the lease of the facility. She asked what about a lease for the capital purchases, if they do a capital lease instead of a straight-out acquisition? Mr. Balthis stated yes. They could.

The only other thing he would add about bonds and public financing was there were the legal questions and challenges, but he thought even stronger would be just from an investment banking perspective, the Cities where their credit rates were would all be able to drive better financing terms, conditions and rates than the COG, even if they did it thru a process they would be able to generate. So it was something they would probably not explore. However, it was something they have looked at.

Ms. Klinger asked if anyone knew what the expected life of this new capital purchase would be?

Captain Amonett stated that this is a technology-driven business and it rolls over expediently fast. Sean, from Motorola, is in the back of the room. He could answer the questions specifically to the radio system. However, these consoles they were acquiring Motorola was building out to the year 2039. So this is an expense on the radio side that is over a long-term.

Phone system stuff seems to change almost overnight. They went from landline phones, meaning a landline 911, to cell phone answering 911 and now they were in a world where they want them to receive texts and video files. That side of the technology seems to roll over expediently fast, but for the radio system itself, 2039 is a reasonable date when they were going to have to make a change from that point forward.

Ms. Klinger asked if Motorola had a commitment that they would support the system thru that time? Captain Amonett stated yes.

The term for the P25 upgrade was built out on a long-term model. 2039 was the end date on it. Both Cuyahoga Falls and Stow have talked with Motorola. The money you see in front of you, the bids and paperwork behind that include support for that system thru 2039.

And to Ms. Klinger's questions about leasing, there is capital lease information from Motorola. He had Sean's information. If that was a better way to go financially than some other aspects, it could be looked at.

Ms. Klinger stated we've heard about different concepts of how the additional services would be provided to the COG. She asked if they had looked at what the organization structure would be outside of dispatchers? She asked if they had looked at other COGs? She thought everybody in this room believes they are going to have dispatchers in the COG, but who else would be on the payroll and what else does that structure look like?

Mayor Sara Kline stated they actually had, and that was part of their conversations when they met with the other COGs, a lot of it had to do with evolution over time.

Swisscom is still a fairly new COG. If she remembered correctly, they only formed 2-3 years ago – something of that time frame. So they are still utilizing in-kind services from the entities.

However, other COGs, such as the Red Center, which are larger and have been in existence for a really long time, 20 years or so they thought offhand, have some internal administrative people that do things.

Again, Swisscom, being new and having a smaller number of entities, has the dispatch and dispatch supervisor and everything else is done in-kind from the participating communities.

Red Center, which is Stark County, has an administrative staff and she believed there are some COGs in Cuyahoga County and further northeast that also have some administrative staff on.

So that would just have to evolve as the need arose, the funding was there and all of those kinds of issues.

Ms. Klinger thanked all of them for coming together and putting the time into this. She thought regionalization was the way they all have to go. She thanked everyone for putting their egos aside so that they could have these candid conversations. She hoped this was successful.

Mary Nichols-Rhodes, Cuyahoga Falls Ward 4 Councilwoman, agreed that this was a great thing. She was happy that they were being pro-active.

Her question had to do with the mandates that the State has given. She asked if the mandates for training and staffing were lower or higher than their current levels? She hoped that they would not go lower.

Ms. DeRose stated right now Cuyahoga Falls and Stow are meeting if not exceeding those mandates. She would say they should be very proud, like everyone had said tonight, that those two dispatch centers are very well respected in Summit County.

They don't know what the future is going to hold, but some of the other mandates are time to answer a call, putting a caller on hold, different things like that, emergency medical dispatch, which both centers already do and do quite well, and a lot of statistical requirements, such as how long did it take to get the call, how many calls are you getting and how long are you staying on the call? Those are somewhat new, but a lot of this new equipment they were pushing for will allow them to do that.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes asked if they knew what the mandates were based on? Were they on population or number of calls?

Ms. DeRose stated neither. The mandates were just blanket across. It doesn't say community x had 15,000 versus community y had 10,000. It doesn't go by that and it doesn't go by volume of calls. The expectation is that no matter if you are a smaller or larger community, your standard of service is going to be the same across-the-board.

