

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION  
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO  
September 15, 2009**

The regular meeting of the City Council Worksession was held Tuesday, September 15, 2009. Council Pro Tem Rick Rosso called the meeting to order at 7:23 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Rosso, Bring, Kovach, Smith, Elliott, Huska, Diebold, Mayor Piskura, Law Director Graves, Safety/Service Director Arendt, Grant Administrator Gardner

Absent: Podmanik, Finance Director Smith, Treasurer E Hoenig, (excused)

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

\*\*\*\*\***COMMITTEES**\*\*\*\*\*

**ROADS & DRAINS: None./SAFETY: None./BUILDINGS, LANDS,**

**VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT: None./ORDINANCE:** Chairman Elliott advised first of all, you guys might remember when Bontempo came in here and asked us to look at the trash can ordinance about people actually bringing their cans out. I think it was 6 and what we are doing is we are going to move that to 7 am on Thursday and not change the time that you have to have your cans in by so that would give them all day the previous day to put their cans. Mr. Bring advised we would rather them get their trash out and get it out of here then thrown all over the place, that was the thought process. Chairman Elliott advised the thought was also that if you are leaving for the weekend that you can actually still get your cans out. Council Pro Tem clarified so 7 am Thursday morning to 6 pm Friday evening. Law Director Graves advised right and the draft is attached. Chairman Elliott advised we also moved to repeal the \$2.00 water increase. I have discussed with a couple of you and the question is we are a little confused so what we want to do is go from the ground up so all the questions can be answered. Service Director Arendt advised first of all the \$2.00 additional water increase from the base from \$3.00 to \$5.00 will generate \$79,272.00 per year. The possible expenditures are a new vehicle, safety equipment, fire hydrants, tools, blades for saws, water main caps, breakers, chlorine and pressure. The total comes up to about \$81,400.00 of what we would spend. Currently the city has over 40 fire hydrants out of order, will actually over 50. If we bought 40 new hydrants at \$64,000.00 alone. Now currently I know that there is a \$2.00 rate that goes into the fire hydrants but out of that money \$1.00 goes for servicing and \$1.00 actually goes for the fire hydrants so we are actually dividing that money instead of utilizing it for the fire hydrants. The vehicles that we currently have in the Water Department, we have a 1997 Ford Ranger that is 12 years old with 89,000 miles on it. We have a 1993 Chevy S10 van with 84,000 miles and it is 16 years old. Now the Chevy van that we use is for the camera truck, we don't use that for meter readings or taking out or going any place else with it because we keep the camera equipment there that is valued at \$46,000.00. So we don't utilize that van for anything else

