

**Minutes of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse  
Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
April 4, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse was held Monday, April 4, 2011. Chairman Dennis Bring called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Bring, Podmanik, Elliott, Rosso, Huska, Kovach, Stark, Smith  
Attending: Service Director Smith, Planning; Belaska, Concerned Citizen

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

\*Motion by Huska/Second by Elliott to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2011 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 – data received – **REMOVE.**

*Future Projects:*

Sidewalks – Chairman Bring asked have you heard anything about that sidewalk on Kenilworth? Service Director Smith answered yes I have but I haven't had time to go over it yet. I received pictures today that was offered to Council at your Council meeting and finally they came today or this afternoon of what they were. I haven't gone over there to figure anything out yet. I have been over there already in the past 2 weeks trying to figure out where it was and today got that answer of course. Evidently what the issue arose and the date on the picture is 2000, if that gives Council any type of timeframe of when this occurred. It looks as if there was 2 – 2X4's and some brick that went from the sidewalk to the road surface and that was done very nice and packed and tapped and set like patio. It probably looks like 4 or 5 feet long X sidewalk width and that from what I understand that is the section that is in dispute. Councilman Smith asked the part going out to the mailbox? Service Director Smith answered her mailbox is on the left hand side, correct. It was bricks kind of just laid nicely in there, it was done real nice with just bricks and it was just a small little section that went to the road. Her mailbox is on the left hand side and I have a picture of that – 1 of the 3 pictures that she sent me was dated August of 2000. I sent them to David too and David was going to talk to the former Service Director for his recall on exactly what was promised to her. But my preliminary discussions with Mr. Graves today

– really there is not much we are going to be able to do. He is checking into the legality of that because it was something that was in our right-of-way that was not sanctioned/it was not part of our structure/was added by them. It is kind of like if someone was to put a 2 X 4 bridge over their ditch. Councilman Smith stated that is what it used to be. Service Director Smith stated like I said I just finally got that today.

***Misc:***

**Water meters**–Service Director Smith advised I would like to make one little note that in the report from the Ohio EPA on our water survey that I gave Council at the last Council meeting, if you note in the back of that survey is a recommendation from them that the city look at that type meter system and they also have loan programs for municipalities for those specific issues such as radio reads and they supplied me with a list of possible grant and loan sources.

**SERVICE DIRECTORS REPORT:**

Service Director Smith reported I have a few things tonight, number one we have been working on the ditches on Walker Road from Maple east to Abbe. So far since we have had the big rain we have gotten approximately half of that wood line north and south of Walker between Mapleview and Maple to go east - before that it all came west. So we have been draining it and continuously adjusting over there and we have gotten the water table in the woods on both north and south sides to drain. When you drive down Walker Road you can look to the south and you will see four to five inches of algae up on the trees that are no longer submerged in the water. That is how much of the water table is actually dropped in the wood line and it is an on-going process and it continues to drain, so that when we do get a big deluge like we got today the water will fill up into there but drain quickly out because it will actually be absorbed by the ground table for once. But I would say we have lowered it approximately 4 inches inside the woods. We have redirected the ditch around 1 manhole cover that was on the north side of Walker Road; sanitary sewer that the whole lid was slid over about 8 inches and water going in and underneath it into the sanitary and we fixed that and brought the ditch around it. Pretty much I have been keeping an eye on the flow of all the different areas over there and in other certain areas of the city but we have been concentrating on that area specifically. Number two that I have concerning the Maple area, we had flooding in areas behind houses on Maple; south of Walker where their whole backyards were lakes. We found a clogged driveway pipe on Woodruff; the second house south on Woodruff and jetted it and what had clogged the pipe was a skunk that had expired and swelled up and bloated inside the pipe causing that water to be backed up. When they hit it with the jetter – it was bad and it stunk up the whole area. But it has been draining for 4 days after that and the water table back there has come down too. So that was something that really needed to be done. Right now I think that area is draining a lot better. We have been over there on and off throughout the whole day and it is holding its own. I have continued to have cold-patching done and we will continue to cold patch up until the time the asphalt plant opens up. We will try to do our

