

**Minutes of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
May 11, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse Committee was held Monday, May 11, 2015. Chairman Cizl called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

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

\*Motion by McCullough/Second by Kovach to accept the minutes of the April 6, 2015 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

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

Councilman McCullough stated I don't have the list. Chairman Cizl advised it was on the email. President Rosso stated they were all attached. Councilman McCullough stated I don't check email.

*Unpaid charges for tax duplicate, in the amount of \$3629.27* - \*Motion by McCullough/Second by Kovach to approve the amount for the tax duplicate to be sent to the County. Yeas All.

*885 Lake Breeze Rd., in the amount of \$135.66* – Councilman Kovach stated I looked at all the emails Dennis and your name was on them so I am assuming that you approve all of them. Mayor Bring stated everything that we had done I had Pat go over and make sure you guys saw it. So whatever he put on that email is what was done. Councilman Kovach stated I assumed you approved it, all of them. Mayor Bring answered yes. Councilman McCullough stated I got one question I didn't see the email, we got 612 and 630 Pasadena. If I am not mistaken, there is a house and then a lot and then another house right? I am just saying we might want to keep an eye out for the residents.

\*Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to approve the sewer credit at 885 Lake Breeze Rd., in the amount of \$135.66. Yeas All.

*630 Pasadena Ave., in the amount of \$226.10* – Councilman McCullough stated I think maybe we kind of might need to get the word out in that area if they are starting to have water main breaks or they're own personal ones. I don't know what would have caused it but those are neighbors and usually you don't see that. There was a brief discussion on particulars. \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to approve the sewer credit at 630 Pasadena in the amount of \$226.10. Yeas All.

*612 Pasadena Ave., in the amount of \$293.93* - \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to approve the sewer credit at 612 Pasadena in the amount of \$293.93. Yeas All.

Councilman McCullough stated my point that I am trying to make is we have got to keep an eye out in that area just for the residents. That could be somebody put in a sidewalk and they ran over their yards, it could be just about anything. But it is odd that basically neighbors, I think there is a lot in between the 2 but I don't think there is a house between the 2. I just think it is odd that neighbors would both have a water break between the 2 houses. Have you seen that before Alan? Councilman Smith asked what's that? Councilman McCullough stated where you have neighbors both with a sewer credit. Councilman Smith answered not usually, usually it is just coincidence.

**4860 Northwood Dr., in the amount of \$77.52 - \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to approve the sewer credit to 4860 Northwood in the amount of \$77.52. Yeas All.**

**SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Bring reported we have been doing the ditches, getting the bids on the roads and trying to get that figured out and what we are going to be able to do. We are doing as much as we possibly can, we have still got 2 guys off and we have another gentleman leaving so we are going to be short-handed again. They are going to be gone for a number of months. One gentleman came back today and I talked to him and he doesn't know exactly when he is coming back and the other one we don't even have a clue. So we are going to have 3 guys out but we are doing as much as we possibly can with all the road projects. The guys have been out there and we have had – actually we had 3 or 4 water breaks here in the last week and one of them had a water break; 2 holes in a matter of 3 feet. So things are just wearing out and nothing we can do about it. We are going to put a letter in the water bill about people putting their refuse out – it will not go in this bill because we already got something on there. I just came down Lafayette and I saw people putting their garbage out again – bulk garbage which is not the time. We made some of them pick it up and they are all complaining about it but we have to stop that because it is getting kind of nasty. Councilman McCullough stated the third Tuesday. Chairman Cizl stated are they doing it because of Pride Day maybe. Mayor Bring stated they just can't seem to figure it out and they don't care and when you tell them to put it back in they scream and yell at you. President Rosso stated that is what he is telling you, they put it out today and they leave it. Councilman Smith stated Kerry just said it is the third Tuesday - it is the Tuesday after the third Monday. Mayor Bring advised if you drove around after the last pick-up, there was probably a dozen people at least. Councilman Smith reiterated if the first of the month lands on a Monday, it is the third Monday and if the first of the month is Tuesday – that Tuesday don't count. So being that it is Tuesday is why everybody is getting it screwed up. President Rosso stated it is on the back of the water bills. Mayor Bring advised it is on the water bill but we are going to put it on it. Councilman McCullough stated the first Monday was the 4<sup>th</sup> and it is not hard. Mayor Bring stated we have people cleaning out houses that got evicted and stuff and they just threw the garbage everywhere. President Rosso