Mayor Walters wanted to touch on the efficiency piece. Obviously, for their dispatchers now they had them staffed properly. To combine they were going to have probably double the number, which was very comforting in the case of a crisis or emergency, because right now if something catastrophic would happen, they were limited. Combined they have more people to help manage that crisis.

Again, to take on smaller communities they are going to pay a contractual fee, but they are fairly small so they may not need them to add any staffing. He used Silver Lake as an example. They pay a fee. They didn't generate a lot of calls. Randolph, he believed, didn't call unless a cow gets out during the fair. They pay a fee. So the more smaller communities that they can take on, they wouldn't have to add staffing but it would help fund what they do. That is where the efficiency is gained. He apologized to Randolph.

The meeting was turned over to Stow President of Council Mike Rasor.

Mr. Pribonic stated for public information, with his prior experience being on the School Board, COGs do work. They have worked in public education even besides these types of ventures. It is nothing new. They are beneficial.

One question he had was security. He knew our dispatch center was currently housed where our police department was. He asked what they were looking at for security for the dispatchers?

Mayor Sara Kline stated she would start. Police Chief Film and Police Chief Davis were in the back of the room, so they may want to add something after that.

Security was one of the challenges and one of the considerations that they took into account because this was a 365 day a year 24-hour operation. It is imperative that dispatchers be able to function safely and securely in the midst of whatever crisis may be going on.

If you look at the layout that Mr. Hoffman had provided of the proposed area of the Health Department's building, you will notice that in the back there is a dedicated dispatch entrance. First of all, the building itself is locked and secured. You need passcodes, swipe cards and whatnot to get in. But there is an entrance noted on the layout that would be a dedicated dispatch entrance so only dispatch or police or fire departments coming to interface with dispatch will be able to use.

They also had the opportunity, if you notice that he noted a wall to be constructed at the bottom of the yellow area, to completely secure off the dispatch area so it is exclusively for their use. There will be dedicated restrooms, kitchen facilities and all that under this plan so that the dispatchers won't have to use community restrooms or expose themselves to leaving the dispatch area for things like that.

She knew both Police Chiefs in Stow and Cuyahoga Falls had expressed to her that they feel confident. She didn't know if either of them wanted to jump in.

(Some of Chief Davis' and the person speaking after him's comments weren't clearly audible because they weren't speaking into a microphone.)

Cuyahoga Falls Police Chief Davis stated that the police officers frequently visit the dispatch centers so they are going to have police officers coming and going from the building. Again, having a secure facility that is right in the heart of their Cities...

Mr. Pribonic knew the single entrance was the way to go. However, he asked if they shouldn't have a single entrance where they enter one area before they enter another? That was what they had right now in Stow. You have to be buzzed into the police department before you could enter there. As an additional security thing, he would like to have that looked at.

Someone believed it was set up that way. You have to have a...card to get into the building and then you have to have a special...card to get into that area.

Mr. Razor stated for future reference, comments from anyone talking without a microphone are not picked up on the tape.

Mr. Pribonic, City of Stow At-Large Councilman, stated that one other question that kind of goes along with Tallmadge is they were talking about representation on this COG. He asked if that would be the same representation no matter how large or how small a community would be, and he wasn't talking monetary? He asked if they would have the same voice?

Mrs. Zibritosky stated that would be something that the COG would have to figure out when it establishes its bylaws for how it's going to govern itself. It could be any sort of way. It could be related to the buy-in. It could be related to the size. It could be all equal in terms of the governing body. That is what she assumed Mr. Pribonic meant. Mr. Pribonic stated it was. Mrs. Zibritosky stated that would be a procedure that would be laid-out in the bylaws that the COG would make out.

Mayor Sara Kline stated when they met with some of the other COGs, it was done a variety of ways. She believed the Red Center has a formula where a couple of the largest entities have something like veto power almost and then the other smaller entities all for practical purposes have an equal vote, but if they can't come to a consensus and they have to actually extrapolate out where people stand, the two largest entities have kind of final say and everybody else has like a proportional vote based on their population and things like that. She thought Swisscom right now had all equal voting partners.

