

**Minutes of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse  
Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
January 3, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse was held Monday, January 3, 2011. Chairman Dennis Bring called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Bring, Podmanik, Rosso, Huska, Kovach, Stark, Smith

Absent: Elliott(excused)

Attending: Law Director Graves, Service Director Smith

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

\*Motion by Smith/Second by Stark to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2010 meeting with any corrections. Yeas all.

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

**SEWER CREDITS/UNPAID CHARGES FOR TAX DUPLICATE: None.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

***Projects:***

**Walker Road, phase III** – Chairman Bring advised waiting for Tammy on this.

***Future Projects:***

**Sidewalks**– President Podmanik requested recall on why this was put on this agenda. Councilman Smith advised at first it started with me anyways because I was putting together exactly how many sidewalks we had and then it got into how many sidewalks got put in with the money each year and then it got to be there was a grant available for sidewalks. The grant was the only reason we kind of kept that back on there, there was hope to get some type of grant for some big sidewalk project through the Village. Councilman Rosso recalled through the school. President Podmanik asked my next question is do we have any idea of what sidewalks were put in last year in escrow? Service Director Smith answered we can get a list, I believe Steve has a concurring list and he turns that in to Tammy at the end of the year for the tallies. We can run a report I believe. President Podmanik stated it would be nice to know what we did last year. Councilman Smith stated that was one of the main reasons because every year did so many thousand that was allocated. President Podmanik stated that was all escrowed money to put sidewalks in. Councilman Smith stated I was putting together another sidewalk list of everything. President Podmanik asked wasn't the reason for escrowing sidewalk money because in the worst weather we didn't want to do sidewalks, we had a problem with that. Councilman Smith stated yes than there was an issue with money that was in with the

escrow that we didn't really know where it went, couldn't trace it back far enough. President Podmanik asked we have cleared that all up correct? Law Director Graves answered I actually wrote an opinion, I don't know if you have a copy of that about 2 years which goes all the way back to when this first came up in the late 70's. If you recall the ordinance requires before you sell a house and it actually puts the burden on both the seller and buyer that before an occupancy permit is issued they have to put the sidewalk in. The alternative is they can escrow the money and the city will do it in the springtime. Councilman Smith stated we also had that issue at Lake Road at Gus's which was originally what spurred the thing.

***Misc:***

**Water meters**—President Podmanik asked would like know where we are at with conversion meters? Chairman Bring answered well we never sold the ones that we put up for auction. Service Director Smith advised we have approximately 483 Master meters/new in the box put away over there in the Water Department. We did not get a purchaser from the auction on that and that never fell through after the auction. At this time since I already have an authorization from Council, I was going to put them on the internet along with that truck too. Than the Police Department just got a ruling about this van that they impounded now. I guess that we can sell that van and we recoup something so that is another thing that probably is going to have to before but that is a separate issue. Those 2 things; the water meters and that I am going to put them on the internet. President Podmanik asked where are we on the conversion radio read, did we stop that project altogether or are we stalled because of manufacturer problems? Service Director Smith advised I was in the mist of talking to; first let me go back – we checked on the radio reads, at least Shannon did. It was one of the projects he was doing, he was to Badger. I went out and met with Shannon, met the Badger guy several times and we have the test route over there on Madison. Than the Mayor just sent me a thing “here will you check this out, people keep talking to me about performance contracting”. So I went and checked on Johnson Controls who came in, I called them up and they started explaining to me performance contracting; for changing over water meters. Their way of doing it is to change over a whole city all at once in a pattern of 6 months to 12 months and it is done. In that process all I did was try to get some information on it, since we had already done our history on Badger and that seemed to be what the Water Department thought would be the best. They weren't too happy when they found out I was talking to Johnson Controls because I don't know if it is the fear of another company coming in as a subcontractor and converting the whole city over to radio reads but radio reads maybe 3 years ago or 4 years ago was the cream of the crop – it is not anymore, now it is wireless to tower. In other words, there is no driving up and down the streets now the new systems report to a tower planted in the vicinity of a neighborhood and that tower repeats that radio signal back to the computer at the Water Department so each house actually sends out a signal. So I was trying to find out more about that through Johnson Controls considering they have

installed several systems like that in the last few years and that is basically where it is left. I have talked to Mr. Bring a couple of times, I keep up with Shannon and I have that gentleman from Johnson Controls pestering me. He would like to come in and talk to or give a presentation and I am like all I am doing is investigating this and trying to feel out and learn a little bit. President Podmanik asked so we are considering changing horses again? Chairman Bring advised we still owe approximately one hundred and twenty some thousand on the current water meters that we have. If we did do this I think that the Badgers are \$126.00 a piece, somewhere around there? President Podmanik asked but the Badgers are a radio read and not a point-to-point? Chairman Bring answered right but it still beats the heck out of people walking up and down the street. If we did do this it would probably be a fee on the water bill like we did for the truck. That would be the way to pay for that. Service Director Smith stated the only reason I checked on it is it is my responsibility to stay up with what is new and I was just trying to get as much information out of Johnson Controls that they want to give me without actually coming in here and giving Council a presentation or the Mayor a presentation. They are one company and there are several companies that do that and individuals.

