



COALITION of LARGE OHIO URBAN TOWNSHIPS
Executive Committee Meeting
Monday, May 17, 2010

MINUTES

- I. Welcome (10:30 am) - Heidi Fought called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. Those in attendance were: Tom Costello (Mahoning County - NE), Vicky Earhart (Hamilton County - South), Jeff Ferrell (Erie County - NW), Chris Galloway (Lake County - NE), Karl Gebhardt (Delaware County - NW), Christine Matacic (Butler County - South), Karl Schultz (Clermont County - South), Barry Tiffany (Greene County - South), Matthew DeTemple (OTA), Michael H. Cochran (OTA) and Heidi M. Fought (OTA).
 - A. Introduce new members - Given this was the first meeting of the 2010-2011 Executive Committee, members in attendance introduced themselves.
 - B. **Selection of CLOUT Chair and Vice Chair - Tiffany moved, seconded by Gebhardt, to nominate Earhart as Chair. Earhart nominated, seconded by Costello, to nominate Tiffany as Vice Chair. Matacic moved, seconded by Costello, to close the nominations and make Earhart Chair and Tiffany Vice Chair. Without objection motion carried.**
 - B. Review of CLOUT Bylaws - Fought reviewed the bylaws with the Committee, specifically noting Article III (Membership & Funding), Article VI (Executive Committee) and Article VII (Officers).
 - D. **Approval of minutes from October 22, 2009, and February 18, 2010 - Matacic moved, seconded by Galloway, to approve the October 2009 minutes. Without objection, motion carried. Costello moved, seconded by Earhart, to approve the February 2010 minutes. Without objection, motion carried.**
- II. Old Business
 - A. Review of CLOUT Membership - Fought reviewed the current membership list with Committee members. It was noted that only two townships have not joined in 2010 that have previously been members. Schultz was asked to contact Batavia Township in Clermont County and Ferrell was asked to contact Springfield Township in Lucas County to encourage the townships to join.
 - B. Ohio Commission on Local Government Reform & Collaboration - Cochran updated members on the status of the Commission and the work the Commission will be doing at the May 21 meeting. He noted that the majority of Commission members, including him, had submitted recommendations to be considered for inclusion in the final report. He further noted that he did not expect to see any recommendations that called for the elimination of a form of government, such as townships, given that no research or testimony had been presented along those lines, rather, he expects to see recommendations that would help eliminate any barriers for local governments to collaborate or share

services. He concluded by stating that the Commission must deliver its report to the Governor, Speaker of the House and President of the Senate by July 1, 2010.

- C. Review of Legislation Pending 128th General Assembly - Fought reviewed several pieces of legislation of interest to CLOUT townships. Specifically Fought mentioned HB 393 (Nuisance Abatement), SB 110 (HSTS Rules & Regulations), HB 456 (Estate Tax), HB 220 (Public Notices), HB 246 (OP&F Disease Coverage) and HB 459 (Township Interest on Funds). Earhart shared that Anderson Township would still like to see clarification to HB 138 from the 127th General Assembly pertaining to taxes of a property that did not sell at a judicial sale and was then offered to a political subdivision for purchase. Fought asked Earhart to get a copy of the drafted language her representative has been shopping and the OTA will work to also find a vehicle for the corrective language. Tiffany asked if the OTA had any information about HB 48 which goes into effect July 2, 2010, and Fought responded no. Tiffany explained that HB 48, according to his board of elections, will alter deadlines for ballot questions and candidate filings. Fought will look into the issue and provide information in the next legislative alert and the June newsletter. Gebhardt mentioned that he is hearing a lot of talk about the large number of local governments in Ohio and how that is impacting economic development. A lengthy discussion on this topic ensued.
- D. Review of CLOUT Priorities for 128th General Assembly - Fought reviewed the current priorities set by the CLOUT Executive Committee in the fall of 2008. Committee members had no suggested additions or changes.
- E. Review of Amicus Curia Briefs Files - Fought and DeTemple reviewed with Committee members the results of several amicus briefs CLOUT filed in conjunction with the OTA. Fought stated that there has been no decision in The Drees Co. v. Hamilton Township, the impact fee case brought forth by Hamilton Township (Warren County) but a decision is expected soon. DeTemple explained a board of tax appeals case that the OTA included CLOUT on, noting that the case, Dialysis Clinic v. Levin, involves the significant issue of whether a for-profit health facility is eligible for a property tax exemption due to having a charitable purpose.. Fought noted that the OTA has received a copy of the amicus brief on the solid waste facility case brought forth by Colerain Township (Hamilton County). **Tiffany asked CLOUT to consider supporting an amicus brief pertaining to lawsuit regarding type 2 annexations and the distribution of taxes. Galloway moved, seconded by Earhart, to file an amicus brief on this matter with the cost not to exceed \$2,500. Without objection, motion carried.**

III. New Business

- A. Regional One-Day Summer Sessions / CLOUT Regional Meetings - Fought encouraged all CLOUT members to attend the regional summer session in their area. She noted that in the past CLOUT was given a space to meet at OTA summer conferences and asked if the OTA should provide such space at the regional meetings. Discussion on this matter followed and it was determined that the different CLOUT regions, as a whole or broken up into smaller areas, will plan and hold regional meetings before October. Fought encouraged regions to look at how central Ohio planned their regional meeting last year.
- B. 2011 Legislative Breakfast Reception - At the annual meeting of CLOUT in February, it was agreed to hold a legislative breakfast instead of a legislative luncheon for CLOUT members and CLOUT legislators. Fought reviewed the new 2011 winter conference schedule with Committee members, specifically noting that the conference will begin with registration at noon on Wednesday,

as in the past. Discussion followed with respect to an appropriate time for the breakfast reception with Committee members agreeing to a 7:30 or 8:00 am reception at the Capital Club, Statehouse or Riffe Center. It was then requested that the CLOUT meeting be held on Wednesday morning at 10:00 am back at the Convention Center following the reception. Schultz asked if buses could be provided to and from the Convention Center for CLOUT attendees. Fought said she would check into buses and costs for the reception prior to the next CLOUT meeting.

- C. Priorities for 129th General Assembly - Fought reminded Committee members that this fall priorities for the 129th General Assembly will need to be set. She asked members to review the current list of priorities and be prepared to discuss potential priorities at the next CLOUT meeting. She further noted that executive committees in the past have traditionally had CLOUT priorities set before the OTA Board of Directors meet in November to finalize the OTA's priorities in order to provide the OTA Board with CLOUT's perspective on legislative matters to consider.

IV. Items for the Good of the Organization

- A. Earhart raised a question about a legislative alert that was recently sent out by Fought containing information on a federal bereavement bill. She asked if townships are required to have rules and regulations for cemeteries. Fought asked Earhart to send her an e-mail and she would forward sample cemetery rules and regulations.
- B. Matacic raised the issue of the possible elimination of the estate tax. Discussion followed relative to multiple bills before the General Assembly and the possibility of a statewide ballot question to eliminate the estate tax.

- V. Next Meeting Date - The next meeting of the CLOUT Executive Committee will be at 10:30 am on Monday, July 19, 2010, at the office of the Ohio Township Association.

VI. Adjournment (12:30 pm) - Tiffany moved, seconded by Matacic to adjourn. Without objection, motion carried (12:57 pm).