

**Minutes of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse  
Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
October 5, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse was held Monday, October 5, 2009. Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Smith, Kovach, Bring, Elliott, Rosso, Huska, Diebold

Absent: Podmanik (excused)

Attending: Law Director Graves, Service Director Arendt, SUAB Chairperson Gee

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

\*Motion by Elliott/Second by Bring to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2009 meeting as presented. Yeas all.

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

**SEWER CREDITS/UNPAID CHARGES FOR TAX DUPLICATE:**

*List for tax duplicate* - \*Motion by Huska/Second by Kovach to approve list to be submitted to auditor for attachment to tax duplicates for non-payment. Yeas All.

**580 Robinwood; \$53.00** – after a brief discussion, \*Motion by Huska/Second by Bring for approval of sewer credit in the amount of \$53.00. Yeas All.

**4712 Lake Road; \$257.05** – after a brief discussion, \*Motion by Huska/Second by Bring for approval of sewer credit in the amount of \$257.05. Yeas All.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

***Projects:***

**Ferndale I** – Service Director Arendt to check on status. Mr. Rosso stated I thought Ferndale Phase I was on with that sewer issue. Chairman Smith stated that is the only reason Ferndale Phase I was on because there was a discrepancy with the sewer that went through and you were going to check into it. Law Director Graves answered Bill was working on that. I don't know if we ever paid the full amount. Chairman Smith stated there was something there that we were supposed to get some sort of a refund. Service Director Arendt advised let me follow up on it because Bill told me it was done, so I better check. Chairman Smith stated there was a problem with some slag, they were pumping it back into the sewer and he had talked about us getting some sort of a reimbursement for that. Law Director Graves stated I don't think that is coming. Service Director Arendt advised I promise you I will check on it because I asked him and he said oh that is done. Chairman Smith stated we just never got an answer. Mr. Rosso stated that was the only thing leaving it on there. Chairman Smith stated I think we were actually led to believe that there was still some sort of an issue that you (Law Director) were going to look into. Law Director Graves stated yes I talked to Bill, the EPA and ODOT and Underground and I think it was Styner; the supplier of the slag – they were all fighting it out over who was liable for what and in

talking with Bill he thought the city should probably just stay back and stay out of it. I haven't really gotten involved in it. The other problem was there was no independent meter on the stormwater flow that went into the sanitary there. The only thing we can do is Bill had looked at the historical bills and had come up with a guess of what went in and I believe it was like \$20,000.00. That was his estimate, I think we would have a hard time if push came to shove proving that that was the amount of the water that went. Chairman Smith advised if the city signed off on the project, there isn't a whole lot we can do. Service Director Arendt advised I apologize because he told me that that shouldn't be on there. Chairman Smith stated that was the only reason we never really got a complete answer one way or another. If the city signed off on it there isn't a whole lot that we can do. Then we will just remove it.

**Ferndale II** – Service Director Arendt advised all it is now is the punch list, they have got to do some intersection painting for crosswalks and then once they do that which hopefully they are going to do tomorrow and then we just go through a punch list and then Ferndale Phase II will be done. Once they are done with the intersections and the punch list, hopefully we will get that off.

**Walker Road, phase III** – Service Director Arendt stated Walker Road, phase III has been started. Obviously they had some rain problems so they are a little behind but it is not going to be that lengthy of a project. Mr. Diebold asked on the Walker Road project they worked today probably until about 2:30 or 3 o'clock. They cleaned the northwest side of the ditch, just curious why that was started first – do you know the reason behind that? Service Director Arendt answered just where they chose to start it, they want to get that black pipe down into that. They are cleaning out the ditch areas to put the black pipe in and we are taking that because that is all good topsoil and tomorrow they will put a catch basin in and they are going to put the black pipe in and they will attach that portion which is actually on Abbe/Walker – the storm. They will do that tomorrow. Chairman Smith stated probably want to get that portion done and over with because then they are going to have to go across the street. Service Director Arendt advised I met with the guy today. Mr. Diebold stated I have had a couple of complaints of course that the entrance off of Abbe/Walker is totally closed down, you have to come out on Buckeye but that is just the way it has to be. Service Director Arendt advised if we didn't have the rain that we had, it would have been done. It would have been literally done that day. Mr. Diebold stated all the materials placed there because that is probably that is the only place there was to put it, the best access correct? Service Director Arendt answered I was with the Superintendent on the job last week and we actually tried to find a place for him to store that plus store some equipment and some stone and we really didn't get the cooperation we wanted to from some areas that we could have stored it there, so unfortunately it is there because we had a couple of places that were close that we wanted to store it but nobody would cooperate. Chairman Smith stated could have stored at the park but you don't want them running back and forth over all that asphalt down there by Cove Beach. Mr. Diebold stated one more question, with the heavy equipment that they are using and the damage they may do to that small section of Walker Road, is there any provisions there would be taken care of and put back in the reasonable