unless it is an emergency. So currently what they are reading meters with is actually Big Blue which is that GMC 4500 which is actually a sewer truck. Council Pro Tem Rosso asked how big is that sewer camera? Service Director Arendt answered I would not want to take it out every day and store it in the shop for fear that something would happen to it. Council Pro Tem Rosso asked how many days do you camera sewers? Service Director Arendt answered maybe 4 or 5 times a month. Mr. Diebold asked when you read meters, you can take probe down straight and you look down and pull a meter cap down and you put the cap on look down and read the meter and get your reading, correct? Service Director Arendt answered yes. But the condition of the 1993 van which is 16 years old, I wouldn't want to use it for daily meter reading. It has got 84,000 miles on it, it has got dents, scratches – it is not good for general transportation – the feeling of the mechanic. The other vehicle that we have we currently use a 1997 Ford Ranger and the Chevy S10, Shannon will read commercial and 2 guys take another vehicle which happens to be the Big Blue now and read meters. Big Blue is a sewer truck. If you look at the current and I have provided this to Council before if you look at our current status as of June, total dollars from water fund, capital improvement fund, sewer fund, sewer capital improvement, storm water fund, storm water capital improvement fund – the total year to date as of June that we have an excess is \$50,136.92. At the end of July because of the summer months credits, we are down to \$42,000.00 in that account. We don't have a 5-year plan to buy new vehicles, to get new tools, to supplement equipment. If we don't implement it, we are dead in the water. Right now, right now we they start to read meters which takes days, if I have one of these vehicles go down – we are going to have more estimates then normal. The fire hydrants, the Fire Department gave me the list and they have got them down – even if we only replace half of the fire hydrants within the next 18 months. That is still \$32,000.00 and don't forget as I said earlier out of the fund that we are getting for the fire hydrants currently half of it is for service and the other half is for buying the fire hydrants. Mr. Diebold asked when Shannon is running around with the Ranger reading meters, what would you suggest with that vehicle? Service Director Arendt answered Shannon can continue using the Ranger, what we are using for the other vehicle now is the Big Blue and we had to get rid of the white van that we had which we were using – the floor fell out of it, so we got rid of it last week. What I am trying to stress here, just in vehicle purchases we have got a 16 year old van, if it goes we are done. Council Pro Tem Rosso stated true but if you purchase a vehicle, you are going to spread it over how many years – 5 at least? So why do you need \$80,000.00 a year? Service Director Arendt answered let's go over the list again; the van is about \$16,132.00 on the best bid that I received. Council Pro Tem Rosso stated spread over 5 years is \$3000.00 a year. Service Director Arendt continued fire hydrants is \$64,000.00 and don't forget we do not collect \$80,000.00 at one time, we are collecting that monthly as well. Council Pro Tem Rosso stated I understand that but we have been collecting that \$1.00 to replace fire hydrants for the last 3 or 4 years. Service Director Arendt stated we have been collecting \$2.00 and we are only using one of it for the fire hydrants. Council

Pro Tem Rosso stated right so how many fire hydrants have we replaced in the last 3 years, we generated \$40,000.00. Service Director Arendt answered I don't know the total. I can only tell you what I know, you want to go into next year and we are going to have about a \$45,000 to \$50,000 carry over in the Water Department. If the backhoe goes down where it can't be fixed, that is \$60,000 to \$80,000. If we have a 1993 and you keep saying it is on a monthly basis, we are collecting this on a monthly basis. Council Pro Tem Rosso stated but that backhoe could also be replaced out of the because that is used on the roads right? Service Director Arendt advised we have one for the roads and one for the Water Department. We have had 12 water breaks in the last 6 weeks. We haven't been able to go out and patch them and do the work that it takes to get done where we patch and do the seed and stuff on the grass. We don't have the time, the money or the equipment. We are going to run the Water Department and a shoe string budget, if the 1993 goes down, the 1997 goes down, the backhoe goes down – anyone of them goes down, we are at an expenditure. Whether it is on a monthly basis or an annual basis, we are collecting the money monthly if we have to spend the money monthly. Next year we lose the additional \$2000.00 that is going to pay off the sewer vac. Council Pro Tem Rosso stated you don't lose it, it is just that the sewer vac is paid off. Service Director Arendt stated November of next year. Mr. Bring concurred it is still strictly for the sewer vac. Council Pro Tem Rosso stated I just think that \$80,000.00 seems to be a lot of money. Mayor Piskura stated we could always hire somebody. Service Director Arendt stated we should have one more person in the Water Department. They get a stack of service calls each and every morning this big. Mr. Diebold stated I don't believe that, I don't think you need somebody else in the Water Department. I think you are doing a good job as it is and I think you just need more performance of the people that are there and less wasted time – more surveillance. If you watch what they are doing, I know you have break times. What is that break time if I can ask? Service Director Arendt answered 15 minutes twice a day at 10 and 2. Mr. Diebold asked times? Service Director Arendt answered from 10 to 10:15 and 2 to 2:15 and lunch is 11. Council Pro Tem Rosso stated I am sure that is per contract. Service Director Arendt stated when you say it is \$80,000.00, that \$80,000.00 with any major break in anything that we have is going to be a very, very large expenditure. Council Pro Tem Rosso stated okay so 3 months ago before the auditors found we weren't charging this, what was our plans? Service Director Arendt answered our plan I wanted to institute a 5-year plan to purchase new equipment and on the budget that we had I cannot institute. Mr. Diebold asked Joe what do you want to purchase? Council Pro Tem Rosso stated so if you have this 5-year plan, if you just give us a copy of it and let us review it and if we say hey that is a great way to spend this kind of money and we should do it then we will – that is my feeling. Grant Administrator Gardner stated the one thing to remember is that the \$2.00 that we got is for fire hydrants, valves, pieces/parts to fix the system and what Joe said is that he is only using half of it for that and half of it has to cover operational expenses. That means operational expenses are up, water revenue is not up and neither is the water usage so as a result we out of balance be-