Mr. Pribonic asked if Silver Lake would be like a contract then to the whole COG not just to Cuyahoga Falls? Mr. Balthis stated yes.

Mr. D'Antonio, City of Stow At-Large Councilman, wanted to thank everybody. He knew between the Mayors, Administrations, Dispatchers and Supervisors a lot of work has gone into this from well beyond the first time that they had met here to talk about this in length.

He appreciated the fact that Ms. Klinger had mentioned the regionalization and whether we like it or not, we are controlling our destiny because the regionalization is going to happen. He would rather be on the frontend of it. He thanked all three governments for being on the frontend of it.

Mr. Pribonic had kind of asked his questions regarding security. It didn't sound like there would be full-time security at the site like at the courthouse. By the nods of people's heads he said there wouldn't be. He had concerns with the security as well.

Mayor Sara Kline stated when they had talked about it conceptually, because it was a secure locked building, she thought it would probably be more akin to how our dispatch center in Stow is now. On night shift, it is conceivable that everyone is out-on-the-road and the dispatchers are in the building. However, with that said, there is a lot of police presence and people in-and-out.

She thought Police Chief Davis had mentioned that that's what would happen if the dispatch center was not in one of our specific cities but was formed together, except you'd perhaps have more police departments interfacing, so perhaps there would be even more police presence.

Cuyahoga Falls Police Chief Davis stated they didn't provide 24-hour security for the dispatch center now. They were located at a fire station. Again there was a pretty good flow of officers dropping off and picking up paperwork.

Stow Police Chief Film agreed. He thought they were going to have officers there all the time. Is there going to be a time when there aren't any officers there? Yes. They had talked about having cameras outside of the building and having codes to get in. It wasn't a hardened location, but they tried to make it difficult for anybody else to get in besides their own officers.

Mr. D'Antonio believed Mrs. Zibritosky or Mr. Balthis had talked about getting something started by the end of the year. He wasn't sure exactly what they were getting started. He knew how fast government moved. He wasn't quite sure how fast three government entities could move.

Mrs. Zibritosky stated that the main goal is to get the agreement that would form the COG by the end of the year. Does that mean that all of these issues and questions would be answered? Absolutely not. That is not probably going to be done by the end of the year.

However, they wanted to at least get who are going to be the members and are they all on-board with creating this COG. That way the COG can move forward and start to create their bylaws, start to have the governing body, purchase equipment, perhaps enter into a lease and move on from there.

She thought the whole goal would be to have everything kind of up-and-running by mid-2017. That was an aggressive goal. So there was a lot that was going to need to happen.

So by minimum they would have to at least have the agreement that this is what they are doing by the end-of-the-year or else each City is going to be under some real defined constraints to meet these mandates on their own.

Mr. D'Antonio asked if there were any kinds of grant opportunities for COGs? Has that been looked into – whether they are federal or state for equipment for the COG?

Captain Amonett stated on the fire department's side, they had explored the grant process. He believed Assistant Fire Chief Jackson from Cuyahoga Falls wrote the DHS grant for consoles. Someone said that was correct.

Captain Amonett stated for the grant process they could apply individually or collectively and not hurt one grant versus the other. That meant that the City of Stow Fire Department could write a grant for a fire truck and then sign-off collectively as part of a COG and write a grant for dispatching equipment for that specific entity as well and not hurt one grant versus the other.

They went down-the-road of exploring this process. Unfortunately, where he thought they were at is as times are changing, DHS is slowly drying-up in general grantwise. Ms. DeRose could probably speak to that.

Most of that money comes from the federal government down to the state and then thru EMA. The grant process goes back up that channel in reverse. The big ticket purchasing off of that grant is slowly starting to kind of wither the vine a little bit.

Mr. D'Antonio stated it wasn't disappointing, it was strictly a comment, it sounded like the City Councils will lose the ability to approve or disapprove a bargaining agreement. He asked if he had heard that right?

Also, he kept hearing about safety, which certainly the most important part of it was safety and how they respond to the citizens of each community, but, hopefully, they weren't losing sight that each City was still individually in charge of their city.