shape it was? Service Director Arendt answered absolutely, they damage it then they are going to repair it.

***Infiltration:***

**Flow Monitoring analysis** – Service Director Arendt advised still back to the filtration on the flow monitoring analysis, we did have plans to move it. We still do but until the time to send a couple of the guys to school to read it, it is kind of an effort that we really don't need to do now. Also, if things work out well with a development project then we will do it at that time because we want to move to Lake Road in front of the shopping center area.

***Future Projects:***

**Sidewalks** – Chairman Smith asked did we get quite a few in this year? Service Director Arendt answered surprisingly we did. I think that sidewalk fund now is basically out of money. I believe the last one we did took it out of money. Mr. Bring asked didn't we have extra money in that sidewalk fund from years ago, what did we ever do with that? Remember we talked about that? Law Director Graves answered that money, I had to write an opinion on that last year and that was presented as part of the audit. The funds that were in there date back to years ago that were probably deposited in lieu of a bond, the ordinance changed some years ago where it became more of an escrow account. Before that what happened was a contractors or homeowners rather would deposit the funds in lieu of a bond. Then it would be up to them to come and show that they had put the sidewalk in and there was no and this dates back probably to the 70's and there was no way of tracing that. So it was used for other sidewalks in the city. Mr. Bring asked it has been taken care of though? Law Director Graves answered there is no extra money left in there but all the money in the sidewalk account went for sidewalks but it was impossible to trace some of that back to any individual person. Mr. Bring stated I just wanted to make sure that was taken care of.

***Misc:***

**Water meters** – Chairman Smith advised Joe handed out a page for everybody to kind of us some overview of where we are at with the meters. Mr. Diebold stated on number 9 there, you have found somebody with some interest in developing the reading of other meters. If they don't do that do you have anybody else second in line? Service Director Arendt answered no that was in the past where they said they could read other meters. What happened was we have in the city 4 different meters and where some companies will say okay we will read 2 but we can't read the other 2. Some say well we don't even want to read the other ones. Putting the equipment on that even would read a couple of the other meters then they warranty it. So it has been very unsuccessful, I have been working on something for 2 or 3 weeks now – trying to find something. Service Director Arendt advised I want to give a history of it and learn about it myself. I am following the money trace now from when it was taken out and where the money went and right now it basically is all accountable, we only have \$55,000.00 into that fund. We have 500 master meters that