best and I am treating cold patch; if anyone – I know there is different opinions out there but my opinion is that we don't wait for the snow storm to stop before we plow. We don't wait for the ice storm to stop before we salt and likewise I don't want to wait for the asphalt plant opens up before we fix a hole. If it pops out later on in the year than we will fill it with hot patch and we will get it taken care of. One of the things that we are working on currently is the patch machine and that robo truck that I asked Council if I could sell before – remember the one man supposed miracle truck, we have gone over it and think that we can convert it to a hot patching truck for a very, small amount of money where it could actually mix its own hot patch and we could use it manually like. At least that way we are getting use out of it and it could working for us, so I think that is the route that I am going to take with that. Litter is a major problem in the open ditches, we will be attacking that soon. I have been using the community service people to pick up litter in the ditches; supply them with vests and bags and gloves and send them out weather permitting. I still have 2 more things; stormwater – the yearly MS4, it was filed on time early last week. The PIPE will now be the duty of the Service Director and I am now in the process of doing things such as; the stormwater map, sanitary sewer map, water line map and hydrant map. Updating and getting them current; some are requirements by EPA. I have already had a meeting with the City Engineer discussing the needs and requirements that are mandated such as stormwater map which we haven't had for many years. We have had bits and pieces and I have also dug some stuff out and Mark Skellenger has helped too from 1992 on our sanitary sewers that the city had a massive survey done. Very extensive survey done on infiltration and inflow on all the manholes and I am trying to acquire the actual manhole book which has a list of every single manhole in the City of Sheffield Lake with its current condition as of the time of that study. The last but not least I have compiled a city wide road survey and I will discuss that in the near future. Chairman Bring asked the people that were in here from Madison, did we do anything for those people over there? Service Director Smith answered not that I am aware of at this point but to bring something up, for Worksession I know you are going to be getting something before you that is concerning a donation that happened to occur on Thursday of last week from Lowe's. That will of course be up to Council but I believe that was something that was possible discussed as getting into a program. We received cabinets from Lowe's, approximately I think it was like \$17,000.00 worth. 80 cabinets – all show pieces and new in the box where they changed suppliers and vendors and they offered them to the City of Sheffield Lake and of course we took them. I have them in storage at this time. Chairman Bring stated as to the outfall by my house on Cove Beach, I talked to Chemtron over the weekend and they are getting a report for you as far as testing and they have lab reports and everything else which they are going to forward that onto you. They are still working on that but they said everything seems to be pretty good but he just wanted you to have that so that you can keep that for your records. Service Director Smith stated I also have a report from Ohio EPA and the Coast Guard. Chairman Bring stated you had mentioned the litter and I know that you and I had a discussion about this but before Pride Day I know I

would volunteer, if we could maybe get some residents together and do some of the pick-up on the ditches and stuff. Service Director Smith advised I am already trying to organize that and attach it to Pride Day but well in advance of Pride Day. Mrs. Belaska advised I will volunteer. Chairman Bring stated Mr. Smith is getting that all together but that is just something that I mentioned and I think if we can get a group of residents and we can get some things done. Service Director Smith advised before the ivy foliates, before all the leaves come out – we can see what is what. Just drive down Walker Road and look to the south, that is a good example. He explained South Street, Ivanhoe, Sheffield, the shopping center area. There is lots of areas around the city. Councilman Rosso asked what are we doing to notify the property owners that is their responsibility to clean their ditch and get them out there to clean it. Service Director Smith answered we got a window and that process takes 2 months and by the 19<sup>th</sup> of May everything is going to be green and foliated. Councilman Rosso stated my question is why didn't we start the 19<sup>th</sup> of March, why didn't we start notifying the 19<sup>th</sup> of March – it happens every year. You know when you got to do it 2 months in advance. The problem is everybody is lazy and they are just going to wait till the city goes in and cleans it. We got to start pushing back on the owners, it is their responsibility. Chairman Bring advised I have to agree with Mr. Rosso on that but also if we could just make an effort to clean and then if it continues to be a problem then we could just go from there. Service Director Smith advised we got a \$1000.00 litter fine within the city. Chairman Bring stated there is people that just by rubbish and don't pick it up at all. I am just sick and tired of walking by and seeing that it is not being picked up, if we could get a group of people together. Service Director Smith stated mind you Rick we have had very few days where we have had bare grass and ground without pouring rain or covered with snow. We are right at that terminus; we could start earlier next year. Councilman Rosso stated I think we should be saying in March – in two months we expect you to be out there to clean your ditch. Service Director Smith stated we have a choice, we could do that and then have inaction and still have the garbage there in 2 months. Councilman Rosso debated why don't we just start maintaining everybody's property in the city. Service Director Smith advised please don't get me wrong, I wasn't talking about maintaining their property Rick. Councilman Rosso asked it is their responsibility, isn't it? Service Director Smith answered yes to take care their yard, I would agree with that. What do I do with the property owner at Shoreway? Chairman Bring explained when you see some of the overgrown stuff, like Len is getting into right now – where there is a lot of overgrown stuff with trees that is just full of stuff. It is not so much people that own a house and see the stuff in the ditch, I am talking about the lots with the brush and everything else – that is where I am seeing a lot of it. If you go down Cove Beach there is the one lot that has trees and everything in it, that ditch in that area right there – there has got to be 50 cans and bottles laying there. It is next to a house and where the house is it is clean but where the property is it is a mess. Councilman Smith advised the Bowling Alley – that whole area over there, it all goes in that corner right by the Bowling Alley. Service Director Smith stated we have been actively enforcing the property maintenance codes, I

can tell you that. As a matter of fact, the majority of complaints that I have in my Building Department are “why is the city doing this all of a sudden”. You are more than welcome Rick and don’t take this wrong but you would not believe the calls and we still continue to do it – people aren’t unhappy about doing it/we force them to clean up/I have already forced residents to clean up their ditches on Kenilworth/on Grantwood/on Alameda. Councilman Smith stated the problem is you got too many residents out there saying “look at all that garbage over there in the street” – everyday “look at all that garbage over there in the street”, instead of just walking over there and picking it up. They just stand there and say “look at all that garbage in the street”. I stop in the middle of the road and pick up garbage laying there. Service Director Smith stated Allied Waste is yet to blame here too at some point. I have had the issue with them with knocking their cans down including today – with them sitting the cans down real hard and when they sit the cans down they fall and anything that is stuck in the bottom of the can flies across the yard. Now I personally carry bags in my truck and drive up and down and what is really funny is 90% of all the debris is recyclables. McDonalds cups/Burger King cups, wrappers – things that are all thrown in the random recycle bin of which I have constantly been on the phone with Allied Waste and told Bryan Filco over and over it is this truck, it is this week, this truck the next week, now all of a sudden it is all the blue cans, now all of a sudden it is back to all the green cans. I am constantly on them about that. Councilman Smith advised coming into the city right out at the Avon Lake line on north side; cups, garbage, everything – laying all over the place. It is like somebody dumped half of it out and it is just laying there. Service Director Smith advised when I find an area like that I call them and make them come out and physically clean it up. President Podmanik asked do those guys work those controls by hand or is that on a time cycle. Here is what I noticed today especially at my house because I did have to pick the garbage up. They pick it up – up/down, half the trash is falling out as they are bringing it back to the ground and it lands on the sidewalk, the tree lawn, the curb, the street and I picked it up. Service Director Smith answered I believe it is hand controlled. President Podmanik stated then they are going to have to slow down a little bit and give it an extra half a second. Service Director Smith advised I agree, I had a conversation with Bryan Filco again earlier this morning about the same thing. There are several occasions though that – Rick, I think they are your neighbors, in front of their house to the west of you where their cans were – there was a whole bunch of garbage that was left on the street earlier today. Councilman Rosso stated it is probably in my front yard now because I picked most of it up last night. Service Director Smith advised I think a lot has to do with when Allied Waste like Ed says – puts the cans down and then that stuff blows all over. I mean you drive down Ferndale and we have got empty pop bottles laying in there and you know they are from the recycle bin. Councilman Rosso stated when this program started they (Allied Waste) and I think Mark asked the question, “can I keep them in my blue bag and then put the blue bag in the recycle bin so it would keep the garbage can clean” and they said no. It also prevents the problem we are having now that the stuff is loose. So can’t we push back on them. Mr. Mark Erdei advised I still put it in

the bag. President Podmanik asked they still take it? Mr. Erdei answered yes. There was a brief discussion. Service Director Smith advised we had some issues over on Saddlewood off of Irving Park where we had residents fists-ta-cupping to the truck drivers because there were issues of this going on and it was so aggravating to the residents and I got involved with that. I made them go back, clean up and change their technic and they have been very helpful. But I think this rotation of drivers is where the problem comes in, they rotate these drivers on different routes instead of keeping same driver all the time on the same routes. What happened over on Diane's (Councilwoman Huska) street, there were some issues over there. Some issues over by your house Ed (President Podmanik). All I can do is keep on them and keep them. Mr. Mark Erdei stated like Ed said – slow down. Slowing down and they are slow and everything works good but then there is a couple of times when they were just boom, boom. President Podmanik concurred trash is still falling out of the barrel as they are bringing it back to sit it down. Service Director Smith advised Rick please don't take me the wrong way as I agree with you 100% about enforcement about this on property owners especially those that own vacant lots. But for instance what 3 or 4 people can do in an hour down on South Street or we can go to Mr. Levin and say okay we are going to print you off a letter to clean up your property. The time frame of it getting it done. Councilman Rosso interceded where do you draw the line of any other resident that doesn't want to do their property maintenance to say well I don't want to fight with them, I will just go in and do X this time? Service Director Smith answered they would get cited and go to David. Councilman Rosso asked why cite one person for one thing when we are not going to cite another one? That is all I saying and how do you argue with it. Where do you draw the line? Councilman Bring advised the only thing that I am looking at is that just before Pride Day, if we can get a group of people together I think it would be good to go out there and see what we can clean up and get it started then Len can start on checking the Allied Waste trucks. If they keep leaving stuff, send them a bill. Just like John did when they started throwing those newspapers out there and it stopped, that was the only way he stopped it. Service Director Smith advised on Walker Road, when we started clearing the ditch when you take the backhoe bucket sideways and keep working it down. There is a lot of that stuff that is in the mud that just came up floating. In that situation we are dealing with a stormwater issue. I have got residents who don't rake their clean-outs in front of their drains in front of their storm pipes. Currently and it has been the practice of this city since I have known it, is when we have a flooding situation or flooding rains and you get these areas like we passed over down at Shoreway earlier today – the catch basin has got stuff over it and the Road Department gets out and rakes the stuff off it the catch basin and soon the water level goes down. I mean I think a lot of the litter issue is actually part of the stormwater issue. You pose a very good question, we have to be fair and equitable across the board in our enforcement of the property maintenance code but at the same time there is a point where we have to get involved or we are going to contribute to flooding. We can't just sit there and let streets back up and flood, I mean where do we draw the line. I guess that just falls into the circumstance of the day, you know where is

that specific circumstance during the course of that day. Planning Belaska asked will be hiring any part-time people this summer to maybe do some clean-up? Mr. Erdei stated we got Community Days coming up, why don't you see if we can put something together in a little pamphlet with the information that the city will be enforcing the code. Service Director Smith answered we have had these codes on the books. Mr. Erdei stated well if we have it out in the open like Community Days. Service Director Smith advised that is what PIPE does, those issues will be addressed but I think the immediate situation is what Mr. Rosso was saying about – where do we draw the line on private property versus what needs to be pick up or do we enforce and make a resident. Chairman Bring advised I think if you can get people out there picking stuff up, you are going to get some kind of publicity on it and then you go in and say we are doing this now but this is going to be enforced which will be out in the open and you are going to have people picking stuff up. I think you are going to get a little bit more impact out of that. Councilman Rosso advised of possible consequences. There was a brief discussion of litter issue; violations/citations/enforcement within the city. Chairman Bring asked has anybody complained about the garbage pick-up at all lately? Service Director Smith answered yes, we get loads of them. We get calls on a regular basis from Allied Waste; more so more calls concerning they were supposed to drop a can off/we called to get an extra can and they didn't return our phone call/they didn't pick up all of our bulk, they missed that. The calls have changed from what they used to be – to more of pick-up issues or delivery issues. Like Allied Waste was supposed to drop off 3 cans and they didn't drop all the cans off or they were supposed to do this and they didn't do that. There is communication issues, Lisa and Annie document and they fax everything over to Allied Waste so there is a written hard copy of when it was done. Then Allied Waste will sometimes try to argue with me and we just pull out the fax – no, it was verified that you guys received the fax on such and such date and such and such time and you guys haven't done anything about it. We need it done now, right now and they do take care of it at that point. They have definitely come down from what they used to be. President Podmanik advised I think I have mentioned this to you before Len and I am just double checking or reminding northeast corner of Cove Beach/the resident – the water meter and I guess you call it a cask (the cover that protects the meter). That thing is like 20 inches deep in the yard. I think I mentioned it to you before I just don't want you to forget it. Councilman Smith stated the vault. President Podmanik concurred that is it, some cities call them a cask and some call them a vault. Anyway it is deep in his front yard, so I am just reminding you. I think I mentioned to you back in January. There was a brief discussion.

**PRIDE DAY – May 21, 2011; 8 am to 2 pm**

Mr. Erdei stated I just want to go on record to say that with that sanitary back-up in my place. I am not going to spend no more money to replace all the rug in there until I get some kind of solution to fix the problem. I have been there almost 16 years and I have

been lenient on it because it hasn't backed up to where its screwing up my basement and it stays in the washroom. But about 7 times it has gone into my living space in the basement and I know I talked to Len on it already. I just want to make sure that something gets solved on that issue because I know you are short and only got a 3-man crew but I don't exactly like having waste in my basement. Now with this rain like it was and again I am holding my breath just in case. Councilman Smith advised when the rain overflows the sanitary, there is not a thing anybody can do. You know what fixes it – millions and millions and millions of dollars to redo the sanitary system because once it is full – it is full. To be honest with you there is no fix unless you redo the whole system. Mr. Erdei asked if it was your house what would you do? Councilman Smith answered my house flooded already 2 months after I bought it. Brand new house, I just built it and 2 months after I got in I got this much water in my basement so I have been there. What I am saying though is we have got to understand and when I have residents that come to me about flooded basements. We can tell you anything we want to tell you but when the sanitary sewers back up because they are over-flooded with water and rain water – there is no fix. It is full and there is nothing that you can do. The only thing that you can do as a resident is put a back-flow in it to keep the sanitary from coming in – that is it. Service Director Smith advised in the past, when I say past I am talking long past pre-administration – there was a time when this city put in several back-water valves which I to this day do not comprehend on why the city did it. I still can't find the answer to it. But the city will not under my term go on private property and repair somebody's sanitary sewer line under the auspice of putting in a backwater valve. That is something that every homeowner has the ability to put in on their sanitary sewer line, it costs several hundred dollars but it is a little bit of an insurance. I have one currently on display in the Water Department that we pulled out of the back that we had there so people can physically see what they are and how they work. Mr. Erdei stated I know I talked to Eckenrode about this. Service Director Smith continued that is nothing that the city can do, that is something you will have to hire to do and it is going to be the policy and it has been the policy for several years that the city does not go on and put them in people's property. But a long time ago you are going to hear residents say well the city put mine in – you are going to hear that and you are going to hear that and it is not right. It did not set precedence on what we as a city did to approach this problem. Currently right now I know of 3 people who have had backwater valves installed, in the last month on their property because they had raw sewage coming into their basements which is one of the reasons why I have these on display. Now your specific situation I told you I would look into and I will do that but I want you to be aware there is something more that you can do as a resident. Mr. Erdei stated I know that, I already talked to Gary Eckenrode on that but I still want that ditch on the northeast corner of my property that is beginning to look like a lake again. You said you would get over there and at least jet it out for me. Service Director Smith stated I make regular rounds during the rains over by your house myself personally keeping an eye on it but yes I am continuously working on it. Mr. Erdei stated it has filled up pretty good already and we

really didn't have that much rain and that holds all that water on the rest of my whole lot. Service Director Smith stated we have had almost 2 inches today. Planning; Belaska asked did we sell any of those old meters yet? Chairman Bring answered no, we had some interest but did not receive any bids on them. Service Director Smith advised I want to put them on govdeals.com. There was a brief discussion on check valves.

**NEW BUSINESS: None.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee, \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Elliott to adjourn at 7:48 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 April 4, 2011.

---

**CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE**

*Dennis Bring*

---

**PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**

*Edward R Podmanik*

*and/or*

---

**COUNCIL PRO TEM**

*Richard Rosso*