They still had two Chiefs and Dispatch Supervisors in charge of training. So he didn't think because they were going to join the COG that Stow was going to lose its great fire department or great service to the community. He would assume that was the same for the other communities.

He didn't want to lose sight or for people to think they were combining police and fire departments, because they certainly weren't. They were combining a...

Mrs. Zibritosky stated Mr. D'Antonio had mentioned about losing the ability to approve the labor contracts. That is true. However, one of the benefits on why she and Mr. Balthis were recommending the COG in the first place as opposed to a service contract is consolidation is happening whether they wanted it or not with these new mandates and the PSAPs so if you are contracting with another agency, you lose your voice entirely.

With a COG you would still have members and representation that would be part of approving that. That was part of the reason why they thought that was a more beneficial system whereas when you contract, you would have no say over any of that, you just have the cost that you pay and the built-in that is in the service. You have no ability to create good service benchmarks or negotiating that process at all.

There were pros and cons. However, they were not completely frozen out of it. They had a voice.

Mr. Costello, City of Stow Ward 2 Councilman, wanted to start off by echoing what Mr. D'Antonio had said, he wanted to commend all of the City Councils, the Administrations, the dispatchers and everybody involved in this process. It is great to see it moving forward.

Unfortunately, being the old man on Council, a COG was tried a number of years ago with Tallmadge. Summit County and Akron were also trying to get involved in it. It did not go as well. However, he thought with the Mayors, City Administrations and the City Councils involved at this time, it would proceed better.

They had a very aggressive time-line that they were trying to establish. To do that, the Councils and the Administrations need to continue to work together. He thought it could be done. However, as one of the other Councilmen had said, they needed to leave their egos at home. Basically this has to be a win/win situation for all members of the organizations. However, the biggest win has to be for the citizens of each community.

He didn't have any questions at this time, because he thought it was really too early in the whole process to fret out certain points of interest for each individual. However, he commended everybody for the steps being taken.

Mr. Lowdermilk, City of Stow Ward 3 Councilman, stated that he appreciated all of the information, the updates and the other Councils coming here to share this information with them. He did have several questions.

The first one was from a security standpoint. He asked if there was any concern about there only being one entrance and exit to the Summit County Health building?

Captain Amonett stated it was one entrance for our employees. They were fully compliant as far as the building goes. It was one secured entrance for personnel to come in and out of.

Mr. Lowdermilk stated he wasn't talking about the building itself, he was talking about the driveway. There's only one driveway. If something happens to that driveway, our dispatch center is going to be separated.

Mayor Walters stated there is another access from the rear off of Charles Street in Cuyahoga Falls, right in front of their middle school. It ties in. There are emergency bowers that can be run over, but it is connected right behind the Health Department's building to another street.

Mr. Lowdermilk asked for a footprint of that so they could see it? Looking at it on the map, it didn't seem to show it. He asked if that was a road that would handle whatever traffic would need to get thru there?

Mayor Walters stated yes. Charles Street, which comes off of Hollywood, which comes off of Hudson Drive.

Mr. Lowdermilk stated he had talked with Mr. Rasor. He hoped that at the end of this, either thru the minutes or that, that they would be able to compile a list of the questions that were asked and the answers that they could distribute, because he was sure a week from now nobody was going to remember specifically what anybody said or asked. So to keep them from asking the same questions, he thought that would be helpful.

It was mentioned earlier that if you want to get out, you could. By the O.R.C. that was true. However, he thought they should be honest. It is going to be impractical for somebody who has dismantled their dispatch center and invested their money in this COG to go back and say they didn't think it was a good idea.

Once you are in, he thought you were in. You aren't going to spend the money twice to get back out of it two years from now. He thought everybody needed to be clear about that.

He asked if they were lobbying or have done anything with their State Representatives? It appeared that the State was trying to shove this down their throats. He didn't see any of their State Representatives present. He would hope they would be invited to the next meeting. He asked if they had done anything on the state level to try to slow this down or reverse it?