are left that are the plastic type and we are using those as replacements for meters that go out. One of the other things that I could bring up is on commercial property the meters are bigger, they run 2-inch lines. We had one absolutely go out today and it is going to be \$1500.00 to replace and we have one that is literally basically next door that is on its last leg that will cost \$1500.00 to replace it. Mr. Diebold asked you tested quite a few meters, well Shannon and Jason and the results are mixed. So any results, I know they are mixed but 50/50? Service Director Arendt stated no this is what is happening with the radio reads that were purchased before because of the water that gets into the pit they can't really read them and then as the water goes down they will get very inaccurate readings from one to another. What should happen with a radio read if we ever do go into full radio reads, a piece of equipment goes on top of the meter and a little antenna goes all the way up to the end of the grass. It doesn't go all the way through where a lawn mower is going to cut it or anything like that and that will do the radio reads properly. Right now the radio reads that we do have is submersed in water can't be read. Chairman Smith stated the only issue that I have is when we first did this I think we borrowed \$360,000.00 for the meters and we are using the \$30,000.00 that we put in every year to pay that money. Now I have noticed that you were talking about commercial, 1-inch/2-inch meters – that was never part of this money. This was all residential so everybody could read this city every month, the whole city gets read. I know those meters as you said are very, very expensive and I hate to see that money get dwindled down on the commercial stuff that it wasn't intended for. Service Director Arendt answered absolutely, I only brought that up. Chairman Smith continued I have talked to Bill and I know that Bill has used some of that money and you have even stated in there for 1-inch and 2-inch meters and I don't think that was originally what it was intended for. Service Director Arendt advised when I talked to Shannon today and he was telling me about this meters, I said okay we have to put a PO in but we are not going to go to that fund that we have the \$55,000.00 in – we are going to have to find it some place else. When I went back through the history and you guys may have to correct me but I felt by the language it was basically as you say residential meters and this is the way we were going to go. It is nobody's fault that the radio read company went bankrupt and the other problem is that when Ed asked is the fact that nobody has a radio read that will attach to the 4 different meters that we have. Master will attach to one type of meter and not the other 2. Chairman Smith stated each time we try this, I don't know how many times I think he said we bought software packages now but I think we have spent what \$60,000 or \$70,000 on 3 different software's and we might have to do it to another one. Service Director Arendt answered that is not quite what he told me but the research that I have been doing now, software package has come down quite a bit – it would be about \$13,000.00 for a new software package. The key is I believe to find a meter company that has been around for a long, long time. We checked the DNV on them, we know they are going to be here for a long, long time and if it comes to spending \$140 a meter or \$170 a meter – I think the city would rather spend \$170 and know that we are going to eventually be able to replace all of the meters with radio reads and the company isn't going to go under. I am meeting with a company tomorrow, I met with one last week and eventually hope to bring some type of

proposal to you guys. Chairman Smith stated yes that was the original intent of that whole thing with the bill of goods; with the truck, the computer and the whole nine yards so actually one person could go through the whole city and do it. That is the whole jest of this whole thing. Service Director Arendt added and to be accurate. Chairman Smith advised you are on top of it then, you are going to look into it so that is good. Service Director Arendt stated I have got quite a bit on it already and I thought the report would help. The money is a little hard to go back and trace because basically when Dawn and Tammy and I were going over it – it is on one sheet and then I have to pull from that sheet; metered, radio read, lines. I mean I have to pull everything from what was spent so I will bring to your attention like one on here was \$113,000.00, one year was like a \$160,000.00 but I do have it. Mr. Bring advised I would like to be able to keep track of this money because the last time we were told that it was never given to them and we still have it. Mr. Rosso concurred if we wasted \$360,000.00. Mr. Bring stated the whole time we were told that that money was never spent. Chairman Smith concurred the money was still there or most of it was, that they didn't pay the company. Mr. Bring stated for a year and a half we were told that. Service Director Arendt stated well if eventually this committee does decide to do it a true city wide program, my intent would be to bring as the money is spent a full report each and every time. Chairman Smith advised that is the only main issue I mean \$360,000.00 and it is gone and we don't have a program. Mr. Rosso stated now we are talking about borrowing it again. Service Director Arendt stated I would not intend to borrow it, if we are able to maintain the \$2.00 increase that was passed on the base rate I think we do X number per year. Mr. Rosso stated right but we are still paying it twice, no fault of yours. Service Director Arendt stated I don't believe that the city should go out and borrow – that is just my opinion. Mr. Rosso stated your right but we are still paying for it twice. Service Director Arendt stated I am not saying what the Mayor says or what anybody else says, in my opinion is I don't think I would want to go out and re-borrow that money and tell the citizens that we are borrowing \$300,000.00. Chairman Smith stated that is quite a bit of money to not have nothing in place. Now I don't know whether or not all the meters were bought and you just have to put the tops on them – maybe that is it, I don't know. Maybe the meters were being bought without the radio reads until they found a radio read to put on top of the meter. Mr. Bring stated from my understanding they made them out of plastic and they stopped making them out of brass and that is a problem. They have actually had other cities complain about them too, it has been a nightmare. Service Director Arendt stated on the master meters that we have that will accept it, that we can put radio reads on them but they are not going to warranty them. They said because the meters you have are not the meters that really work, I mean they work but they break and you have to replace the meter and they don't want to warranty. Chairman Smith stated this may be a stupid question but is this like some new innovative thing that the City of Sheffield Lake is just like on the ground floor of. Mr. Bring stated the City of Cleveland is going through the same problem right now. Chairman Smith stated I mean there is radio reads all over the place aren't there that are working? Service Director Arendt answered absolutely the city west of us did an implementation and had great success with the radio reads that they have

