



COALITION of LARGE OHIO URBAN TOWNSHIPS
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, August 28, 2017

10:30 a.m.

MINUTES

- I. Welcome - Vice Chair Matacic called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. Those in attendance included: John Crandall (Northwest Region), Frank Dantonio (Central Region), John Eisel (Central Region), Jeff Ferrell (Northwest Region), Tracy Hatmaker (Central Region), Helen Humphrys (East Region), Christine Matacic (Southwest Region); Karl Schultz (Southwest Region) Barry Tiffany (Southwest Region) and Mike Vaccaro (East Region). Participating by phone were Tom Costello (East Region) and Vicky Earhart (Southwest Region). Also in attendance were OTA staff members Matt J. DeTemple and Heidi M. Fought.
- II. Old Business
- A. Legislative Committee Update
 - B. Approval of May 15, 2017 Minutes - **Tiffany moved, seconded by Eisel, to approve the minutes. Motion carried.**
 - C. Review of Financials - Fought provided the Committee with a spreadsheet that detailed income and expenses for CLOUT dating back to 2001, the first year that CLOUT charged dues for participating townships. It was noted that the CLOUT fund balance is \$133,673.38. She also provided the final list of townships that were members for 2017 noting that 51 townships were members.
 - D. Review of Legislation Pending 132nd General Assembly - The Committee was given a copy of the OTA's Legislative Status Sheet and the final chart of items included in HB 49, the biennium budget, that impact townships. Fought provided an overview of the status of HB 69 (TIFs), HB 175 (Livestock Ownership) and HB 281 (Broadband Expansion). The Committee suggested that HB 69 include language allowing a township that creates a TIF to exclude fire and EMS levies. Tiffany requested that the words "private citizen" be removed from R.C. §505.38. Dantonio encouraged Committee members to check their levy language for emergency service levies to ensure that ancillary costs are included in the language for the legal use of those levy funds.
 - E. Review of Amicus Briefs Filed - DeTemple reviewed several cases that potentially have an impact on township government. The first case, *Joanne Moore vs. City of Cleveland*, deals with immunity for an employee of a political subdivision who engages in wanton or reckless conduct in connection with a governmental or proprietary function. He noted that the OTA has been asked to file an amicus brief in the case and will be doing so this week. The second case, *Hurt vs. Liberty Township*, deals with whether an investigator's private notes are actually considered a public record. DeTemple stated that the OTA was asked to consider filing an amicus brief.
 - F. Utilizing CLOUT Fund to Benefit Members - As a follow-up to the last meeting, the Committee discussed in greater details potential options for utilizing CLOUT membership dues to benefit members. Dantonio suggested that CLOUT membership fees be reduced for 2018 to help bring in new members. Earhart suggested that funds be used to produce a brochure or campaign piece highlighting the importance of townships. She also suggested CLOUT paying for a speaker at

the upcoming OTA conference. Tiffany stated that he was not in favor of reducing membership fees, as the amount is already very minimal. He suggested that CLOUT have a booth in the Trade Show at the conference in order to try and pull in those townships that are not members but do qualify and as a means to help educate smaller townships.. Eisel stated that he would like to do something that would benefit all townships, not just CLOUT members. Hatmaker suggested a speaker on economic development. Earhart asked that OTA staff compile a list of suggestions that were made at the meeting and then possible ideas for CLOUT sponsorship at the upcoming conference to disseminate to Executive Committee members for discussion.

III. New Business

- A. 2018-2019 CLOUT Elections - Earhart reminded members that at the 2018 CLOUT Annual Meeting, members from each region will be electing representatives to the Executive Committee to serve for two years. Earhart then informed the Committee that she will not be seeking reappointment to the Executive Committee board due to personal reasons.
- B. Annual Meeting and Workshop Suggestions for 2018 Winter Conference - The Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 1 and a boxed lunch will be provided. Earhart asked Committee members for suggestions for workshop topics and the following were provided: small cell towers, collective bargaining mandatory, permissive and prohibited topics, body cameras for police officers, autonomous vehicles, economic development, land banks and community development organizations.
- C. Highway Exit Sign & Bridge Overpasses - Johann Klein and Megan Wadsworth from the Ohio Department of Transportation joined the Committee. Klein provided an overview of ODOT regulations pertaining to highway signage, including federal standards that must be met for ODOT to receive federal dollars. Fought provided an overview as to the concerns that CLOUT has risen regarding township names on highway exit signs and bridge overpasses on interstates. She noted that some districts allow for township names and others do not and that CLOUT is requesting that it be an option for townships of a certain population. Klein stated that there is an upcoming meeting of ODOT traffic engineers and he would raise the concerns with them and solicit feedback. Additionally, ODOT will review federal and state guidelines on signage and Administrative Code and other documents to have a better understanding of what may be done. Questions were asked as to the criteria ODOT currently uses to place locations on interstate exit signs and Klein responded that the locale must be within ten miles of the exit. He also noted that state routes have more leeway than interstates due to federal standards. CLOUT Executive Committee members requested consistency across all the districts and for formal guidance on the procedure to follow. Additionally, members noted the importance of identity when it comes to creating and expanding economic development in a community.

IV. Items for the Good of the Organization - none

V. Meeting Scheduling

- A. Next Meeting Date - October 30, 2017 @ 10:30 a.m.

V. Adjournment - **Tiffany moved, seconded by Humphrys, to adjourn the meeting at 1:05 p.m. Motion carried.**