

CITY OF SYLVAN LAKE
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
AUGUST 18, 2009

A Special Joint Council Meeting of Sylvan Lake City and Keego Harbor was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2009; at Santia Hall, 1999 Cass Lake Road, Keego Harbor, MI; opening at 7:05 p.m. Mayor Lorenz and Mayor Rubin presided.

Keego Harbor:

Present: Mayor Rubin, Mayor Pro Tem Yoder, Council Members: Fletcher, Gubka, Kalman

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Stewart and Clerk Voll

Sylvan Lake:

Present: Maurina, Shepp, Wiegand, Zubrzycki, Lorenz

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Martin and Clerk Clippert

Mayor Rubin presided over the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening Remarks

Mayor Rubin shared this meeting is about exploring opportunities and ways of working together. These are trying times and the cities cannot depend on the State to bail us out. The question is what are the cities going to do when they can't cut any other expenses. Keego Harbor is proud of their accomplishments over the last five years. He feels both councils want to leave a legacy; to put the cities in a good position and hand it over in better shape than was when they inherited it.

Mayor Lorenz stated the goal for this meeting is to focus on items which the City Council's want to look at further; to direct the City Managers which of these items are of interest, so they don't waste their time on items neither is interested in. They are asking the City Manager's to help get a strategic plan for the future. He explained the format of the meeting.

Current Areas of Shared Services

City Manager Martin explained the current shared services between the cities. When it is necessary to purchase new equipment the cities communicate with each other to make sure the other city does not already own the piece of equipment. When bidding is available for both cities and even three cities (City of Orchard Lake Village) to bid together we do so to receive a lower cost. Participating in-group bidding has resulted in lower cost for street sweeping, garbage collection, library services, fire services and police dispatch services. Current shared services include: Mutual aid - PD; DPW-shared equipment, expand major equipment and specialty tools; Street sweeping which is required by MDEQ; Garbage collection; Library services; Fire protection and EMS; and Police Dispatch.

Wiegand inquired as to how often street sweeping is done. Martin stated the city has two miles of streets which are done two times a year. Due to budget cutbacks it has been reduce to one time a year, that has been ok'd with the DEQ.

Zubrzycki feels it is an effective relationship.

Potential Areas of Shared Services

- a. Police Department
 - i. Cost allocation to each City if joint venture is pursued

Mayor Lorenz explained this item would tell the City Manager's to come up with the framework of how much each community will pay for these services. Things to consider when looking at this would be historic runs, number of street miles, residents served and commercial establishments served. He suggested adding GPS system on vehicles. This could track how much time is spent in each city.

Keego Harbor Councilmember Fletcher stated the Oakland County Sheriff came up with extrapolations on all of these. He suggested getting the information from them.

Councilmember Gubka suggested using area of community and trends in neighborhoods. Mayor Pro Tem Yoder proposed looking at if there is an interest in shared services before discussion cost allocation.

Mayor Rubin feels this is a 50/50 venture and the cost should be split evenly.

Mayor Lorenz agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Yoder, but feels if they don't agree on the split then there is not use in going forward. He understands they are not here tonight to propose a percentage split just stating they want the City Manager's to look into this.

Zubrzycki feels to they need to agree on the metrics by which they measure how the city is receiving those service, because they are utilized at different levels.

Shepp believes 50/50 is not a fair and equitable way to split the cost.

Mayor Rubin opened the meeting for public comment.

A Keego resident asked how much savings they are looking at. Lorenz explained that they are not that far yet. City Manager Martin added, it is a huge range of possible, separate savings.

1954 Beechmont, feels it doesn't make sense to go forward without deciding this cost allocation first.

Joanne Eberhardt would like a presentation to show facts listed, showing the runs, calls, etc. She expressed, somehow in the future the cities are going to have to combine or merge because costs are going up. She encouraged council to vote to do the research.

1640 Maddy Lane, would also like to see the research done.

1920 Maddy Lane, warned the tables could turn next year and things are not always the same. She feels they should start with 50/50.

Lori Jubelt asked if the cities have spoken with other municipalities that have merged. This could be used as a guideline. Lorenz stated that would happen in the future.

Russ Meskin would like to know the size of savings first to see if there is enough potential before going forward with cost allocation.

Mayor Rubin reminded everyone this topic is determine if each city would like their City Manager's to look into this topic.

Brett Chudler asked the call for acclamation. He feels it sounds like both councils are interested in this information. He stated the nature of runs should be considered too.

A Keego resident suggested they put in the agreement to review cost allocation each year.