tween the amount of money. The EPA when they came in and did our last review which was last year indicated to us that the water rate; first of all they said the system was good but they said that we were not collecting enough money and that we should raise our water rates and I think I brought that up to Council once before. Of course that is the federal government talking but that was what they recommended we do because we weren't going to be able to keep the balance we need between operational money and investment in the infrastructure of the system. As Joe said we are only spending \$32,000 of the \$64,000 that we are getting because that is all the money we can appropriate to fire hydrants because the rest of it has to go to operational maintenance. Council Pro Tem Rosso asked do we have any fire hydrants that are currently out of service? Service Director Arendt answered 40, they need to be replaced. Council Pro Tem Rosso asked if there was a fire you could not hook a hose up to those 40 fire hydrants, is that what you are saying? Service Director Arendt answered yes, that is what the Fire Department is saying. Mr. Diebold stated so you are saying that if you had a fire and you went to that fire hydrant it would not work, you can't pull off of that thing and it will not put out water? Service Director Arendt answered that is a fact, they have painted the caps. That is what the Fire Department has stated, we have over 56 out of service and 40 need to be replaced. Even if we only replace half of them over the next 12 to 18 months that is still \$32,000.00. Council Pro Tem Rosso asked how many fire hydrants are in the city? Service Director Arendt answered it is roughly about 650 fire hydrants I believe. Council Pro Tem stated we you say 40 are out of service, quite honestly I didn't know if we had 80 or if we have 4000. Service Director Arendt explained I am not saying that if they grab this fire hydrant that they can't go 300 yards down and get another one. I am not saying that. Council Pro Tem Rosso stated I was just trying in my mind to get a percentage, so we are under 10% is out of service. Service Director Arendt stated right but I am being very cautious in what I say about replacing half of them this year and half of them another year down the road. When I talk about a 5-year plan, buying a new vehicle this year, buying a vehicle 2 years from now. In the intern if something breaks down where it needs to be replaced. Just to get off the Water Department, just to give you an idea – we are coming into the winter months, snow plows do two things – they clean the snow off the roads and they destroy the roads. We have two of them that both need transmissions fixed and that is over \$3000.00 a piece. If I put that \$6000.00 into those 2 trucks, I guarantee before the end of February next we will have another \$10,000.00 into those trucks. That is how bad they are, that is how bad of shape they are. So when I talk about going back to the Water Department, the Water Department has a carry-over, we can implement a 5-year plan buying a new piece of equipment every 2 years in the intern when some piece of equipment breaks down we have the ability and the money to either replace or fix it. The tools, we need at least \$2000.00 worth of tools in the Water Department. Council Pro Tem Rosso asked would a salt truck be under the Water Department, would that qualify? This money can only be used in certain funds. Service Director Arendt answered absolutely, we can't buy a salt truck or a snow plow through the water funds. Council Pro