asked was that on Abbe Road? Mayor Bring answered there was one on Abbe Road and there was one on Community – there were 3 of them that had a ton of stuff out. President Rosso stated when I saw that one on Abbe it just raised a question – if I am a landlord and I got an eviction notice, legally I got to put their stuff on the tree lawn. When we tell them you can only evict them on the third Tuesday? I don't know what the legal ramifications are but I agree because it was early in the month that one on Abbe. It probably sat out there for 2 weeks at least. Mayor Bring stated it did. Councilman Erdei stated in the last minutes, you were talking about checking into something that would help you clean the ditches out a lot better – a machine or whatever? Mayor Bring answered we talked about getting one of the bigger leaf machines. We looked into it and the one I looked at was not big enough to take care of the job so I will probably look at something we can pick up reasonable but Westlake or somebody like that has those great big machines and that would help out for the fall and keep the flooding down and stuff and also in the spring. We discussed having a leaf pickup and we are going to have to see how the funds go, it might be very limited but for the most part I would just get the machine to get the ditches cleaned out so we don't get flooded. The majority of that one big rain we had, the majority of the calls was just because of the leaves. We can harp and scream and yell about the people not cleaning the leaves but we still have to get the leaves out of the ditch. Len is giving them letters for that too. We sent out a ton of letters for everybody and for the most part we have had a lot of people comply with what is going on so it is working very, very well. We are going to continue that but in some of the instances that we are talking they are renters and they aren't cleaning the ditches out. Councilman Erdei asked how are things going with the pump stations? Mayor Bring answered the one pump station; only half of it is working because there is some problems with the line and we are trying to get some money for that. The heavy rain that we had the other night, the pump stations all went off and we had to send a guy out. Just about every rain – we are working on some projects to do some things with Avon Lake and us and some other things. Engineering – we have been doing that for the last 4 months, maybe a little bit longer so we are trying to figure out how we are going to make this all work. I did meet with Marcy Kaptur the other day and trying to see what we can do. Councilman McCullough stated I had notified the Water Department about my driveway outfall and I know if I don't keep that thing clean that it can back up all of Roberts Street but it is now crushed in a couple of spots so I filled out the paperwork and Pat said it is on the list. That should help Roberts Street when they replace that and that is pretty cheap though to have them do it - \$280.00 for 20 feet. Mayor Bring stated we got the mini excavator out by you guys and we are going to go over to Walker Road and get that. We have got a number of places that we are doing. Lafayette has a couple of places and we still got the Holl Road/Idlewood – all those. None of these have been forgotten, we are just trying to get to them. Councilman McCullough stated I know the union said that they wanted

to try to do the ditches and clean those out, can you re-approach them maybe that now that they are down so much manpower that? Mayor Bring answered then you are going to have to go back and look at funds to do all this stuff. Councilman Smith stated you said we lost another one today? Mayor Bring answered Shannon is out, Jason is out and Mr. Stottlemire is going to go out – all on medical and Ed will be gone for a long time. Then you got vacations and whatever else you can haul in there. President Rosso stated nobody has resigned? Mayor Bring answered we are not losing people because of that, we are losing people because of medical. Councilman Smith asked so you got 2 out of Water Department and 1 out of Road Department? Mayor Bring answered right. It is very frustrating because you want to get everything done in the summer, I wait and wait and wait and then we can't do it. Councilman Erdei asked how are we going to solve this problem, are we going to get a part-time or are you thinking of getting a full-time in here. Mayor Bring advised we have been talking about that, a couple of guys I can't an answer from as to when they are coming back. So I can't hire anybody because if they do come back and we are still paying them. There is one guy we aren't paying because he is out of sick time. The other guy that is going to be off has got vacation time so we will be paying him, so it is not like we aren't paying them. There is a schedule up and if you guys want to see it all you have to do is walk in the old building inspector's room right there – there is a board up and it tells you exactly what is going on. You are welcome to go in there at any time, it tells you Monday through Friday what day they are doing everything and where they are at. Councilman McCullough stated we had 2 presentations on the water meters and you said you wanted direction on the rest of the way to go. I think we as a Council thought that that was kind of an outstanding idea was the water meters and to start moving in the right direction. I could be wrong, I am speaking for myself but I have talked to a couple of other people and I think we were in agreement. So can we please move forward with those, I mean that is something that at least gets it started and it gives us a base rate to work from. I mean and I know this sounds terrible – it is not costing the city money. Yes it is costing the homeowner money but it is such a small amount I don't see asking them. I can't believe the questions that we are getting to Council and the questions that you have gotten that you are going to make my water bill go up. But you are getting something that you are not paying for, I just haven't understood that logic there yet. Mayor Bring stated if I may and I will give you my thoughts on this – yes your water bill will probably go up slightly but I doubt if it is going to be very much. The \$1.50 that they are going to have to pay a month, if they have 1 water leak for the year it is going to pay for the whole thing for their entire time. Just like you just said about those residents having those water leaks, if we had this in place we would have known exactly what was going on and they would not coming to us. That is exactly what is going on but the only thing that I am telling you guys is we had 2 presentations so I want your input of what one you guys thought were the best. That is why I said I am not moving forward