Ms. DeRose stated at the state level there was a task force that has been in place. It has representatives from different legislative sectors along with the Commissioners and different things like that.

This has been in process for she wanted to say for like 12 years. Finally, in the past year-and-a-half, they have gone to these standards.

Most of the Legislators, right or wrong, don't even realize that they don't have consolidated dispatch. They were one of the rare counties in the State. There were maybe five of them that have so many numerous public safety answering points. They were kind of like the rarity around.

A lot of them don't understand it. The main thing they were looking at is their providing service to the public and the level of care.

Mr. Lowdermilk stated, hopefully, they would engage them. They were elected officials too and he thought they would be interested in what is going on in their City and County levels.

He requested a breakdown of the itemized costs. The numbers didn't seem to jive. To upgrade Cuyahoga Falls and Stow, the CAD and recorders, it is \$1.7 million. Yet they are going to do CAD, recorders and mobile software for \$550,000. He wasn't sure how that worked. They had \$1.2 million in cost-savings with mobile software. He would like to see some of those things explained. He asked why it was so high?

Currently they have six dispatch centers in Stow. He thought at any given time they were using 3-4 of them. He asked if that was correct? He saw they had a total of eight consoles proposed. He asked if there would be eight people working on any given shift?

Mrs. Hatfield stated no. Right now they did have six consoles just for Stow. They staff 3-4 of them. They had special events, such as the parade, floods and things that happen, where they do have to bring in extra staff. They always needed a little bit extra just to plan for those types of things.

Mr. Lowdermilk stated in the COG it showed eight. He asked if that was eight total for the COG? Mrs. Hatfield stated that included the extra consoles. They weren't planning on staffing eight per shift if that was what Mr. Lowdermilk was asking.

Mr. Lowdermilk asked how many consoles does Cuyahoga Falls have? Mr. Konich stated five. Mr. Lowdermilk asked if they staffed five? Mrs. Hatfield stated it was the same kind of principle. They have five consoles. They staff generally 2-3. Mr. Konich stated their minimum staffing was two, but they usually had three, sometimes four, depending on the shift.

There were eight there because when they have the COG, he was assuming that they would be going to probably have a minimum staffing of probably close to three or four, maybe even five. So the other three consoles would be there in case there was an emergency or something was going on that they needed to call in additional dispatchers. Those consoles would be available.

Mr. Lowdermilk stated so they thought they would staff this with fewer people on each shift once it is a COG. If Cuyahoga Falls has 2-3 now and Stow has 3-4, that was 7-8. Then, they have over 12. He asked if they had enough consoles for the peak times that Mr. Konich was describing that they do today? Eight didn't sound like enough to him for those special events and things which he thought would add to these costs.

Mrs. Hatfield stated there was potential for that. Their original plan was probably at least staffing five. If they had eight consoles, they would have three extra consoles to kind of manage special events.

Mr. Konich stated if they had three on shift and they had four on a particular shift because it was a busy shift, that was seven people. In this new dispatch center, they may only have to staff four or five. They wouldn't need all seven of them because they were all going to be in the same room sharing the same equipment.

Mr. Lowdermilk asked once the COG was formed if the Mayors or Chief Executive of each City had to be on the COG?

Mrs. Zibitosky stated it would be how the bylaws would specify. She believed by statute, if the bylaws don't specify how the representation is made or how it is selected, then the default would be that. However, it would be how the COG would determine in their bylaws how they want to be represented, who they want and how it will choose that



representation. It may be an internal election or something, she didn't know. However, that would be something that would be determined once it is formed with the bylaws.

Mr. Lowdermilk asked if the Councils would determine what the bylaws are? Mrs. Zibritosky stated no. The COG would determine what the bylaws are once it is formed.

Mr. Lowdermilk asked if the Councils would determine who is going to be their representative prior to it being formed or as it is formed? He asked if that was correct? Mrs. Zibritosky stated it depends. If the bylaws allow for that, if they said they wanted a representative from each member's Council, then yes, you would do that. However, it depends on how the COG chooses with its bylaws to create that representation.