Tem stated okay, so if we get this \$2.00 that is not going to help that problem at all. Service Director Arendt answered no but I am just trying to compare what, if the equipment breaks down in the Roads Department we don't have the money. In the current situation that we have with the Water funds we don't have the money but with the ordinance that was passed years ago and then implemented, we now have that money for the Water Department. Council Pro Tem Rosso advised that wasn't passed years ago for what it is being used for, that is where the confusion lies. Bill will even tell you that was passed as it was a minimum monthly charge and the comment was that when people go to Florida in the winter, instead of getting a \$3.00 bill they will get a \$5.00 bill. It is not a \$2.00 charge per resident across the board every month. That is what we thought we were voting on, that is the way it was presented. Service Director Arendt stated well unfortunately I wasn't here, now I would just like to see it stay. Council Pro Tem Rosso stated I understand, you are doing what you need to do is tell us why we need it and then it is either a yes or no. Service Director Arendt stated I don't mean to go to any other departments but like I say we need a \$1000 to \$2000 worth of tools in the Water Department. They continuously borrow tools from the Roads Department – continuously. I mean we have got tools all over the place, they are going to the mechanic, they are going here, they are buying tools. We had to borrow a bit to do a tap-in from the Village, we had to borrow a 1-inch bit from the Village because we didn't have it. Council Pro Tem Rosso stated I understand but I still \$80,000.00 a year forever seems like a lot of money. Mr. Elliott stated you said that \$2.00 surcharge for the sewer vac was coming off. Service Director Arendt answered it comes off next November. At the current rate that we are going and this is from Tammy that I received, "at the current rate for the water department, at the end of this year we will carry-over \$44,934.00 into next year." He continued \$44,000.00 is not a lot of money to carry-over. Mr. Elliott stated one of the possibilities you brought up was actually hiring a new employee, if we did hire a new employee – wouldn't you be back to square one. Then we would be short on equipment again right? Service Director Arendt answered well you are talking \$79,000.00 coming in and a new employee making X isn't going to eat up \$79,000.00. I just said that is one additional way to utilize the money. We have 4 guys in the department and when 1 gets sick on the days that we read meters and we have a water break then everybody has to come off the meters and all 3 have to be at the water break. Idealistically all 4 need to be at the water break. We did a job on a tap-in the other day that should have taken one day without any problems – a full day. It took a day and a half because of the problems – that is 4 guys out on one job. That is all we have in the water department. I do believe the guys are doing a great job in both the Water and Roads, I think they are doing a great job. I am not saying we would hire another one, I am saying that is a possible use for the funds. Mrs. Huska stated I have been studying this for a while and all I can say is guys please consider this because we need to pass this honestly. Council Pro Tem Rosso stated we don't need to pass this it is already implemented, the discussion is do we repeal it. Mrs. Huska stated no don't repeal it. Mayor Piskura stated Rick you have made a pretty good point about where is

\$80,000.00 a year going but I think Joe has just very simply given a pretty good summation of money that we need to spend as quickly as possible. Is there any thought to postponing this particular ordinance on the repeal until after we have built the fund up for 6 months or a year to pay for some of these fire hydrants and to buy the truck. Council Pro Tem Rosso stated I think it is still in discussion and I would say an alternate is, this is why I say Joe give us your 5-year plan and let's take a look at it and if we look at it and we say that 5-year plan can be funded at a \$1.00 a month forever. Then maybe we do that. Mr. Bring explained reasoning for requesting Joe put it in writing. Committee to review plan to be submitted by Service Director Arendt. There was a brief discussion on backhoes. Council Pro Tem Rosso asked does anyone here have a problem with doing it this way. No voices were heard.