in place. Now they haven't replaced the whole city yet. Chairman Smith asked are they having the same issues with the water filling the pits that we have? I was just wondering because this seems like some new? Service Director Arendt answered other cities that have utilized strictly pits as this city does have tremendous problems. East Cleveland and Cleveland both are going through the same situation right now. Other smaller cities that have pits which are better for us to repair, replace and work on are great but they are having the same problem with the radio read. The key today is getting a radio read from a reputable company/sticking with that meter/having that radio read which is properly antennae then that city and I have checked on a couple of other ones do not have the proper antennae. As I said if it comes to \$170.00 per meter or \$140.00, if we have to spend \$170.00 then that is what you have to do. The problem that I see that there was a great deal on these Masters meters versus Badger and Badger is tremendous, reputable, still there, going to be there and somehow with the Master meter and we got screwed. Master meter is a good meter, don't get me wrong except we got stuck with the ones that were the prototype I guess you want to call it. Mr. Bring stated well they said that new plastic that they went to instead of what they had, that ruined everything – it screwed it. Service Director Arendt stated there is no sense fixing them, if it goes bad just replace it. Chairman Smith stated keep us abreast of it. Service Director Arendt answered as I do as I did with this sheet I brought it to you, now as I get the money sheet complete I will it to Council members before a Council meeting so they have time to absorb it and look over it and possibly ask the questions at that time rather than just presenting it.

**Pole for lights on bridge** – Mr. Bring stated he has been doing all the other stuff I am not bothering him. Service Director Arendt stated with the pole on the light meter and I think that Mr. Bring is really a good force on this. Ohio Edison doesn't want to put it up for us. Mr. Bring stated that is not what Bill said, he said all you got to do is call them. Chairman Smith stated because we got the money to do it for a streetlight. Mr. Bring stated so they don't want to do it because it is off. Service Director Arendt stated no they don't want to do it because they want a couple of trees cut out of the way. Mr. Bring stated the reason I am doing it is because for security so the Police drive by they can see somebody in there. Service Director Arendt answered no I am on your side, this is what I was saying – you are a good force behind this, I want that light there but we have got to cut down a couple of trees or they won't come in and put it. So when Bill says yes they will come in and put it, yes they will put it but they want these trees cut down. Bill is correct but he didn't go to the full story. So I want the light up, I think I have to talk with the Mayor and get some Council opinion on the appearance of the bridge if we cut those trees down. The bridge would be much more visible but it is going to give a look of a rusty type or are we going to lose something there. Mr. Bring stated okay like I said you been doing all the other stuff so I would just leave you alone. Mr. Kovach stated with the wildlife business that we used to get that grant, I wonder what we are going to actually be able to cut and remove. Mr. Bring stated yes because part of that was supposed to be for that. Mr. Bring stated you probably didn't even know about that. Service Director Arendt answered I don't but the trees that they need to be cut, I cut myself and to not offend the workers it was a training session

