

**Minutes of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
December 7, 2015**

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

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Cizl, Mayor Bring, Kovach, Smith, Erdei, Wtulich, Superintendent Hastings

Absent: Rosso, Stark and McCullough (excused)

Attending: Council Elect Rosa Gee, Park Board Gee

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

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

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

***728 Hollywood in the amount of \$93.80. TABLED***

***675 Devonshire in the amount of \$207.70.*** \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to UNTABLE for further information. Yeas All. \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to **deny** due to no further information provided to determine that water did not go down the sewer. Yeas All.

***714 Oakwood Ave., in the amount of \$197.65. TABLED***

***778 Lakewood Beach Dr., in the amount of \$308.20.*** \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Stark to approve the sewer credit of \$308.20. Yeas All.

***Unpaid charges to the tax duplicate - \$14,850.88 -*** \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Smith to approve and forward these charges to the county to be added to the tax duplicate in the amount of \$14,850.88. Yeas All.

***4527 Tennyson in the amount of \$194.30*** – After a brief discussion, \*Motion by Erdei/Second by Wtulich to approve the sewer credit as so noted. Yeas All.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:** Superintendent Hastings advised so there is basically 2 agendas for the city for the sewer’s; 1) a complete overhaul that Council had approved the hydraulic modeling and we got all the data and we are going to seek a water pollution control fund grant in which you have to get all that material together and that will be late summer. The hydraulic modeling which we were just with them last week is finishing up and that is where you can charge the computer model with different water levels. So that is what the city has been diligently doing for some time. In the meantime our force main, 1 of 2 failed at Pump Station 3. Somewhere within this year the Mayor had me start pursuing funding for that to repair it. With it going down you have 4 pumps in Pump Station 1, 2 of which now are out of

commission. We have repaired the line many times and it failed over and over and over again. So our first attempt was CDGB funding and that was denied because although we have LMI areas in the city (low to moderate income) because it is collectively the sewage of the entire city they kicked it out. So you can't say that although it might be low income around Pump Station 1 because the entire city sewage is going there, they looked at everybody's so that was kicked out and I appealed it to the state level at Tim Leisure's office and they denied it. In the meantime we are repairing this thing trying to keep it running without success. The next attempt was to Ohio Public Works funding and that is open up to everybody in the state. The OPWC has like a defined goal for the year and in this case it was looking to fund roads and bridges so a sewer project because everything is scored, so everybody is equal they just score. So if you have a sewer project you get 3 points, if you have a road project you get 8 points, if you have a bridge project you get 10. So right out of the gate we are losing all these points because of the type of project. Long story short – we didn't make the list. Mayor Bring added we were dead last. Superintendent Hastings continued then I appealed to the emergency funding throughout the State of Ohio, there is a 3 million dollar fund to cover the entire state for catastrophic events and I tried to explain that the sewage in our city if these 2 pumps fail will undoubtedly flood all of the homes and Lake Erie and the recourse is pretty slow to respond. That went up to the state level and Director Miller reviewed it and denied it saying that these are for disasters, those monies because they have to protect the entire state with only 3 million dollars. Our implied peril wasn't enough. So then I was in discussions with Finance Director Smith and the Mayor discussing the city maybe even exploring notes/bonds – that kind of thing and when I explained that to the engineer he said let me try to put you in touch with some higher levels of government that will get the Ohio EPA in here and maybe some kind of help. Without putting an undue requirement on those higher bodies I am supposed to be contacted by the Ohio EPA which I haven't yet. In the meantime the other 2 pumps that are essentially running our city, one of those has failed. So we hard-wired them together and now these 2 pumps run together and have this massive surge of power. In order to repair that pump I have to pull it out and we did so and in doing that to put another one in its place we discovered the entire mechanism that that runs through is also corroded and absolutely unusable. Now we are down to 1 pump. I had the engineers and 2 contractors out last Friday as soon as we discovered it and the city is entertaining quotes for scope of work and I ordered the parts which are 2 to 4 weeks. We are in a very critical state right now despite our efforts of funding the traditional ways and despite our bigger goal of the overhaul of the entire system, this has become priority one. We excavated again 2 weeks ago and repaired the pipe again and it failed again in a different spot on Devonshire. The pipe was installed in 1959 and basically that kind of material has a high corrosive hydrochloric acid environment so it is very critical. If I don't hear back from the Ohio EPA soon I will