**/FINANCE: None./PARK BOARD: None.**

\*\*\*\*\***ADMINISTRATIVE**\*\*\*\*\*

**MAYOR:** Mayor Piskura advised I would request an executive session to discuss employee discipline and sale or lease of public property.**/FINANCE DIRECTOR: None./SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR:** Mr. Elliott asked about the rain barrel program. Grant Administrator Gardner answered we had a meeting on Saturday and the next one is on the fifth of October where we are going to do them and if you are interested, I know Steve was there. Council Pro Tem Rosso advised it is on the sign at the Civic Center. Mr. Elliott stated I am interested and I also have a couple of people that called me about it. The Law Director put your name on the list. Service Director Arendt advised Bill and I have been able to get a wonderful relationship with the Home Depot people and they are tremendously encouraged about this rain barrel program and actually are going to assist with us in putting it together. Mr. Elliott stated I think it is a very good program, I have heard some good things about it – good job.**/LAW DIRECTOR:** Law Director Graves advised as Councilman Elliott pointed out we will have an ordinance for next Council meeting bumping back the time frame to put out your trash containers to 7 am the day before the day of collection. A draft of that is attached for your review. Another thing that we talked about quite extensively in the Ordinance Committee meeting was the proposed jail sharing agreement with the Village. A number of recommendations were brought forth which I think that we are going to be able to implement, one of which was specifying particular day that prisoners would be transported over, that the Village officers would assist with the booking process, that we would bill the insurance company for any costs associated with it and the Village would reimburse the city for un-reimbursed costs from the insurance company and that our squad is going to have to do the transport for all emergencies. These things can be implemented and we will be bringing that back at the next Council meeting. Council Pro Tem Rosso asked so we will take our squad and 1 officer off of the road anytime one of their prisoners has an emergency. Law Director Graves answered yes it is just going to have to be that way, you know if they are in our community if they suffer some kind of symptoms I think Councilman Elliott would agree based on the information from the jail but we can't get in the situations as we are not doctors but we are making a determination as to

whether it is an emergency versus a non-emergency situation. Mr. Elliott stated if you don't you are bringing liability onto to yourselves. Mayor Piskura stated we are not talking about people occupying the jail that are the Saturday night drunks. The people that are going to be there for a couple of hours and it should scare them. The likelihood that they are going to have some emergency is very low, if they do David is absolutely right there is really no way around us transporting them. However we do have mutual aid with the other cities. The whole bill-back to the Village for unreimbursed expenses is the key as far as I am concerned, just to put that out there and their willing to do that. Law Director Graves stated the Mayor is going to be coming with a proposal to go city wide on the Allied Waste program. Mayor Piskura asked has anybody heard of the recycle bag? This is just a article on the recycle bag. Mayor Piskura advised truck reads computer chip and all it does is counts whether or not you put recyclables out to the curb on that particular trash day and what happens is every day that you recycle you get points towards the recycle bank. The points are redeemable at vendors and there are lots of vendors that are participating, like national companies; Dickson, Home Depot and that kind of thing, Apples is already participating in Elyria but basically if you recycle every week you can get up to \$250.00 worth of credits in your bank to go spend participating merchants. I have asked Dave to put out feelers to all of our businesses to see how many participating businesses in Sheffield Lake would be interested but I think that Apples was the key. Beyond that; additional dumpsters, additional anything as far as BFI is concerned would be something more contractual. I think that this is the best that we are going to be able to do, we get the curb side bin, we get a second curb side bin if they need it, he went so far as to say well if it is really justifiable we get the curb side plus a recycle bin plus the recycle bank program. When we get it cemented up a little bit more we will come back. Mr. Diebold stated in the winter time there is people that can't get that, they can't recycle – they are too old to get it out to the curb. So it works in good ways and bad ways too. Mayor Piskura stated for participating per pickup, I don't what the credit that you get is but if you participate every week all year you get enough credit to more then cover the costs of your trash bill period. Mr. Elliott stated was he open to the idea, for city wide? Mayor Piskura advised I told him that that would be a better way to go and that I think we are going to hold out a little bit and see what you can do and this is what he came back to me with is that they would do this for us. That includes getting everybody that additional recycle container. Mr. Diebold asked do you think he would give any exceptions for elderly people? Like getting the trash to the curb? Chairman Rosso asked Ed were you not at the public hearing? Mr. Diebold answered no I wasn't. Chairman Rosso advised both your questions Mr. Kidder addressed for senior citizens, if they call in advance the Allied Waste will bring the trash can out to the curb for them and if it is a situation where they just generate so little trash they don't need a can then they would just let them put a bag out and not have it. So he addressed both of those. Mayor Piskura stated so if that is something that you would want me to pursue, we need to start moving down the train and getting this done. Otherwise we are going to lose that money by the end