**SERVICE DIRECTORS REPORT:** Service Director Smith advised I really only got one big thing here today besides keeping up on the cold patch and the annual bid will be coming out that is that Avon Lake has raised their water rates. Their water rates is going to be approximately .12 (12 cents) per thousand gallons. Our current bill rate is \$1.29 per thousand and that will be effective pending an official notification which we have not got yet but we will have to raise our rates accordingly. We do have an ordinance in place that when that happens. Law Director Graves stated pursuant to our contract with Avon Lake they have to give us 6 months notice before raising our rates. So they had their Board meeting and voted so this rate increase would be effective July 1, 2011. The current ordinance authorizes the Service Director to increase the water rate in the percentage equal to the amount that it has been raised on the city. Councilman Rosso asked so they did give us notice? Law Director Graves answered we have not received official notice but the Board did vote. Chairman Bring stated I have been hearing a lot of complaints about our water bill prices, people say out of all the other city's we are probably one of the most expensive ones. If we do this we are going to have to probably notify everybody well in advance because I think they are going to blow a gasket. For whatever reason a lot of people complain about our water prices. Service Director Smith answered because of our sewer, sewer charge. Chairman Bring stated that is not going to get any better either. Just so you know everybody is kind of up in arms. Service Director Smith stated that is not a percentage, that is per thousand. Water usage is 6000 on the average per home in Sheffield Lake, it is 6000 to 8000 gallons a month. So if you are talking .12 (12 cents) per thousand, it is going up but you are not talking a large amount but we can get specific data when that time comes or well before that time. Chairman Bring stated like I said they don't look at sewage or anything else, they just see water. Service Director Smith stated I deal with that every day and I think the biggest problem is the fact that it goes back to Ed's question on

the radio reads on the meters is you know the estimation – you know 2 estimates and then 1 all because of the way we have to do the meter reading. So people are very frustrated with the estimates and the only way you can get by that is if you get actual reads on a month to month basis. Chairman Bring asked have you guys done any camera-ing of the Irving Park area again. Service Director Smith advised not since the first time, we have been inundated with a lot of water breaks and especially over in that area. President Podmanik asked you just had one over on Lake Breeze – a water break? Service Director Smith answered Lake Breeze and 2 on Irving Park and 1 on Lake Road. President Podmanik stated that was a nice job on Lake Breeze. Chairman Bring stated Walker Road, correct? Service Director Smith answered yes Walker. We did discuss last week the camera-ing project and the new root cleaner and we are going to be working that in so it is nothing that we put down or put on the shelf and I reinforce that and bring it up on the schedule. But like I say the water breaks have kind of held us at bay. Chairman Bring stated that would be nice to get some of that hammered and cleaned out before spring time with it still being winter and get some of that stuff going. Service Director Smith stated I think our estimate was about 2 weeks of man hours. President Podmanik asked what is the rules here on the garbage cans, how far apart at the curb? Service Director Smith answered well they make a recommendation that you place a few feet apart at the curb or the apron of your driveway. President Podmanik stated what I noticed today was there was a little bit of problem I noticed they stopped and pulled into the street but what I noticed is pretty soon they are going to stop doing this. They are going to start bypassing people who don't make provisions for their truck to pick them up, sooner or later I expect to see them start doing this. Law Director Graves stated I think ideally you put 1 container on each side of your driveway. Chairman Bring advised that is what they recommend. Service Director Smith stated cars effect that though, parked cars affect that. President Podmanik stated what I am noticing they are doing now is they pick them up, they dump them and then they drop them in the street because they have moved the truck to do their thing. So pretty soon they are going to start leaving them further and further in the street. Most of my neighbors have all said hey well we don't know how far to put them apart and I said well I will find out tonight. I try to keep mine 3 feet apart and I don't seem to have a problem but nobody parks on my side of the street. I told most of my neighbors that I don't have a problem if you put it in my tree lawn, I don't care just come and get them when they are emptied that's all. Councilman Smith stated that was actually an issue that we brought up when we were going through all this because of the cars that parked on one side of the road and they are not going to be able to do. They even thought about putting them on the other side of the road but then they said no they were going to get out and they will remove them. Service Director Smith stated if you are seeing new, things please let me know because one of the things that Allied Waste has done, soon as they got the system working really nice and everyone was accustomed to the routes – they switch drivers and routes. So now I got new guys and we have to go back and have that whole learning curve all over again and that just happened again. So we are losing our supervisor too, he is now going to be