be talking with Administration and Council about us doing it ourselves through internal loans. Unfortunately when you do that then you kick back our master plan of doing an overhaul to the city where we have invested all this time and money. Mayor Bring stated the problem is originally we have always had a big surge when those pumps go on so the engineer had originally said that we can do something differently so that is a very slow process. If you have a big surge it has a tendency to put pressure on a pipe and with the pipes being old they will break and now we have compounded that by doing 2 in 1 so it is even worse right now. I am not trying to make this sound like it is the end of the world but it is the end of the world because we are in deep crap. Superintendent Hastings advised the reality is the city tried diligently to get funding and money and the attention all the way up to the state level but it hasn't been enough but the situation is very serious as far as that force main being repaired. Mayor Bring stated that is what we are working on right now so we wanted you to be aware of it but we are very fortunate that we haven't had any heavy rains this year lately. The alternate thing is that if push comes to shove everything is going to go straight into the lake and that is something that we don't want to do or anybody else wants to do but we are going to be left with no alternative because otherwise everybody's house is going to have sewage in it. Councilman Erdei stated Ohio is getting so strict on all this and the EPA and everything and you would think they would help us out in some way or another. Where is our representatives or congress people? Mayor Bring advised that part of funding and everything is a very slow process and that is why like I said we have been working on it for a long time but we are not the only ones asking for this but it is a serious problem with funding. We are probably going to end up having to borrow the money. There is just nothing that we can do because right now we are in a very dangerous zone and I am not trying to sugar coat this thing. I wouldn't say this unless it was absolutely necessary but we are going to have to do something here pretty quick otherwise if we get a storm coming through here and we get a couple inches of rain we are in big trouble. Councilman Erdei asked doesn't the EPA fine you if they find that certain levels are going into the lake? Mayor Bring answered you are allowed so much and Pat probably knows more about that than I do, you are allowed to pump so much in there and you have to record everything you do and why you did that. Superintendent Hastings advised we have a permit for that and it is recorded and to your question the funding is much like grants. You have a defined window of opportunity to apply just like the Coastal grant you approved for the city to apply for. That was actually for funding for 2017 and we submitted it now in 2015. That is how far out you have to be on their que so when you come with an emergency situation like this and we were going to get on the que of water pollution control funding for our bigger plan you are caught between a rock and a hard place which is why I appealed to the state for emergency funding. In the meantime a design flaw that I feel is there I am going to address as well is that these 2 force mains are totally separated and have no mechanical ability to be joined. So in

the short term I am also going to pursue that. There are basically 3 stories underground and one is due west and one is due north but theoretically they should be tied together all be it they're construction 30 years apart it is just a matter of some engineering on pipe size and flow rate. But even in the best case scenario if you approve the money today; engineering, design and construction would be 7 months out. So I am going to try to connect these lines immediately, as soon as we fix the \$5000.00 in repairs and that is just material that we are facing now. Councilman Erdei asked what is the actual size of those pipes? Superintendent Hastings answered one is 14 and one is 12, the failed one is 12. Councilman Erdei asked now the new ones that they put in now for all these developments are they bigger? Superintendent Hastings answered for developments they are normally 6 to 8 and this is collecting all the sewage of the city. They might even design it bigger, it is not so much the capacity as it is the ability to even move it. Mayor Bring advised I think before the 3 of you were even on Council and I know Steve and Alan will remember but the grates that the guys were standing on to clean or check valves and stuff along time ago were so corroded that we had to change those. That is exactly what is happening to these pipes too. So all be it certain things only last so long, there is a longevity in everything but the unfortunate thing is this has come to fruition. We had steel grates which were very thick and if you stand on it I think you all know what those things are – there was nothing left of those things. So we put stainless steel in there now but that is not what the pipe was designed for too. We had one of the pumps out that we were going to switch and put it in the other one but when we actually went into it it was actually so corroded and that was destroyed so they would not work. Pat is trying to do the best job he can with this thing and trust me we have a lot of talk about this. Just so you guys are aware of it. Superintendent Hastings stated in 2 to 4 weeks the part will be here and the city will contract out the replacement and we will have 2 pumps back in operation and 1 pump out to be shipped and in 6 to 8 weeks I hope to have the engineering and funding out of capital improvement which would be under a bid amount to get the pipes connected. In the meantime the Ohio EPA if they don't answer me I would suspect we would all be conversation about a loan. That could include just the replacement at \$400,000 or the widening of Devonshire and complete rehab of all manholes and paving of Devonshire which is what we applied for. That is in the neighborhood of \$600,000.00. Chairman Cizl asked since we have been in danger, this has all been the time frame has it all been within like the last couple of weeks or last month? I know it has been deterioration for a long period of time. Superintendent Hastings stated the danger as far as the 2 pumps being down to 1 – that has come to fruition over the last 3 weeks. So we hard wired them together through a local contractor and then we had to research whether we could swap the pumps as it had never been done before because they were installed at 20 years apart. So we had to get the amp draw, the megahertz, wiring, size and once we determined that and pulled it that is when we actually discovered there was nothing to hook it

back up to – another problem. Chairman Cizl asked is this only the pumps at Devonshire, I am not sure exactly where all the pumps are in the city? Superintendent Hastings answered there are 3 pump stations; #1 at Devonshire (the whole city), #2 at Jordan's Dip and #3 at Shell Cove Park and then we send it out to Lorain.

