

Bob Mollette

3rd Ward Councilman

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Correspondence#: 08-020

May 16, 2008

Jim Kalb, Mayor
728 Second Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Re: Additional Information to Correspondences #08-014, 015, 016, 017, and 018

The following is a list of comments, questions, and requests for documentation.

Power Washing City Sanitation Trucks and Environmental Regulations *(Correspondence #08-014 dated April 21, 2008 – Response May 12, 2008)*

I appreciate your clarification that the wastewater generated from power washing the City's sanitation trucks discharges to the Portsmouth Wastewater Treatment Plant instead of directly into the "waters of state" such as the Ohio River. This serious question was only brought to my attention as a result of your careless response to a citizen. Taking the time to get it right the first time is always the best approach. Also, has the effluent from the power washing of sanitation trucks been evaluated and included in the permit to operate the existing treatment plant?

New Roof on the Marting Building Annex

(Correspondence #08-015 dated April 21, 2008 - Response May 12, 2008)

Again, I appreciate your response but it was not timely or complete. I requested documentation as to whom and when the City decided to replace the roof on the Marting's Building Annex, documentation that approved this Capital Improvement Fund (CIP) expenditure, documentation to justify spending taxpayer dollars for a new roof on a building the City intends to sell, documents pertaining to any marketing performed for the Marting's Building Annex to date, and documentation of all correspondence with the Richard D. Marting Foundation requesting release of funds for the roof repairs.

Request Assistance of State Auditor to Confirm Compliance of Financial Reporting

(Correspondence #08-017 dated May 2, 2008 - Response May 12, 2008)

Again, I appreciate your response but it was not timely or complete. I requested the assistance of the State Auditor to assure compliance with legislative criteria after correspondence (#08-015) dated April 21, 2008 went unanswered. I feel the new roof on the Marting Building Annex is an improper expenditure and proper controls to avoid exceeding revenues are not in place.

Within my correspondence #07-061 (Item 5) dated December 27, 2007, I questioned the proposed expenditure of \$8,000 for the Sheriff Department to supply court security when the contract submitted for 2008 was \$88,374 or \$7,364.50 per month. As you stated, the City's plan was to replace the two (2) Sheriff Department employees with two (2) part-time City employees to create a cost savings. The budgeted amount for the two (2) City employees is \$35,000. Based on the Sheriff Department contract budgeted amount of \$8,000 the transition to City employees should have occurred sometime in February to avoid exceeding the budget. To date, no documentation has been provided to the legislative authority for evaluation, deliberation, and approval or the certification of available funds.

2008 Capital Improvement Budget (CIP)

(Correspondence #08-016 dated April 30, 2008 - Response May 12, 2008)

Again, I appreciate your response but it was not timely or complete. As in the past I still recommend the City of Portsmouth have a five (5) year plan for the Capital Improvement Budget. It is your administrative duty, as read by the Chief of Police at the last city council meeting, to provide proper planning to maintain our infrastructure. It would engage our community and provide a better means to utilize our limited resources. Keep in mind the knowledge resources (department heads) are at your fingertips and the advantages to having an overall CIP Plan are self evident.

I strongly believe the Ohio Sunshine Laws support public deliberations as a legislative body in an effort to make the best decisions and provide the public the ability to understand how a decision is reached. On April 30, 2008, I documented various questions and comments for your response for your convenience and public record. I appreciate the Engineering Department responding to questions within their area and including a response within the May 12, 2008 Council Packet. I expressed my concern with prematurely funding miscellaneous projects (\$275,000) without appropriate planning and purchasing new police cruisers without justification or considering fuel consumption alternatives.

City of Portsmouth Cell Phone & Credit/Debit Card Policy

(Correspondence #08-018 dated May 8, 2008 - Response May 12, 2008)

Again, I appreciate your response and priority to address past audit findings. I would appreciate a timeline that addresses concerns of the State Auditor prior additional financial audits.

The above correspondence #08-014, 015, 016, 017, and 018 with responses may be found on my website www.mollette.info under the "Letters" page.

If you should have any questions contact me.

Respectfully,



Bob Mollette, 3rd Ward Advocate and Representative on City Council

cc: Mary Taylor, Ohio Auditor of State
Trent Williams, Auditor
Michael Jones, Solicitor
Honorable Council Members
Chris Murphy, Public Service Director
Bill Beaumont, Assistant Engineering Director
Richard Duncan, Wastewater Director
Charles Horner, Chief of Police
Jo Ann Aeh, Clerk (Record)