

**Minutes of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
April 6, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse Committee was held Monday, April 6, 2015. Chairman Cizl called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Cizl, Rosso, Mayor Bring, Kovach, McCullough, Smith, Wtulich
Attending: Council Members; Erdei and Stark (excused)

*Motion by McCullough/Second by Kovach to accept the minutes of the March 2, 2015 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

SEWER CREDITS/UNPAID CHARGES FOR TAX DUPLICATE:

937 Stark in the amount of \$406.25 - *Motion by McCullough/Second by Kovach to approve the sewer credit. Yeas All.

SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mayor Bring reported we have been patching the roads as well as possible with what we have. When the asphalt plant opens up we are going to get some hot patch going but that maybe a little while yet. We started to clean some ditches. We started over there on Buckeye and Mapleview I believe, they were over there cleaning the other day and that water has not been draining for quite some time. We did part of a section a couple of 3 weeks ago, maybe 4 weeks ago. We did some more today and they will continue that process for a little bit over. We are looking at Holl and everything else, we started cleaning some of the debris with the one mower so we will be looking at cleaning that ditch out. One of our gentleman came back from the Water Department today. So that will help out as far as staffing. We are going to start with the street list to bid out shortly. We got Pride Day coming up May 16th which is a Saturday from 8 am to 2 pm. We have got volunteers that are talking about possibly doing some of the parks from the Pride Committee, probably planting some flowers again at the Covered Bridge. I had Mr. Smith going out and taking some pictures of the apartments with the trash containers. I don't know if you guys have been driving around but there has been quite a bit of debris around some of the apartments as far as trash blowing out of there. I had him take pictures of some of the containers and the fencing around same. We are going to send a couple of the apartments' letters and tell them to make sure they address that to pick up the garbage and get it cleaned up. Chairman Cizl asked we did the one down there on Park Place and Boardwalk and we did the across from Shoreway Shopping Center and I think there was one other one we took some pictures of. Oakwood Street – before it gets paved this year, we need to put drains; pipe in there to get that water out of there.

That is why that road is falling apart so bad, we will do that shortly. Chairman McCullough asked is that coming out of capital improvement. Mayor Bring answered yes. Chairman Cizl asked are the water calls slowing down now, the breaks that we were having during ice? Mayor Bring answered knock on wood we haven't had any in quite a while. Chairman Cizl stated it seems like the pipes are even going down on the road. Mayor Bring concurred yes because of the freeze, you are exactly right. We have had a couple of small little leaks, we had one the other day but there is something that I did. We were getting calls quite consistently after hours, so I sent a memorandum to the Police Department that if anybody gets called – the Chief is called first and I get called second and then Pat gets called third. Since I did this we have not had 1 call. I think we were overreacting with a lot of these phone calls and some of the things that were going on can wait until the morning where we don't have to pay the overtime, it has cut down dramatically. Again a lot has to do with the weather but it has helped out. The one night we had 9 phone calls on the same situation. I just thought that was quite excessive so we are just curtailing that and things are working much better. I will tell you the guys are having a meeting every morning now to go over their agendas of what is going on and what they are going to do for that day and that is working out quite well. Everybody is getting used to that, so things have gotten a lot better over there. I know I am saying this and I will jinx it but I will say that it is better. A lot of people are just calling and we are jumping and running out there and a lot of this is just stuff that can wait until the next day when our guys are all here when we are fully staffed and it is light outside which makes it easier to get the job done and we are not paying a ton of overtime. So far it is working so we will see. If something does happen that is major, we are going to go out and fix it. We aren't going to just sit by, if the street doesn't have water obviously we are still going to do that stuff but there are a lot of nuisance calls that we get. We just had somebody call today demanding for our Engineer in the city because their fence fell in the ditch over there by Brockley and Belle. It is the same person that has been calling with all the nuisance calls. Again we don't own that ditch and we are still looking at how we are going to attack that this year too. I am thinking about maybe approaching Marcy Kaptur because this is all water that she has been trying to get the lake cleaner and the run-off's and everything else. I am going to try to approach her and see if we get some kind of a grant and maybe go after that. If we could somehow procure about \$200,000.00 that would take care of almost all the ditches as far as getting all the debris; tree's and rubbish out of that. If we can somehow get that that would help out tremendously and then we could move forward. That is kind of a rough estimate of how much it would costs to do that. Councilman McCullough stated in 2012 we passed water/sewer increase and there was a lot of going back and forth about that \$2.00 water credit remember? When that \$2.00 water credit came off did we reduce or did we leave it? We were supposed to revisit it in 2014. Mayor Bring answered we corrected all of that. Councilman McCullough stated I know we

