

# CITY OF CONNEAUT

## OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

*Douglas L. Lewis*  
City Manager

*City Hall Building*  
294 Main Street  
Conneaut, OH  
44030  
Ph 440-593-7401  
Fax 440-593-6908

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** City Council Members/Department/Division Heads  
**FROM:** Douglas L. Lewis, City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** City Manager Report  
**DATE:** March 12, 2007

---

**Council Vision Statement:** Councilmember's Chris Castrilla and Joan Norton have working together to craft a vision statement as a result of our discussions at the Saturday, January 27, 2007 Council Retreat. Once I have talked with Mr. John Yesso, we will schedule a follow-up meeting.

**Ambulance Purchase:** The Conneaut Fire Department, Station #3 plans to purchase a 2006 demo model (22K miles) from Braun through State of Ohio Purchasing Program. As a result, they will receive approximately a \$25,000 discount. The unit will be lettered locally and the radio equipment will be installed by staff at Station #3, resulting in more savings.

The new ambulance will replace their oldest unit (a 1989 Sentinel Model). Because it was a demo model, it was well equipped and had many features that would normally be out of our price range in a medium duty ambulance. It is expected that the unit will be in service for 15 years or more. The purchase price for the unit is \$147,813.00 and will allow CFD Station #3 to continue to serve the public.

The CFD Station #3 included this as a capital purchase and planned for it two years ago. As a result, the equipment will be paid for with funds from the ambulance budget and was budgeted to be replaced in 2007. Much thanks goes to Battalion Chief Gildone and staff for their efforts. This will be presented to City Council for your approval.

**Industrial Meter Audit:** The Water Treatment Department has been diligently working on auditing for industrial meters during the past month. This is very time consuming, as the department has to visit each facility for the audit.

**Water Meter Testing:** The Water Treatment Department is continuing to test water meters prior to sending them out to Johnson Controls. Results will be compared once the meters are returned.

Mr. Harry Runnion, Water Superintendent, has expressed some concerns regarding getting into some properties to change out their water meters. As a result, it may be necessary to look at options to address the situation (i.e., turn off water) in order to replace the City owned water meters.

**Water Line Breaks:** The Water Department continues to be plagued by breaking water lines. This past week, there was a main line break in front of 1448 Lake Road. We also encountered a break in the line in the 400 block of Chestnut Street. This leak was very close to underground electric lines. The Water Department is working with CEI to make the necessary repairs which are anticipated to be completed on Monday.

**Woodworth Road Pump Station:** The Wastewater Treatment Department connected their generator at Woodworth Road Lift Station to the sensaphone so that it calls the plant anytime it is running. As a result, we will know when there is a power failure or the generator is “exercising.”

**Police Calls/Citations:** During the week of March 2 through March 9, the Police Department logged 388 calls for service. Included in these calls were 55 traffic stops, 68 registration checks and 13 suspicious activity calls.

**Manhole Inspection:** The Wastewater Department inspected manholes for inflow while the flow was high due to rain, melting snow and runoff. Some areas of concern were found and will be investigated as time permits. Inflow and infiltration is the main concern and will result in reduced costs if the Wastewater Department is able to identify the source.

**Parrish Road Rail Grade Separation Project:** The Water Department worked with Ruhlin Company to locate water lines along Parrish Road to make the tap in for the concession stand at Malek Park.

**Fire Department Grant:** The Fire Department received a grant for \$20,000.00 to provide a computer network between the three (3) fire stations. Fire Chief Orrenmaa indicated that the grant awarded to the Conneaut Fire Department was the largest grant awarded in the State of Ohio this year for this type of networking project. The Conneaut Fire Department is very excited about this grant and is anxious to get the system up and running. Firefighter Steve Sanford was instrumental in researching and completing the necessary paperwork to make this project a reality.

**Ladder Truck:** Representatives from the Fire Department visited Carnegie Body on Wednesday of last week to review the scope of the repairs. The service technician cited road salt as the leading cause of the corrosion and deterioration of critical components.

The total cost of the repairs is expected to be approximately \$15,000.00. Carnegie Body believes that the ladder truck still has many good years once the problems have been addressed. Repairs on the ladder truck are expected to take approximately two (2) months to complete.

**Public Works Update:** Last week, the Public Works Department hauled snow from the downtown area and cleaned ice from roadways using the road grader. In addition, they are repairing damaged signs that were pushed over by the ice.

**Cost Saving Mechanics:** The 1995 front-end loader is in the shop for repairs. Preliminary estimates are around \$6,000. However, the mechanics are evaluating a possible re-design in-house to save on costs.