unless you guys tell me what is going on, I mean I will give you my opinion but I also want you guys. You guys sat there and listened to the presentations and I want your input on this but I do think it is absolutely imperative that we do this and the longer we wait we will not get it in on time. Councilman Kovach asked is that the only 2 that you have approached for presentations, I was under the assumption that there was going to be 2 or 3 more. Mayor Bring answered no, we did interviews with 6 or 7 and once everybody found out we were going to do this, we had probably 20 phone calls and all these meters and everything else. The reason that I didn't want to go too crazy, I think we made a mistake before by going with the cheapest person that we could possibly find and it bit us in the butt and I don't want to do that again and I don't think any of you guys want to do that. I know that Rick and I were extremely upset and I sat up there and asked our previous Service Director whether we paid for those or not and for 2 years I got an answer that was not correct and that was very disheartening. In my position I certainly don't to make another mistake so we narrowed it down to 2 companies that we thought were the better companies. Also they have been around and the one has been in business for over 100 years. The last time I think we got a company that went out of business and we couldn't get any of our money back and it was a disaster and I just don't want that to happen again. Not only for me but for the residents. Councilman McCullough stated they are still sitting over there aren't they? Mayor Bring answered they are gone. Councilman McCullough stated I am just going to speak freely if that is okay and it holds nobody to nothing. I was more engaged and I felt the better quality was from the first one and I felt that they would give the better service and that is my opinion. President Rosso asked the first one was Neptune? Voices answered right. Councilman Erdei stated that is the way that I feel. Councilman McCullough stated the second guy was really working too hard to sell rather than the benefit. Where Neptune gave a little bit more, I felt Neptune gave a little bit more when you asked for the benefit of things. If you are looking for input from that, that is what I thought. Chairman Cizl stated I will express my point of view. I think we need to do something because I think it is going to enhance our labor situation also. Obviously maybe 3 or 4 months down the road until they are completed but we are already having labor issues in the Service/Water Department so we need to do something. It is not a high costs item because of the fact that our residents are going to picking up the costs and the Mayor has indicated that it is going to be nominal every month. Between the two companies that were recommended by the Service Department and the Mayor, the first one was Neptune and that was the bronze one and the second one – the only question that I had and didn't ask it seemed like it was a plastic item and not sure it was as long. I was concerned because it sounded he was saying that his radio transmitters is superior to the Badger one and I didn't know about that. Councilman McCullough stated the only thing that I liked about the second one more then I liked about Neptune and I wasn't even worried about their own frequency. Wasn't the second one the one that offered

on line? Chairman Cizl answered yes you have to pay for it. Councilman McCullough stated yes but it was such a nominal little bit, what we spend in printing a bill is 45 cents including postage. Mayor Bring advised we are still going to send out a bill so it doesn't matter. Chairman Cizl stated I thought about that too because wouldn't it be great if everybody knew what their water was and they could find out themselves. Councilman Smith asked doesn't everybody else around here use Neptune; Avon, Avon Lake, Ridgeville. Councilman McCullough stated I got some pictures of the roads in Lakewood and Lakewood does not do a good job at plowing their streets when it comes to the businesses. They plow the snow up onto things, I had looked down one day and I said oh that is that Neptune mushroom thing. I asked the business owner because he is one of my stops, I said hey you have been pretty straight forward with me – your water bill and he said yes it is high. He continued I told him I would expect it to be high because you have a bar and a restaurant back here so you got some stuff going on. But I said to him how does that thing work? The owner told me they used to give us a bill every 3 months. Lakewood used to bill every 3 months and then you would have like a \$400 or \$500 bill but now he gets billed monthly where it is \$150.00. Councilman Smith stated I am on board with doing it, it is just a matter of getting the right one to do it with all the pros and cons. Councilman McCullough stated thanks for not sending 6 or 7 up here because you would have never got an answer. Mayor Bring advised I will be honest with you, after everything was all said and done – our opinion was Neptune, the costs is very comparable and I think Neptune is actually a little bit less money. The only thing I didn't like about the second one was the good, better and best and I am not into that – give your best product and tell me what it does, how it works, plastic versus bronze. You know he said bronze cracks and I have heard that plastic cracks so that is neither here or there. The only thing that I didn't like is that he didn't have anybody what around here and it wasn't tested as far as the winter that we have but everybody else that we talked to had the same thing as far as what that company had as far as plastic but Neptune had the bronze and Neptune was also made in the USA which I thought was a good thing. What I can do now is I will get all the rest of the information and will move forward with this and I will start getting the prices on what it is going to cost the residents and we will do that now that I know you guys are on board. As long as you think the other 2 are on board and we can do this. I think that once – it is no different than the garbage cans and some of the other things. Once this is instituted in the city, we may have some grumblings the first few months but I think overall I think everybody is going to be extremely happy and again I want to make sure that we do this right and not make a mistake but I have to agree that was also my choice. Like I said we had companies calling us from all over the place. We went with the people that we thought were going to be the best but the other 4 that we did interview were very similar to the second one so that is why we didn't bring anybody else in from that side of it and Neptune is the one that had the bronze so that is why we

compared the plastic and bronze. I will get that all going and bring it back to you guys and that way we can tell the residents kind of what it is going to cost them. I think the original cost is a little bit less than we anticipated. Councilman Erdei asked that will cover the whole city, we are not just going to do one part? Mayor Bring answered no and that was brought to us which we did discuss. There was a brief discussion with reference to refuse change and doing the whole city and getting system and departments on same page.

**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 7:32 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 May 11, 2015.