because a couple of the guys didn't know how to use chain saws so I helped them and I cut like 13 trees down myself. So the trees that need to be cut, I could cut them tomorrow but we have got to get an opinion from Council members as they drive past that bridge to see if it is going to change the aesthetic value of it, got to get an opinion from the Mayor. I don't want to just go down and cut trees because it takes 10 minutes to cut it and 20 years to grow it. So Mr. Bring if you have a chance, I would like to go with you and show you the trees that they want to cut. Mr. Bring answered the only other thing that I would propose was him possibly running underground and going over there and having electricity hooked up to the underneath there for putting lights underneath the roof so it shines down. It seemed to be cheaper to go the other way and that is why we wanted the pole. Service Director Arendt answered but the problems that we have had with graffiti this year, breaking into cars/vehicles and the amount of money that is in that bridge and we just put the concrete and everything else – a security light is essential. Mr. Elliott asked have we had a problem with graffiti at this bridge or has it just been at other places. I know of the graffiti in other places? Service Director Arendt answered we had community service that Dave Graves arranged for us to come and clean the bridge. Law Director Graves stated well it was some juveniles. Mr. Elliott stated I think that is the best way to do it underneath the bridge, we have been going with the green issue lately – is it possible to put solar lights up there? Service Director Arendt answered solar lights aren't really as effective as people might think, I was going to ask Bill because I knew this was on the agenda. But if you guys remember the City of Lorain got that grant and had the lights put underneath the Bascale Bridge – have you guys ever seen that when it is lit up? If we were able to get something, like that and put those underneath the little soffit there, it would illuminate that bridge – it would absolutely beautiful and I am going to have Bill see if he can do that. I don't know if that is acceptable but it is really nice. Mr. Bring stated I just want something that when the Police drive by if there is anybody screwing around they can see it. By the time you get that path in there, you know that they are going to be in there. Service Director Arendt stated we re-stained it this year, we did a lot of work to it. Mr. Bring stated now they are actually going to have access because you poured the ramp and everything so you know they are going to be up there. Service Director Arendt concurred you know kids are going to come there.

Mr. Diebold asked about wind turbines, I know that it takes electric to release the brakes on the wind turbines. There was a brief discussion on the operation of the wind turbines.

**SERVICE DIRECTORS REPORT:** Chairman Smith asked the bike path, that goes from Lake Road and they are going to go travel out through and down through Ferndale Park and everything else. I hear, at least somebody told me today that they are going to put a bike path from Tennyson over to the bike path where the one house is back there where their driveway is actually a road. Service Director Arendt answered we are starting on that, that is where the track is right now. Chairman Smith stated it will come from Lake Road, come back through and I think it is Tennyson or Hawthorne? Law Director Graves advised it actually follows Brookside. Chairman Smith continued that driveway that comes off of

Dunny, I think it is Hawthorne – there is going to be a path from Dunny to the bike path? Service Director Arendt answered no, no, no and he explained details. Chairman Smith clarified at this time, there are not plans to put a bike path from Dunny to the bike path. Service Director Arendt advised I would just like Council people on their way passing Lake Road to take a look at the bridge and give us an idea of what we might be able to do and I hope Mr. Bring has some time this week. I would like to show the trees that they want to cut down. Chairman Smith advised there is a couple of neighbors there but if you put a big security light up. If you were to find a way to get some of them lights underneath the eaves and stuff that would be fantastic. Service Director Arendt answered that is the way to go, that is absolutely the way to go. This would illuminate for the police and for the kids and it is clean look. Chairman Smith stated for aesthetics for would be great. Service Director Arendt stated I wanted Mr. Elliott to know that Mr. Graves and I have not given up on our attempted project for the ditches but we haven't given up, I just don't want you to think it is an abandoned thing. There was a brief discussion. Mr. Elliott stated the last you said is that you were looking at possible grant options, I was just wondering if that ever and that really doesn't look good at this time. If we sue the state we could always sue them on a couple properties and the rest are privately owned. It is still in our thoughts so I didn't want you to think that we forgot about it.

**NEW BUSINESS: None.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee, \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Bring to adjourn at 8:19 PM. 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.

---

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 October 5, 2009.

---

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE

*Alan Smith*

*and/or*

---

CO-CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE

*Dennis Bring*

---

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

*Edward R Podmanik*

*and/or*

---

COUNCIL PRO TEM

*Richard Rosso*