

**SALARY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018**

The Salary Committee met June 11, 2018 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers at the Knisely Centre. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Resolution 16-2018 and Proposed Ordinance 18-2018.

In attendance were Salary Committeepersons:

*Mr. Dean Holland
Mr. Kelly Ricklic
Alternate: Aimee May
Committee Chairperson Mr. John Zucal.*

Guests were:

*President of Council Sam Hitchcock
Mr. Dan Lanzer
Mr. Rob Maurer
Mrs. Cheryl Ramos
Council Clerk Julie Courtright
Mayor Joel Day
Law Director Marvin Fete
Safety Director Greg Popham
City Prosecutor Doug Jackson
Judge Nanette VonAllman*

Salary Committee Chairperson, John Zucal called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Resolution 16-2018 is asking for our support of the VOCA Grant for the full-time funding of a victim's advocate and Ordinance 18-2018 would actually be per the request of the Law Director, a piece of legislation that affirms the City's commitment to the 20% share grant, which would be the 11,062.80 given the tentative numbers provided by the Auditor. I did ask Judge VonAllman to be here this evening as well because the conversation for the 20% matching share was that that would come from the CILOCS funding that had been established by legislation through City Council. I just wanted to share that with all of you and have her have the opportunity to share that with all of you as well.

Judge VonAllman made the following statement:

I received most of these materials today from the Auditor's office so I'm not sure how long this has been under discussion. One of the things I learned is that when there is proposed legislation that effects the court that I would like to be included in the process. I didn't know that the CILOCS fund was under discussion but I feel like I'm prepared to talk about that. I just wanted to remind everybody that when we started the CILOCS discussion that was because of a change in State law that allowed courts to give people doing community service the opportunity to make a contribution in lieu. So we set \$10 per hour as the rates. If they pay 24 hours of community service instead of working that they can then pay it into the General Fund. So then we had gone to City Council and asked for a portion of the CILOCS funds to be appropriated to a special fund for the court to use. We had primarily talked about the fact that we are in the midst of a pretty significant heroin and drug epidemic that then contributes to crime and so forth. We had spent a portion of that for floor and light replacement. When someone works as hard as we do to establish a program like CILOCS and works as hard as we do to make sure we have a building that the City can be proud of, well then we keep seeing "pay for this out of CILOCS", you're disincentivizing the work that we're doing to create the CILOCS fund. We need a victim's advocate. We are one of the few courts in the State of Ohio that does not have a victim's advocate. We have tried Compass, we've tried Harbor House. We did talk about collaborating with the County Prosecutor's Office but because of the volume of domestic violence and assault and aggravated menacing, all serious Offenses, it would have made life pretty miserable for the victims and everyone else in the neighborhood sometimes.

Action: *The Law Director will draw up appropriate legislation to recognize Mr. Hixson for his service. The legislation will be presented to full council for passage.*

Chairman Zucal had the following comment:

The next item on the Agenda is an application for a grant for the victims of crime and to look at someone to act as an advocate in that capacity.

Law Director Fete had the following comment:

Everyone received a letter from Doug Jackson. This is really a product of the new law that went into effect. We handled about 13,800 cases last year, roughly 450 of those were cases that had a victim where a victim advocate would be appropriate. However with the new law we're also having to show up anytime there's a little fender bender. Right now we as prosecutors have to fill the role of being the victim's advocate. It's not a very good position for the prosecutor to be in because we have to make tough calls on cases. Prosecutors are charged with doing justice we're not charged with getting as many convictions as we can, we're not charged with representing the police department, we're not charged with representing the victim. We represent the State of Ohio and that's it. We handle about 450 cases a year where there are real victims, vehicular manslaughter, domestic violence. To put that in context of all the criminal cases that are handled by the county there's only about 150 cases total that are handled by the County. We've got at least 450 where there are victims. They have supplied through this grant program a victim to the county. When we applied for this originally they came back to us after the fact and said "hey, we want to come look at how many cases you have". They were shocked to know how many cases we have where a victim advocate would be appropriate and encouraged us to reapply. They had no idea there was such a great need. They had previously looked at felony cases. The vast majority of domestic violence cases are not felony cases. The same goes for the vast majority of assault cases. When we have to be in the role of being the victim's advocate we're having to decide whether or not this case should go forward or not go forward based on the evidence that is presented to us. You can't be both a prosecutor and a victim's advocate. A victim's advocate needs to be there for counseling and support. The City's commitment would be \$11,000. The total expense is \$55,314, the City's commitment only being \$11,062.80.

Mr. Zucal had the following question:

Is this going to be a sustainable position for a period of time?

Mr. Fete had the following response:

The County has been doing it for 20 years. It's the same grant program funded at the same level. I believe that that is what will happen here. I think there's a greater need here and when we brought them in they were shocked that there is this large of need for it.

Mr. Zucal had the following question:

What's the deadline for the grant?

Mr. Fete had the following response:

I believe it's June 28th. I would like the Committee to do two things. First, I would like a Resolution from Council in support of this so that when we apply for this grant we can show our Council fully supports this and sees the need for it and agrees with it. Two, to address the funding issue I spoke with Auditor Gundy earlier. Both she and Dean Holland would like to weigh in on this. Previously the court had asked us to take the CILOCS money and give that back to the court. That was money that was generated by the court through fines that was coming to the City of New Philadelphia. We gave all of it back to the court at their request. What I would suggest we do is take whatever we need for the victim's advocate out of that, according to the Auditor it's between \$140,000 and \$150,000. This is money that's already generated by the court. It's already there. I would propose that we restructure what we did in the CILOCS Grant to allow a portion of those funds to go in and offset the cost that the City pays for the victim's advocate.

Mr. Zucal had the following question:

How soon do both Resolution 16-2018 and Ordinance 18-2018, how soon do both of those have to be passed?

City Prosecutor Doug Jackson had the following response:

The deadline to apply is June 28th. The program would start in October.

Mr. Ricklic had the following question:

I understand the importance and the money issue as far as the building is concerned. I've been in the building many times when I was water superintendent, but \$11,000 to get it started, if we can't afford it we can't afford it, but I'd like to see it at least get started.

Mr. Holland had the following comment:

The County Corrections Board Committee the last time we met pointed out that every court has a victim's advocate and that we're the only court that doesn't have that capability.

Mr. Zucal had the following comment:

Neither Ordinance or Resolution mentions that the funding comes through CILOCS, so that's something that can be hammered out in the meantime.

Law Director Fete had the following comment:

The Victims Advocates will be tied to Municipal Court and will be in there all the time. Right now prosecutors are doing that. The essence of domestic violence is control. You might have a person so totally controlled by this person that they end up at the hospital. They need a victim's advocate.

**MR. RICKLIC MOTIONED TO ADD RESOLUTION 16-2018 AND ORDINANCE 18-2018 TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA
WITH RECOMMENDED PASSAGE UPON 1st Reading**

MR. HOLLAND SECONDED THE MOTION

RESOLUTION 16-2018 AND ORDINANCE 18-2018 WILL BE ADDED TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA

With no further action the Meeting of the Salary Committee adjourned at 6:28pm.