If it does nothing or is not addressed, the default would be the Mayors per the statute, she believed, she would have to look at it again to make sure. However, that is what she believed the default is, the Chief Executives. The bylaws could create some other different kind of procedure, one of which could be that the Councils could choose a representative or something like that, but that would be up to the actual COG after it is formed.

Mr. Lowdermilk asked if they choose to do something besides the Mayors or an elected official, who would that body be responsible to? Mrs. Zibritosky asked if Mr. Lowdermilk meant the governing body? Mr. Lowdermilk stated the COG. Mrs. Zibritosky stated it would govern itself. Again, it would be responsible to the members ultimately in some form or fashion.

As she had said before, they were going to be apprised at least annually on all of the activities and general finances that the COG is going to be doing as a member. Then it comes to if they still want to be a member or not. They would always have the ability to withdraw if they wanted, but the COG would essentially be its own political subdivision, just as the City is. Ultimately, the City is accountable to run itself.

Mr. Lowdermilk asked what the cost was for purchasing or leasing? He asked if they were purchasing or leasing part of the Health Department's building? Mr. Hoffman, Cuyahoga Falls' Finance Director, stated he had been kind of heading up the building part of this. Right now they were looking at a lease agreement with the Summit County Health Department. They were still in discussions with them on that.

The lease agreement on the terms that they have with other tenants within that building are pretty favorable when it comes to cost of leased office space within the county area. It was a very low cost. They were willing to offer it for only the cost that they incur on that building currently. That was very low at this point.

Mr. Lowdermilk asked what the term was they were looking at? Mr. Hoffman stated they were still working out the terms of the lease agreement. The initial thought would be a long-term lease agreement with if they were to sell the building some sort of right to purchase the building first and making sure that they had the space for the dispatch center.

Mr. Lowdermilk asked what the square footage was they were looking to lease? Captain Amonett stated it was about 5,000 sq. ft.

Mr. Lowdermilk asked how many more cities could they absorb once it was a COG? He asked if we knew what that number was?

Mayor Sara Kline stated there was not a maximum number. There was no cap. Again, it comes back to along the lines of Ms. Klinger's question earlier. It comes back to capacity and service levels. There was no arbitrary number or cap on the number of communities that could be members of or served by the COG.

Mrs. Zibritosky stated another benefit of the COG versus a service contract is that again each member would have a voice on that, whereas, if they all decided to contract with

Cuyahoga Falls, Cuyahoga Falls could take on as many people as they wanted and we would have no say about it.

Mr. Lowdermilk thought it might be premature, but as far as the COG's directors, if they were not elected officials, he asked if they saw those being full-time positioned managers or what? Mayor Sara Kline stated that the Board of Governors would absolutely be comprised of elected officials.

There would likely and should be input and, perhaps, membership from other people who have expertise and knowledge. She thought it would be foolish of any entity to not include their police and fire chiefs in an advisory or membership roll on the Board of Governors, however that shakes out. But certainly there was no COG that they ran across in their research to her memory that did not have elected officials as the members of the Board of Governors.

That is the whole concept. The Mayor, the Council Members, whomever, that is the elected official ultimately responsible to the voters of the members' entities. Therefore, it is in their best interests to make sure that they insure efficient operations of the COG. That is the whole point.

Mr. Adaska, City of Stow Ward 4 Councilman, stated that most of his questions had been answered with the group questions.

Mr. Razor stated he had had a good chance to ask questions during the meeting last month.

He thought Mr. Colavecchio had brought-up a great point. The great deal of value in this transaction for all cities is the labor and the employees that we have. To echo that, he requested that the dispatchers please stay. If they don't, the level of quality and service that their families have come to enjoy is in jeopardy.

He asked people to try to make this an expedited second inning. He asked if there was anything pressing from Tallmadge on a second round of questioning? No new questions were raised.

Mr. Razor asked if there was anything pressing from Cuyahoga Falls on a second round of questioning?

Mr. Colavecchio stated they said they were looking into leasing the building. He asked if the purchase price would be determined at the beginning of the lease for an option to buy at the end so they weren't caught unawares with an unreasonable price at the end of the lease?