Councilman Erdei stated would this be our #1 priority with the city before we do anything else. I mean people have a lot of basement flooding and everything, raw sewage. Hopefully you will get an answer from the EPA or somebody, this can't go on. This is very serious and I know you guys know that. Superintendent Hastings concurred yes very serious. Chairman Cizl stated at some point you are going to have to make that presentation to the public, at a Council meeting I am assuming because there are no reporters here this evening so at some point the community is going to have to know how serious this is. Superintendent Hastings answered whatever you want me to do. We have a time line of our efforts. The good news is the city and I don't mean this derogatory but the city can go all the way up to the state level and we have reached out. Maybe I haven't done it to the right people yet but I am at state offices at every level. Mayor Bring stated we have got their attention now. I think when we first applied to it they thought we just wanted to do a project and now that they realize that we are talking about borrowing money they are a little bit more concerned and seriously looking at our problem now because they know that we do have a serious problem. Chairman Cizl asked wasn't there something recently with Marcy Kaptur over the bloom in some cities in the suburb of Cleveland?

Superintendent Hastings advised yes that is a big deal too, the city had to write an HAB report for that as well in our water emergency plan. Chairman Cizl stated I thought I read there was some funding that was approved? Superintendent Hastings answered the state will throw tons of money into that because there is no scientific answer yet. I was down at a training session in Sandusky and they are really eager to combat that. Councilman Erdei asked did anyone from the state come and inspect our problem over here? Superintendent Hastings answered with today's media, I send drawings, digital pictures and it is just as good as being there quite frankly. Yes we sent that on.

Mayor Bring advised an update on the water meters we have got approximately close to 2000 of them installed. We did reorder the last group. Superintendent Hastings advised it is close, they had it marked because of the holidays their plant shuts down for 2 weeks. So I am trying to expedite that because the weather is unbelievable.

Mayor Bring advised the original plan was they were going to come in here and probably install the first thousand of these if they were going to be lucky and then go home for the winter time. But El Nino through them for a loop because now they got 55 degree weather and it is actually in our favor which is good so we just got to get the meters for them to put in. But they have been doing a really nice job in moving forward with this and it has been going good. The gentleman that comes in is very polite and very nice and keeps us updated. I think on the 15<sup>th</sup> they are going to start

reading them. Superintendent Hastings answered yes remotely so we have pretty much phased out the guys walking already which is nice. Mayor Bring added that will eliminate the problem we just had where you see this \$12,000 because that will be detected instead of by the way side. Councilman Erdei asked how far did they actually get in our town? Superintendent Hastings answered they are approximately Howell Street through Elmwood, very condensed through there and very old actually. We are pretty pleased as the Water Department has been following through a leak here and there, some of these lines go back into the 20's so it is lead. They have done just fantastic, I can't give enough praise. We still have half a dozen to deal with now where you can't turn the valves. It is just so old but we go through and take care of that. Chairman Cizl asked can you refresh my memory about the EPA mandating that we have separate meters for the city buildings or shopping center there was something? Superintendent Hastings answered well they didn't mandate it but they recommended it. They city for many many years does not record the data on the municipal buildings so you look at the total sales minus what you have metered then you find your lost water, lost revenue. So in order to become more efficient they said listen you ought to start metering your own buildings, essentially you are paying yourself but more from my end I can see that we bought 36 million gallons of water and we sold 34 million gallons of water. Chairman Cizl asked are we doing that? Superintendent Hastings answered we haven't and it is because of the estimates, it has never been entirely accurate but it will be now. Once it is complete you will know exactly. Mayor Bring added that was part of the problem that we talked about a long time ago when we were trying to figure out the leaks and stuff like that. Chairman Cizl asked so that will be fixed? Superintendent Hastings answered yes and that will be fantastic every day every 7 minutes we will know. Councilman Erdei asked did we ever solve the issue with Avon Lake and us on their line coming into our town right at the border line on Walker? Superintendent Hastings answered it was rectified to a degree when the frazzel icings came last winter, they removed the head and we actually supplied Avon Lake through the City of Lorain through Sheffield Lake. So in order to stop back-flow if you will they took those heads off and calibrated them since they were off. That seemed to benefit in our favor although I will admit our usage is climbing again and I just asked them to calibrate. We are up to 36 million gallons which is high for this time of year and what is equally puzzling is the sewage that we send for treatment is low so that implies lost water. Mayor Bring continued the company that was installing that fiber optic is going to start doing that again tomorrow and they will be on the opposite side of the street and everything should be very well as everything is marked. We shouldn't have any issues with this any longer. But they did comply with everything that we have asked them to do. So if you do see anybody out there on Ferndale that is who this is.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

*Ditch cleanings; Day Ditch by Holl/Shoemaker Ditch – north of Richelieu, east side by Buckeye* – Chairman Cizl stated the ditches on Walker Road, big difference big improvement, congratulations to the Service Department for all their hard work. There was ditch work done on Holl or Sheffield Road? How is that going? Mayor Bring answered very well. Councilman Wtulich stated good start anyway.

**NEW BUSINESS: None.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee, \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to adjourn at 7:33 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*

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 7, 2015.

*and/or*

---

COUNCIL PRO TEM

*Alan Smith*