Linda Shepp asked if they are looking to get rid of the Sylvan Lake Police as they know it. Lorenz replied, they are looking for a strategic plan for the future that they might wish to implement, if it becomes necessary or desirable. They need to plan for the worst. Economic times tells them to do this.

Councilmember Kalman stated both communities are a little down economically and it is better to discuss this now. They have been looked at before.

Councilmember Fletcher assured everyone no one wants to get rid of the police departments. They want to provide the service at a more affordable cost. They are just being proactive and trying to do it in a positive atmosphere.

City Manager Stewart suggested moving forward and seeing how they feel about the other items. Then if they want to investigate them they can address cost allocation after that.

ii. Shared Chief

City Manager Stewart explained this is an item they might want to consider. It is just to determine if they want to look at the parameters.

Kalman feel any serious discussion won't take place until they know if Sylvan Lake's millage will pass.

Gubka is not interested in this item at the present moment. They are doing housekeeping in Keego Harbor right now.

Mayor Lorenz is not interested in this and feels it is a complicated matter. It would be to difficult to decide who to report to and what priority would come first.

Zubrzycki agrees and feels there would not be enough savings. He added, regardless if the millage passes, forecasts are declining and economic cost continue to hit the cities.

Shepp also feels one Chief can't report to two cities.

Maurina thinks Keego Harbor and Sylvan Lake want the same service from their police departments. There are financial issues for both communities and as we go forward she feels this is worth looking at because the Chief salary is \$60,000 plus benefits.

Wiegand agreed they should look at the details.

Maurina would like to look at this whether the millage passes or not.

Lorenz agreed. This is a long term look at the future and it has nothing to do with millage passing in November.

Mayor Rubin opened it up for public comment.

Joe Currie feels there are a lot of opinions and they should vote and move forward. He is concerned how long this meeting will take.

Zubrzycki feels it is important to get everyone's thoughts. He stated this is the first time the two communities are meeting together to hear first hand how each council feels. He asked everyone to be patient.

Russ Meskin asked if there are savings with each of these items on the agenda. Mayor Rubin replied, they can't provide exact cost for each item. This is to discuss if the council's want the City Managers to pursue.

Lori Jubelt feels they need to decide what they are going to do with the police department first, then work down from there.

Joanne Eberhardt feels as long as both communities get good service they should do.

Keego resident would like councils to look at the Sheriff's Department seriously.

Keego resident stated Keego Harbor is doing ok without a Chief now and feels one person can run two departments.

Lori Jubelt shared she knows communities which have gone to the County Sheriff then regretted their decision because cost keeps increasing.

Moved by Fletcher, seconded Kalman, to instruct Mr. Stewart to continue discussion with Mr. Martin on the possibility and feasibility of a shared Police Chief.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Zubrzycki, seconded Maurina, to have City Manager Martin look into sharing a Chief with Keego Harbor.

Yes: Maurina, Zubrzycki, Wiegand

No: Shepp, Lorenz

iii. Share Shift

Martin reminded everyone this is to decide if councils are willing to look at a shared shift. The concept which he and Stewart have discussed are when two or more (two in each community) are on a shift, such as the day shift, this would be the better shift to share, that way neither community is left short. Sharing a shift would require eliminating one person.

Mayor Rubin is in favor of doing this. Fletcher stated the Oakland County Sheriff proposed the midnight shift and Fletcher feels they need to look at this.

Mayor Rubin opened the topic to the public.

Brett Chudler is concerned with this. He feels there are different needs. It is an easy way to save money, but exposing one city when only one covers two cities is wrong. Residents like the current coverage they have with the police.

Lori Jubelt feels the midnight shift is busy with OUIL's and with bars closing. She stated it can take up to three hours to handle and doesn't feel the city should reply on other outside

communities to cover because they are only going to cover if a call comes in. They won't be patrolling the streets.

Linda Shepp is not in favor of putting one officer out there with no one to cover their back.

Fletcher indicated that currently there is no coverage when someone is transported to the Oakland County jail; this would not be any different.

Zubrzycki would like to leave this item on the table for now and discuss the other items first.

Moved by Gubka, seconded Fletcher, to have City Manager Stewart investigate shared shifts with Sylvan Lake's City Manager.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Maurina, seconded Wiegand, to have City Manager Martin look into sharing a shift along with the four items under this on the agenda.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Rubin called for a five minutes recess at 8:34 p.m.