Mr. Hoffman thought the option to buy the building would have to be decided upon at the point in time in which the Health Department would come to them and say that they would like to sell it. He thought it was hard to say what the market forces would be at the time that some sort of purchase agreement would come into play early into the lease. So he thought at that point in time was when they would have to sit down and talk about what it would mean to buy the building.

Mr. Colavecchio stated his concern would be once they have that infrastructure in place to move would not be a very good option. That was why he would want some concrete guarantee at the beginning that at least it would be pinned to something like whether so many realtors would give input and then they would take the middle figure as far as an appraised value. He thought there should be at the beginning some methodology to pinpoint what that building should go for should the County sell it and we purchase it so that they weren't forced to say that is exorbitant and they need to move because that is unacceptable.

Mr. Hoffman thought Mr. Colavecchio's point was well-taken. He thought when they get to the point of negotiating the lease term and signing a lease for the COG, they would definitely look at that criteria.

Mayor Sara Kline stated for those of you who are unfamiliar, the representatives from each municipality or township that are appointed by the elected officials, so in the case of municipalities the Mayors, and in the case of townships the Township Trustees, are then the voting members who govern the Board of Health.

She pointed this out to make sure that everyone understands that should the Health District determine at some point in the future that they want to sell that building, the individuals who are making that decision are appointed by some of the same elected officials who are going to be on the Board of Governors for the proposed cause.

So there is a synergy there that she thought shouldn't be overlooked. The Board of Health is not some distant entity that is not responsive to the public in and of itself. It certainly is. It is also responsible to member entities that would be founding members of the COG.

Mr. Razor asked if there was anything pressing from Stow on a second round of questioning?

Mr. Pribonic thought they had accomplished a great amount this evening. He suggested that they do this again one more time.

He thought it was always good to be on the same page where they weren't thinking they wonder what one of the other Cities was thinking? He suggested that they bring the group back together when they get a little bit closer to ask questions because they have to be on the same page.

He thought what they had learned tonight was more than what they ever thought they would. However, he thought there were further steps to go, so he would like to see this happen again.

He thought it has been a great learning experience and goes to show you that really communities can work together. He just wanted to throw that idea out if it is possible. He thought it would make the process move faster.

Mr. Lowdermilk thought, at least from the City of Stow's standpoint but he thought Cuyahoga Falls' too, looking at 5,000 sq. ft., they would want to definitely take a hard look at where they might be able to expand currently, even if that meant an addition to a building. In the long-run there may be more cost savings to add on to an existing building than to move the entire program somewhere else. He would like to see the group explore that. Maybe they had explored the cost of an addition to an existing building.

Mayor David Kline stated they were looking at 5,000 sq. ft. that they were looking at to initially lease. That building was a lot larger than that, so there was room to expand into that current building after the current contracts from the people that are renting that location are gone.

Mayor Sara Kline stated from the City of Stow's perspective, even before they got too far in these costs, even if the idea of just the City of Stow expanding its current dispatch center to take on more contractual entities, they looked at how they could physical expand their dispatch center. They had Mr. Dolson, Mr. Wren, Mr. Anderson and a whole host of people who have phenomenally creative ideas about those sorts of things. They all agreed that it was cost prohibitive.

Mr. Rensel asked the separate Councils how many meetings they had before the end of the year? For the City of Tallmadge, he believed they had five. Mr. Razor stated the City of Stow had about the same. Ms. Pyke stated twelve. All of their committee nights

were also Council nights, so at any point they could call a Council Meeting. So every Monday basically.

Mr. Rensel stated the reason he had asked was he thought it was pretty ambitious to go back with the limited information, and they had received a lot of information but it still has to be digested and processed. He thought the recommendation to come back was a good idea. However, still between now and the end of the year to come up with the specifics he felt was very ambitious with the amount of Council Meetings left.

Mr. Razor stated he would anticipate that Councils would move at different paces. Maybe one would take three readings and bang it out and another would take an extra month or two.

Mr. Lowdermilk stated he would like, based on Mayor Kline's comments, to see if they had the square footage that they needed today, which appears to be 5,000 sq. ft., what their contingency was for expanding that if they need to, how much more square footage and what the cost of that was going to be per square foot? Now it sounds like they have this, but there at least has been talk of expanding.

