The Center for Local Government Board of Directors Meeting

July 9, 2025

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Center for Local Government (4015 Executive Park Dr. Suite 226, Sharonville, OH 45241) or virtual

In attendance: Noah Powers, Mike Thonnerieux, Jim Lukas, Vicky Earhart, Amanda Zimmerlin (V); Mike Rahall, Ziah Huett (staff)

Absent:

* Call to order
  + The meeting was called to order at 1:35 PM
* May 14th, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes
  + MOTION to approve the minutes from the May 14th, 2025, meeting by M. Thonnerieux, seconded by… Motion passed 5 – 0.
* Annual Meeting and Newsletter
  + M. Rahall says Annual Meeting is set for September 10th, 2025, and will be at the American Sign Museum
  + J. Lukas asks about the speaker for the event and parking, since CLG has had a meeting there before, and parking was scarce
  + M. Rahall says parking at the American Sign Museum has been expanded
  + M. Rahall then mentions that the newsletter is finished and will be distributed tomorrow
* AI Training Session Proposal
  + M. Rahall turns to J. Lukas for comments on AI Training Proposal
  + J. Lukas mentions that he is worried about the $5500 cost, which translates to roughly $2500 per hour to attend
  + J. Lukas then mentions OSU’s Glenn College of Public Affairs offers AI training for free and asks what we are getting from the training for the price tag
  + M. Rahall asks Z. Huett about the Spot Survey put out in May
  + Z. Huett mentions the number of responses (6) and the consensus from these responses
  + J. Lukas responds that he has no issue if people are willing to pay
  + M. Rahall mentions that smaller communities may have no interest in the price tag associated with the training
  + N. Powers says that it is a useful topic, but it is also too expensive
  + J. Lukas chimes in and says if we get 20 attendees and they pay $250/each, he doesn’t mind
  + V. Earhart says that Anderson Township has a room available at no cost
    - She mentions that they have no policies or procedures in place for implementing AI, and that her fire chief came to her to explore it
  + V. Earhart also says she looked into West Chester Township’s agreement and said there may be a $50,000 agreement with the tech company to use AI, but she is not sure where to go in regard to that
  + M. Thonnerieux has no problem with CLG offering training at any cost, but says subsidizing it is an issue
    - M. Thonnerieux also says that it is up to the members to fill it up, and asks “are we willing to subsidize programs and at what percentage?”
  + M. Thonnerieux then mentions some examples for parameters to go by such as having to meet a minimum level of attendance before a session is good to go and setting thresholds for outcomes
    - Mike T. adds that the staff of CLG is more in tune to determine what members want or need
    - J. Lukas and A. Zimmerlin say they support this idea
    - M. Rahall says CLG will put out a serious request, and if it is close to 20 people wanting to attend, the session will be a go
    - M. Thonnerieux mentions subsidizing trainings again, saying that if we make a general policy, one-off programs may needs costs covered
  + J. Lukas adds that it is fair to the company to say that CLG won’t proceed until we get 20 people interested
  + J. Lukas mentions an RFP and N. Powers mentions looking at other companies for AI training sessions
  + V. Earhart adds that we don’t want to act as motivation for the company to ask about other sessions
* Attracting and Growing Talent Workshop at Xavier University
  + Z. Huett then details the Attracting and Growing Talent Workshop that was at Xavier University on June 26th, 2025
    - Z. Huett mentions using CLG’s connection with XU’s APEX program to collaborate on this training session
    - Following this, Z. Huett added that participants discussed their struggles with hiring and retention, and mentioned that many of them said the people they were interviewing and hiring had quick turnover
* Cybersecurity Training
  + Z. Huett talks about the June training held at Mason’s municipal building
  + Z. Huett says this session had O-PCI talk about cybersecurity practices, and made the connection with their Associate Director at the February OCMA conference
  + Z. Huett finishes by mentioning Union Township, a community CLG has had doubts about renewing membership, was interested and connected to O-PCI for cybersecurity needs
* Emergency Management Training
  + Z. Huett talks about the upcoming Emergency Management training being held at the Hamilton County Educational Service Center on July 22nd, 2025
  + Z. Huett says EMHSA’s Director, Nick Crossley, will be the speaker and will discuss preparedness, planning, and collaboration
* SWORRE
  + Z. Huett mentions that T. White says the SWORRE bid was being held up by Rumpke taking too long
  + Z. Huett says that Cincinnati Group 1’s contract ends February 28th, 2026, and the bid for the next contract was published on April 12th, 2025
  + Z. Huett states that one bid from Rumpke was received but it came with exceptions, which were being negotiated
  + Z. Huett then details the current participants in Cincinnati Group 1, and mentions that Riverside is new to the bid
  + Z. Huett tells the board the average costs and states that, according to T. White, these are good results and that governments in this bid have multiple contract options
  + Z. Huett continues that while pricing was positive, Rumpke had a list of clarifications and exceptions, and our responses were sent to Rumpke’s legal team for review
  + Z. Huett reiterates the review is taking longer than expected and that T. White has been working with Dean Ferrier to expedite the process during the early part of his MVRMA employment
  + M. Thonnerieux mentions he asked T. White about Washington Township joining the bid, but T. White says they were too big to benefit
  + V. Earhart adds that there was an issue between townships and municipalities that prevented her community from joining and that Rumpke bought out their original provider
    - V. Earhart also mentions that their rate with Rumpke was just a letter, not a contract
* Executive Session
  + MOTION by M. Rahall, seconded by M. Thonnerieux, to go into executive session
* Adjourn
  + Meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM