

**Minutes of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
December 1, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse Committee was held Monday, December 1, 2014. Chairman Cizl called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Cizl, Rosso, Kovach, Smith, Erdei, Wtulich, Stark, McCullough,
Mayor Bring

Attending: Service Director Smith (excused)

*Motion by McCullough/Second by Kovach to accept the minutes of the October 6, 2014 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

SEWER CREDITS/UNPAID CHARGES FOR TAX DUPLICATE:

Unpaid water bills to be added to tax duplicate - \$3055.90. After a brief discussion,

*Motion by Kovach/Second by McCullough to accept and submit to the county to be added to the tax duplicate. Yeas All.

4268 Knickerbocker in the amount of \$646.00. There was a brief discussion and it was determined further investigation is necessary.

4885 Madison in the amount of \$154.23. *Motion by Kovach/Second by McCullough to approve the sewer credit. Yeas All.

580 Irving Park in the amount of \$106.59. There a brief discussion and it was determined further investigation is necessary.

SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mayor Bring advised it is like I have been telling you all along with what they have been working on is having meetings about the water meters; the costs of the sewers. I met with the engineer and this is all on-going things that we have been talking about. The ditch cleaning and everything else they are still going to do some of that as long as the weather permits. If it is cold out it will not stop them from doing it but we have had a couple of snow episodes which we had overtime the other day. We did have another water break which was on I think Irving Park and nobody came out so that ran for 2 days and I think that they fixed it today or attempted to fix it today. A lot of our time has been taken up on water breaks and snow. Even reading the water meters – they were all scrambling to get that done before they had to turn that in too. Just a lot of lack of manpower and what is going on, we are getting to the projects whenever we possibly can. President Rosso asked on evaluating the water meters, another month or so, two months or longer than that? Mayor Bring answered soon, I think there is 1 more that has to

come in and most of the work is done. We have pretty much narrowed it down to 1 company so if that company is the one we are going to have them come in and do a presentation. Then we will start getting costs and everything else together and I don't anticipate that before the end of the year. It will probably be the first part of the year or so with everything that is going on. Trust me I wanted to get this done 2 years ago it just hasn't got to that point. President Rosso stated so once we go through and we know what we want to do, it will probably be spring before we can start putting them in? Mayor Bring answered the problem is the amount of money and we are probably going to have to take a bond out so that is why you guys get involved and figure out how you guys are going to fund this. I can only give you the scenarios of what it is going to do for the city which is going to be a huge benefit. The longer we wait the worse things are going to get and I am not just saying that to say it, it is a problem. President Rosso stated if everything moved as quickly as it could. Mayor Bring advised they can put them in within a week, they even offer financing and everything else. President Rosso stated I guess I am making an assumption with the snow coming we would probably have to wait until spring until it melted. Mayor Bring answered yes I would imagine if the weather is decent. I guess I am going to defer to that gentleman and what they have to say and how they are going to handle this. In one aspect originally we had talked about doing a third of the city and a third of the city and a third of the city and they are saying no. Just put them all in and get them done because again that will stop the guys from going out reading and it will stop the girls from all the work and the bills will be on time and meters read every month and the accuracy is going to be tremendous. Also with the paperwork as far as finding leaks and as far as finding other things. It is so much better and up to date – we are just so far behind it is ridiculous. That will stop 90% of the phone calls that we take. If there is a problem we probably get 140 to 150 phone calls, I mean it is a non-stop process and you can't get anything done over there. The screaming and yelling and everything else and then they get their bill and if they are not satisfied with the amount then they want our guys to come out and check it. So then the guys go out and do service calls and they are doing 25 or 30 a day for a couple of weeks checking all these things because these people are not going to pay their water bills until this and that. You can say you can make them pay their water bills but I am just telling you this is what the people say. This is kind of like every 2 or 3 months we get into this. Chairman Cizl stated I understand the meters aspect, it is not really going to fix the pipes it is just basically going to help the aspect of reading the meters and not taking 3 men to go out there and do it, correct? Mayor Bring answered right. Chairman Cizl stated so the manpower will be alleviated tremendously. Mayor Bring stated part of the problem with the pipes and some of this stuff that we have had with the corrosion and everything else is the lack of maintenance. When Rick and I stood there in front of Shoreway and that meter was broken a lot of that has to do with the fact that some of those bolts on some of these things hasn't been changed and haven't

been lubricated and a lot of the flushing that used to be done is not being done. That also co-insides with the Fire Department with their truck, when we get that truck those guys are going to be out doing that stuff. There is a whole process of why things aren't where they should be but neglect is the biggest thing so these guys will have no excuse not to get out there and start doing all this stuff. Right now I can't say this is what you are going to do for a month because just like I told you we will get 140 phone calls and all of a sudden 26 people want their meters re-read so we have to send a guy out there and do that. Then all of a sudden we have something else happen so then the guys are doing that such as water main breaks. It is kind of a catch 22. I would like to have about 5 more people in our department but we can't afford that. Chairman Cizl asked CMI is it that is our billing company out of Cincinnati? I was asked about that, when did we go with them and is that a contract? Mayor Bring answered we have had them for a number of years, there is only a few companies that actually go out and do that stuff. Again with the new water meters this would be hooked up to CMI so this will help pretty much eliminate any of those problems on our end. So we should be in good shape with that. Chairman Cizl asked I guess my question that I couldn't answer is what does CMI do for us; obviously mail out the bills. Mayor Bring answered that is what they do they; take care of all the billing and everything else, the girls turn in all the amounts and everything and they send it over. They don't just do it for us, they do it a lot of other city's. President Rosso stated as opposed to that girl over there saying last month you had X, this month we read it and it is now Y and you multiple by this and you add it by that. Chairman Cizl stated the follow-up question that I had is some city's are going quarterly and then my first answer was well then people would go 3 months without paying their bill and the revenue would be every 3 months but although we are putting our men out there every 3 months to do part of the city I wonder what is the rational of why some city's go quarterly and we are monthly. Mayor Bring stated larger cities, like our city we send out 3000 of those so times thirty some cents so if you did it every month it would costs you that much money. If you do it quarterly it only costs you a certain amount of money. If you have a large city that has to do 30,000 water bills – that is why they are doing that. That would be an absolute disaster if we had to do that. Councilman McCullough stated have somebody have a break under their driveway and it takes 180 days instead of 30 days or 60 days to find it. Mark – I think you were on Council when we just did that new CMI thing over a year ago. President Rosso stated my biggest thing if you go 3 months, then it is harder for people to pay. People who aren't paying now can't afford the \$45.00 when it gets to be \$135.00 you aren't paying it. Mayor Bring stated you would probably have 200 to 300 service calls after that because everybody would be complaining that their water bill was too high. To mail a letter now how much does it cost you? Chairman Cizl stated fifty cents and bulk is thirty some probably. Mayor Bring advised we get a little bit less discount because of the postage for this particular thing. We did those post-cards and I think it

was thirty some cents. We don't print those out any more like we use to because that used to be non-stop printing out and it was an all-day process. We don't do that anymore because CMI does that. Chairman Cizl stated when we decided to go CMI it actually saved us costs. Mayor Bring answered yes. The guys are trying very hard to get stuff done, but it is a process and it is very frustrating and I haven't been able to correct that problem but I am working on it.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ditch cleanings; Day Ditch by Holl/Shoemaker Ditch – north of Richelieu, east side by Buckeye – None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,
*Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to adjourn at 7:28 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 Offices.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

Kay Fantauzzi

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Mark Cizl

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Rick Rosso

and/or

COUNCIL PRO TEM

Alan Smith

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 the Roads & Drains Committee of December 1, 2014.