Mayor Walters believed it shows eight, which was what they would start with with the build-out. It has capacity for sixteen, which he had been told would cover the entire County minus Akron. So there was already room within the square footage to double without adding space.

Mr. Lowdermilk stated so they didn't need any more than 5,000 square feet as far as anybody here could see. Mayor Walters stated he wouldn't think so. That would cover dispatch for the whole entire County minus Akron with sixteen consoles.

Mr. Adaska stated if they did meet again, he would like to see an organizational chart of the proposed structure of this new COG and what those costs would be. He thought that would be a good idea.

He also wanted to warn against, and he hated to be the one to bring it up, but he was probably along with Mr. Costello one of the older guys with the City of Stow, they had both been involved for a long time, back in the late 60s this same body, Tallmadge, Cuyahoga Falls and Stow, got together because they wanted to create a regional water district. They thought that would be a great idea.

They met with the County and the County chose to be the leader of that group. Tallmadge had to sign over their waterlines over. Stow had to sign over their waterlines over. He thought Munroe Falls was involved at that time.

Stow, being a group that got their things done quickly, was the first in line to pass all the legislation. So as they were talking with Mr. Razor about speeding things up and getting all of this done, he was sort of reminiscing back to when he was sitting in the room back then. It was all a rush then too.

Then Cuyahoga Falls decided at the last minute that they didn't like the whole proposal, so they backed out. Tallmadge backed out. Meanwhile Stow had passed all its legislation and they were now part of a metropolitan water district consisting of one subdivision.

He asked them to be careful. He asked them not to rush. He asked them to do it right if they were going to do it.

Mr. Razor stated they had gone thru all the Councils twice. He had promised that they would get to public comments. Stow's local rule is three minutes per person. Because of how late it was, he was going to strictly enforce that with a stop watch. He asked if there was anyone in the audience who had a comment or questions at this time keeping in mind that there would be further meetings with each City to also ask questions?

Paul Zuravel  
3720 Gilbert Road

Mr. Zuravel agreed with the Tallmadge Councilman that this was a lot to digest to come up with a decision on a COG by the end of the year.

He asked who in this room, as taxpayers and citizens, thought that their response time is going to be any better than what it is right now because of this? He stated nobody.

He didn't understand everything. He knew there was a lot of stuff going on. However, he thought what they had in-place now seems to be working pretty good.

The location concerned him a little bit because that building has flooded out. He had a newspaper from Cuyahoga Falls from 1990 and one of the conditions for that building being approved by the Planning Commission was that the storm water was tied into the sanitary sewer. He asked if they had corrected that? That was illegal right now. He had the newspaper from 1990 with him.

He asked Mayor Sara Kline if she would be willing to put this type of issue on the ballot for the people, who everyone in this room agrees, would be the most affected by this, the citizenry that they were most concerned about, to vote on?

Mayor Sara Kline stated that Mayors don't have the authority to place things on the ballot. Those were City Council decisions.

Mr. Zuravel asked if she would be willing to endorse placing it on the ballot for the people to vote on? Mayor Sara Kline thought that the combined Administrations had made their recommendations and now it is up to Council to determine how they want to proceed.

Mr. Zuravel did not feel that was an answer.

He thought this could be a good idea in the future, but right now he thought there hadn't been enough public input in this. He didn't think that the meeting was very well publicized to the citizenry. There were very few citizens here.

He would say they probably had a half-of-million dollars in labor over the last year in man hours with all the people who are here. Maybe he was wrong.

He thought the building may be logistically or geographically a good location, but it has flooded and he thought there might be better options.

### **Adjournment**

#### **MOTION:**

Mr. D'Antonio moved and Mr. Lowdermilk seconded to adjourn the Stow City Council Meeting.

Yes Votes: Adaska, Costello, D'Antonio, Lowdermilk,  
Pribonic, Rasor & Riehl

No Votes: None. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

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Bonnie J. Emahiser  
Clerk of Council

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Mike Rasor  
President of Council