going out to Columbus. So we will have a new route supervisor in charge of our pick-ups on Mondays and Tuesdays, so keep that in mind and let me know and I will hot-line it to Allied Waste and see if I can intercede and get some relief quickly. Chairman Bring stated I will say that I have very few people anymore complain about that pick-up and it is much neater. Everybody seems to be pretty happy with it. Councilman Smith stated that was one big change in the city that affected everybody and I haven't heard one complaint from anybody. President Podmanik stated minor complaints but it is not bad, snow is going to be a problem. Councilman Smith stated I don't have one complaint. I am talking residents that call me, I don't have them. Chairman Bring stated the girls over there were getting them bad. Service Director Smith stated we have some reoccurring issues that have just started to sprout up for instance; there is people that have requested extra cans – whether an extra blue one or an extra green one. They get put on a list and then Allied Waste is supposed to come out and deliver it – well somehow we had a communication breakdown between our Lisa and their Lisa and we were faxing our information over there and nothing was happening. The residents were calling the 800 number to get a hold of Allied Waste and Allied Waste was saying we don't know anything about it. So just before Christmas, actually it was the week before Christmas and Dennis I think you were there too I had submitted a whole bunch to fax sheets that verified it was received at Allied Waste and I went Seth and Dave Kidder and explained that the problem was on their end – it wasn't on our end and we kind of got that resolved. But there was 3 weeks there that were a common problem and it was the same type of thing; information that was supposed to Allied Waste wasn't getting on their system. So their drivers are driving by an extra can because they are only allowed to pick up 1, they have a routing sheet in each truck with the address which tells them any special instructions for each address as they come up to the house. So the data wasn't getting on there within 3 weeks and the residents were like hey, I put this out 3 times and they did it 3 times in a row. We have had this issue going since just before Christmas and it is going to be interesting to see Wednesday or Thursday where we are at now but just so that you guys are aware there was a communication breakdown but it was not with our girls over here. It was definitely with their department. President Podmanik asked where do we stand with the recycling, are we on the plus side or the minus side? Service Director Smith stated we are always on the plus side, we do really well recycling. I can get you those numbers. Chairman Bring stated he just gave them to us about 2 months ago. President Podmanik stated I got a thing in the mail that stated I have earned so many credits. Service Director Smith advised recycle bank takes all the tonnage throughout the city and divides it by participating residents and that is how much we each get our points. Councilman Smith stated I didn't sign up for it, actually I just signed up for it a while back. Councilman Kovach stated it doesn't matter they credit all the back to the beginning. Service Director Smith stated we are actually ahead of the game, Dennis like he eluded to I did give you guys a report, I am not trying to be flip or anything but we took totals of everything of where we actually were with other communities with the recycling and we are looking real well. Chairman Bring stated we are way ahead of everybody else.

Councilman Rosso asked do we know of anybody that has cashed in any of those points? Service Director Smith answered not that I am aware of. That is across the country, a national program. Law Director Graves stated that was actually very good that Sheffield Lake was able to include that at no additional costs to the residence. Chairman Bring stated when we did that it was good to get everything done at one time too. There was a brief discussion on Elyria trying to do their own.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Law Director Graves advised we will need to update our 3 stormwater construction run-off/during construction run-off ordinances. Actually only 2 of those need to be updated but in the updating of them they really should be codified. None of those are currently part of the codified section so what I am going to do is recommend that we do all 3 and get them codified. That will have to happen by June 4, 2011, we are taking a look at them. We have got drafts prepared, the Service Director is reviewing them and I would anticipate that sometime definitely in the next month or so having those to Council for their review. Service Director Smith explained changes. President Podmanik stated this is usually about the time we get our codified updated, how long are you looking before we want to do this because I am going to direct the Clerk whether she should wait and get it all at once or do we got to incur a separate costs or can we let it ride until next year – how long is this going to take? Law Director Graves answered we could probably have it in the next month I would say. There is going to be a lot of pages to add; you are looking probably at least 75 to 100 pages. President Podmanik advised probably the first week of March then.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee, \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Smith to adjourn at 7:40PM. Yeas all.

**CLERK OF COMMITTEE AFFIRMATION:** This Meeting Of The City Committee Of The City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio Was Held And Conducted Under All Rules And Regulations Governing The Sunshine Laws OF The State Of Ohio As They May Apply. All meetings are recorded and available in council’s office.

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CLERK OF COMMITTEE

*Kay Fantauzzi*

I, Kay Fantauzzi, duly appointed Clerk of Committee Of Sheffield Lake, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that this is

A true and exact copy of the Minutes of COMMITTEE of January 3, 2011.

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CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE

*Dennis Bring*

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

*Edward R Podmanik*

*and/or*

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COUNCIL PRO TEM

*Richard Rosso*