of the year. Chairman Rosso advised I am still saying, we have a 2-year contract that we are paying I am going to throw \$15.00 and that probably is not exactly right and I know it is not for unlimited pickup – now they are still going to pay \$15.00 and have less service. I just don't get it. Mayor Piskura advised well you have the opportunity to have up to 3 95-gallon containers plus once a month they will come and pick up all your large items. The most important part is that if we don't do this pilot, you can kiss your \$65,000.00 a year from Solid Waste good-bye and plus the incentive to do the pilot. If you take that and you disburse that amongst the population then I guarantee you that you are gaining more then you are losing. If you want us to hold them to that contract, we could hold them to contract and tell them to forget it but we are going to lose all that money and I don't think that would be in the best interest. Council Pro Tem Rosso asked what did we use that Solid Grant money for last year? Mayor Piskura answered we built a boat launch. What we did for the last 2 years, all of the money from Solid Waste went into recycle concrete blocks. We used the concrete blocks as part of the in-kind contributions down at the boat launch and I think we got about \$160,000.00 credit and that is the only reason that we were able to build the boat launch in that fashion. We have done paving projects, we have done lots of road projects. Mr. Smith asked I know this is a pilot program but if we can negotiate city wide, we can pretty much renegotiate the contract right? Is this going to be for the remainder of the contract or could you like a 4-year contract and include 2 more extra years worth of unlimited pick-up one day a week? Mayor Piskura answered we can bring that up to him. Mr. Smith stated that way you could extend the unlimited for 2 more years which they don't want to do anyway. There was a brief discussion./**COMMUNICATIONS: None./OLD BUSINESS: None./NEW BUSINESS:** Mayor Piskura advised I just wanted to add to my request that in addition to sale or lease of public property and employee discipline, that we talk about the hiring of new employees. \*Motion by Elliott/Second by Kovach to add Council#054 to the next Council agenda. Yeas All. \*Motion by Elliott/Second by Diebold employee discipline, sale or lease of public property and hiring of new employees. **ROLL CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Yeas – Rosso, Huska, Elliott, Diebold, Bring, Smith, Kovach.

### **ORDINANCES FOR COUNCILS AGENDA:**

- 1.) Council#048 – **THIRD READING** – an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a jail sharing agreement with the Village of Sheffield, Ohio for the purpose of incarcerating certain offenders from the Village of Sheffield and the declaring of an emergency.
- 2.) Council#053 – **EMERGENCY** – an ordinance providing for the establishment and increase and decrease of certain funds within the annual appropriations ordinance of the City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio and the declaring of an emergency.



**3.) Council#054 – FIRST READING** – an ordinance amending section 965.02(b) of the codified ordinances of the City of Sheffield Lake regarding type of containers; accessibility, and the declaring of an emergency.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this council, Motion by Kovach/Second by Bring to adjourn at 9:14 PM. Yeas All.

**CLERK OF COUNCIL AFFIRMATION:** This Meeting Of The City Council 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 offices.

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CLERK OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEES

*Kay Fantauzzi*

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COUNCIL PRESIDENT

*Edward R Podmanik*

*and/or*

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COUNCIL PRO TEM

*Richard Rosso*

I, Kay Fantauzzi, duly appointed Clerk of Council of Sheffield Lake DO HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and exact copy of the Minutes of WORKSESSION of September 15, 2009.

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MAYOR

*John J Piskura*