**Equipment Replacement:** The Public Works Department purchased two new commercial mowers as budgeted. The non-commercial mowers being replaced were approximately 13 years old and will be used to mow private lots and right-of-ways.

The new commercial mowers will be used nearly every day during the summer to provide maintenance and upkeep of the seven (7) cemeteries and numerous miles of right-of-ways. In addition, a new trailer to transport the mowers is on order and projected delivery is late March.

**Country Roads:** The Public Works Department has received a number of calls regarding the condition of the country roads. The Public Works Department plans on spending this week spreading stone and filling the pot holes. Once the frost is out of the road, the Public Works Department will be able to grade the roads for the spring.

**Street Improvement Program:** The bid specs for the curb replacement on Mill Street - Phase II have been turned into City Hall and will be publicized in the Star Beacon this weekend.

**Tree City USA:** The City of Conneaut was informed that it will be honored for our designation as Tree City USA. Much recognition and thanks needs to go to the Conneaut Tree Commission for this prestigious honor. The awards ceremony will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at the Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium, 2345 – 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Cuyahoga Falls. If you would like to attend, please return the registration form that was placed in your mailboxes. Once again, thank you members of the Tree Commission.

**Tree Crew:** The tree crew has been out removing dead and dangerous trees that have been reviewed and approved by our department and the Tree Commission. We will be moving into trimming the roads that are on the paving schedule.

**Compost Site Preparation:** The Public Works Department moved mulch piles and corrected drainage issues in preparation for the spring opening. The compost site will be officially opening on March 31, 2007.

We will be scheduling a spring clean up early this Spring – expected in last two weeks in April. Yard waste only (i.e., branches, limbs, leaves, etc.) will be picked up. All sticks should be bundled and tied in 3' lengths. **All leaves and yard waste must be in paper bags only.** Bags are available at the Public Works Department on 16<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Congratulations on Retirements:** As you know, Mr. John Roach, Public Works Directors, last official work day was Wednesday, February 28, 2007. Mr. Roach will be using vacation that he has accumulated over the years and his final day will be December 31, 2007. We want to wish Mr. Roach the best as he was a very hard working, knowledgeable and dedicated employee over the past 34 years. Thank you for your contributions over the years!

Mr. Harry Runnion, Water Treatment Superintendent, has informed me of his desire to retire on June 29, 2007. Due to that fact that he will need to use his accumulated vacation, his last day will be April 13, 2007. Mr. Runnion has worked for the City of Conneaut for the past 18 years. He is one of only a handful of operators in the State of Ohio that possesses a Class IV license for both Water and Wastewater. Over the years, Mr. Runnion has served as the superintendent of both the Water and Wastewater Treatment Departments. We wish Mr. Runnion the best as he was a definite asset to the City of Conneaut and his dedication and knowledge allowed us to progress.

**Best Wishes for Speedy Recovery:** As many of you probably know, Mr. Don Smith, father of Sally Kennedy, was in an automobile accident approximately two weeks ago and is being treated at Hamot Medical Center in Erie, Pennsylvania. Please take the time to wish him well as he recovers from this incident.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS – IMPORTANT DATES:**

***OML Legislative Luncheon:*** Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 11:30 a.m. in Columbus, Ohio in the Ohio Statehouse Atrium. Council President Jones and I will be attending.

***Katie Whitman Blood Drive:*** Saturday, March 24, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. from 3:00 p.m. at the Conneaut First Methodist Church, 283 Buffalo Street.

***27<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House and Health Fair:*** Saturday, March 24, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Inn-Conneaut Health & Rehabilitation Center. Guest speaker is Armond Budish of WKYC – TV.

***Tree City USA:*** The awards ceremony will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at the Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium, 2345 – 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Cuyahoga Falls. If you would like to attend, please return the registration form that was placed in your mailboxes.

***Spring Clean Up:*** April 16 - 27, 2007 – Conneaut Spring Clean-Up will be held the last two weeks in April. Yard waste will be picked up if it is bagged.

***LaTourette's Elected Officials Conference:*** May 17 – 18, 2007 in Washington, D. C. from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Please let me know if you plan on attending as we need to RSVP as soon as possible.

***LEAF Project:*** July 16-21, 2007. The goal of the LEAF project is to help with the rebuilding and renovation of fifteen (15) properties in Conneaut. If you are interested in lending a helping hand or need assistance, please contact Mr. Don Palm, LEAF Project Coordinator, at 224-1176.