corrected it but did we reduce the \$2.00 or did we leave it. Mayor Bring answered it went back to what it was supposed to be. Councilman Smith advised we gave the people back and then we went off, we still had the \$2.00 that was on there. Councilman McCullough stated we still have that \$2.00, I thought that we kept that - we didn't get rid of it. Was that what we agreed to? Councilman Smith stated I think so. It was a little confusing, it was \$2.00 and \$2.00 and \$2.00. Councilman McCullough stated I don't know why we couldn't have just killed that credit because that was most confusing thing. Councilman Smith stated that was a refund to the people because they were getting \$2.00 overcharge and they got the credit. Mayor Bring stated the only thing was that that caused a big problem was our billing and that part of the billing process because it actually when it goes into the computer and they look for credits and increases. Every time we do that it messes up the billing cycle. President Rosso stated we didn't issue the credit in 2012. Councilman McCullough stated no we kept that credit in there in 2012. I never found where we took the credit - the water back off \$2.00. Remember when we the credit came off we were supposed to revisit going back and we never did. I am saying once that credit came off and when they were all paid back, we were supposed to revisit that and we never did. Councilman Smith stated I don't think we were because we already had the \$2.00 that was coming off. Councilman McCullough stated when the credit was over. Councilman Smith stated that was just a credit to pay the people of the city back. Councilman McCullough stated but if you read the meeting minutes we were supposed to revisit that in 2014 and we didn't. Mayor Bring stated I will check into that. Councilman McCullough stated that is the way we left it. Councilman Smith stated we left it like that because the people got paid back but the \$2.00 charge is still there. Councilman McCullough stated we were supposed to see if we were just going to keep that extra \$2.00 or if we were going to give it back, in other words take it back off the bill. President Rosso stated we took the credit off the bill, what Kerry is saying in 2012 we left the \$2.00 credit and added a \$2.00 charge to offset it and in 2014 what he is saying he thinks we were supposed to take that off. But if you remember our water accounts were running in arrears I was going to say. So there was no way we were going to take \$2.00 off when we were already losing money but that is what he is trying to say. Councilman McCullough stated I couldn't find it, I couldn't find a lot of that but I could remember because you got to look through Worksession, you got to look through Roads & Drains and none of it was in Council - it was always Worksession or Roads & Drains. Councilman Smith stated so what you are saying is we were going to revisit it. Councilman McCullough stated we were just supposed to revisit it is all I am saying. I guess the question I am asking; how are we doing in water. Are we ahead finally or are we breaking even or a little behind or a little ahead or are we a lot ahead? Councilman Smith it is going to depend on spring time, how many rains we get. Councilman McCullough stated no that is sewer. Councilman Smith stated that is water too. Councilman McCullough stated how is it