Mayor Rubin called the meeting back to order at 8:47 p.m.

iv. Consolidate Sylvan Lake and Keego Harbor

Kalman questioned when Sylvan Lake's police contract is up. Lorenz believes it has 1 ½ -2 years. Kalman stated Keego's contract is up now. Lorenz recommended they remove this item from the agenda. Zubrzycki stated he is not interested.

Moved by Wiegand, seconded Shepp, to strike the Consolidate Sylvan Lake and Keego Harbor from the agenda at this time.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

v. Dissolve One Department and Contract with the Other

Lorenz is not interested in this at this time.

Moved by Zubrzycki, seconded Wiegand, to remove this item from the agenda.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

vi. Contract with West Bloomfield, Waterford or OCSD

Mayor Rubin is not interested in looking at Waterford. Yoder is not interest in West Bloomfield unless things change. He doesn't believe they are interested. Mayor Rubin shared that he, City Manager Stewart, Mayor Lorenz and City Manager Martin met with West Bloomfield this morning. He stated they are thinking outside the box. They asked if our cities would be interested in combining police, fire and dispatch services with them. Rubin asked them to do a proposal. Stewart added, West Bloomfield has done some research on it. He also noted both he and Martin just received a proposal from Waterford. Stewart has not given his council a copy of the proposal as of yet. He feels it has some merit to look at it.

Moved by Yoder, seconded Kalman, to direct the City Manager to look at contracting with West Bloomfield, Waterford or OCSD.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Maurina, seconded Zubrzycki, to direct the City Manager to look at contracting with West Bloomfield, Waterford or OCSD and addressing the six items mentioned under this on the agenda.

Yes: Zubrzycki, Lorenz, Maurina, Wiegand
No: Shepp

MOTION CARRIED

vii. Dissolve Existing Departments and Create New Police Department

Lorenz feels this would be a management nightmare and he urged council to remove it from the agenda.

Moved by Maurina, seconded Shepp, to table dissolving existing departments and creating a new police department, at this time.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Kalman feels if options under vi. fail, then he is ok with this.

Moved by Fletcher, seconded Gubka, to table dissolving existing departments and creating a new police department, at this time.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

B. DPW

Lorenz stated the DPW is currently sharing and will continue to share equipment, manpower and projects. He would be interested in looking into snowplowing.

Action Items

Items a thru f were addressed above.

- g. Authorize \$10,000 from each community for legal and consultant services

Moved by Zubrzycki, seconded Wiegand, to authorize the City Manager to spend up to \$10,000 for legal and consulting services in regards to the above items.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Fletcher wanted confirmation that only one legal counsel and one consultant would be used. Martin and Stewart both agreed to this.

Moved by Fletcher, seconded Gubka, to spend up to \$10,000 for legal and consulting services.

Yes: Rubin, Gubka, Yoder, Fletcher, Kalman
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

h. Establish Time Table

Stewart requested councils to let both City Managers time to think about this and propose something at the September City Council meetings. Both Council's agreed to this.

Mayor Lorenz suggested they readdress the cost allocation issue at this time.

Moved by Zubrzycki, seconded Shepp, to instruct City Manager Martin to investigate cost allocation between the cities.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Yoder has no objection to this. He feels there is a misconception with the crime in Keego Harbor. Fletcher agreed.

Moved by Yoder, seconded Fletcher, to direct the City Manager to investigate cost allocation to each City if joint venture is pursued.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

i. Select Joint Consolidation Committee

Moved by Zubrzycki, seconded Maurina, to select joint consolidation committee members at the September City Council meeting.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Fletcher, seconded Yoder, to select two council members at the September City Council meeting.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Lorenz thanked Keego Harbor's council and staff and Sylvan Lake's council and staff for being here tonight. He stated it was a difficult challenge and this is only the beginning.

Mayor Rubin thanked the audience for their patience and everyone's comments. He thanked both Council's and City Managers and the Clerk's for taking the minutes.

City of Keego Harbor

Stewart indicated Council needs approval of the resolution approving a Charter Amendment to Section 12.17, Collection of City Taxes to be placed on the November ballot for the General Election.

Mayor Rubin opened it up for public comment. There were comments.

Moved by Kalman, seconded Gubka, to approve the Charter Amendment to Section 12.17, Collection of City Taxes to allow taxes to remain unpaid until September 14th of each and every year without penalty, to be placed on the November ballot for the General Election.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Yoder, seconded Gubka, to adjourn the special joint City Council Meeting.

Moved by Shepp, seconded Zubrzycki, to adjourn the special joint City Council Meeting.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Dennise Clippert, City Clerk