water? Councilman Smith stated you are talking water capital improvement. Councilman McCullough stated now that is different. President Rosso stated we have an increase coming from Avon Lake and Lorain coming in the next couple of months that will get passed on. Mayor Bring stated it is not a lot but there is one coming. Councilman McCullough stated Avon Lake, when they break – screw Sheffield Lake or when they get tied up and they can't get any in because of the ice – they say hey, can we run water through your city. Mayor Bring stated that last one was a water break again – that was a water break in Avon Lake and they shut it down and we had to turn the water on via Lorain. Councilman McCullough stated I just couldn't remember if we revisited it and we took it off or are we at least treading water or we are a little ahead. Councilman Smith stated I think we just kept it on I think. Councilman McCullough stated I think we did. Councilman Smith stated I think we did, the only credit that got reduced was the \$2.00 going back to the people. President Rosso stated I don't remember up-ing the water bill \$2.00, we added a capital improvement. Councilman McCullough stated we ended up being 6 and 6. Councilman Smith stated we did water and sewer; capital improvement. President Rosso stated not the water rates. Councilmen Smith and McCullough stated yes we did. President Rosso stated that was capital improvement, that wasn't the water rate. Councilman McCullough stated I think you better read the minutes. President Rosso stated you can bring it in and prove it to me in black and white that you are right and I am wrong and I will admit that I am wrong. Chairman Cizl asked I had a couple of people come to me and ask about the leaves in the ditches and whose responsibility it is and of course they thought it is the city's responsibility and I say it is the homeowners. Of course they came back and said well, how do we communicate that to the homeowners that it is their responsibility and I thought I would bring it to you. I don't know if maybe the water bill, Facebook reminder, the Buzz because last year we had that flood on May 12th and if we have another one it will probably be because of the leaves in the ditches and I know you guys are cleaning them but everyone else could easily take a rake to their ditch. Mayor Bring stated it is kind of a sore subject because people do believe that the city is supposed to clean all that out but it is their responsibility. In putting it on the water bill as a reminder is a good idea but I don't that it is going to be the end all/cure all. I will tell you that in the next couple of years or even a year I would be looking at getting some type of machine to start in a small process of sucking of that stuff up just for the fact of trying to keep that drains clean. I looked at it last year and the machine wasn't big enough, although it wasn't that costly. It wasn't big enough to do what we thought we were going to do with it. That was the purpose of looking into it and going around to where all the drains are and start making sure that all those leaves and stuff are cleaned up around here. To get the guys to do that by hand is kind of a time consuming effort so I am looking at some type of a machine but it has to be worthwhile. Chairman Cizl advised I think most people probably clean their ditches, I shouldn't say most. Well a good number of

people clean out their ditches when they cut the grass and no one has really cut their grass yet. Mayor Bring advised anybody that is a homeowner with a ditch in front has to clean them out. We still have other ditches along the streets and stuff like that on properties that are privately owned but they are wooded lots and stuff like that and we have got to keep those clean too. That is why I am looking at doing that. It is kind of a sore subject and we have people calling us all the time. We had a guy that was going to sue us 2 weeks ago because we didn't clean his ditch out. He came down to the Police Station and was going to file a lawsuit against the city, we didn't clean his ditch out. The problem was the guy didn't even have a ditch, he did not have a ditch and what he was talking about had been done 5 years ago. I had a record of it but he still wanted to sue the city. Chairman Cizl continued anything new, I know we are going to have another presentation on the water meters? Mayor Bring answered yes that will be next week and you can take a look at that. Again this gentleman is bringing like a good, better and best so you can have your own opinion on it. We will see how this goes and after that we will sit down and talk about that and see if we can't move forward. We have had and I will say numerous phone calls after that last presentation of other companies that do sell that product wondering why we didn't call them but I think we got 6 different companies that were doing local cities around here so we had feedback from that. Then we also looked at companies that were in business for a long time versus somebody that had been in business 10 years or 5 years or whatever. That is kind of why we did what we did as far as those bigger companies. I don't think we want to make a poor choice, I think we want to make the best choice we possibly can for the residents and the city. Chairman Cizl stated no matter what company we go with will be following the recommendations of the EPA. Particularly, the one I noticed that they recommended that we put meters on all supplies; even the Fire Station. I just think it is important that we have that information. Mayor Bring advised we will get the residential ones in first and then we will look at doing the apartments. That is all going to get done.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ditch cleanings; Day Ditch by Holl/Shoemaker Ditch – north of Richelieu, east side by Buckeye – addressed above.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,
*Motion by Kovach/Second by Smith to adjourn at 7:27 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 April 6, 2015.