

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION
SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO
February 17, 2015**

The regular meeting of the City Council Worksession was held Tuesday, February 17, 2015. Council President Rosso called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Rosso, Kovach, Wtulich, Cizl, Smith, Erdei, McCullough, Mayor Bring, Treasurer Woods, Finance Director Smith, Superintendent Pat Hastings

Absent: Councilperson Stark and Law Director Graves (excused)

Attending: Concerned Citizens, Demo Board Chair Gee, Members of the Media; Avon Lake Press

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Bring and Pat Hastings presented City of Sheffield Lake Water Meter/Software Enhancement Project.

Mayor Bring referenced packet provided by Superintendent Hastings who has done all this work. He did take the time and got a lot of facts for some of these companies and if you look at the last few pages of that these companies did all this research and that was due to the fact that they were given to them. We are going to talk about the water meters and recovering some of the lost water and what it is approximately going to cost us/how we can possibly fund it/how the meters actually work a little bit. The one that is on the back of the presentation but I think Pat did 6 companies. Superintendent Hastings answered yes, 6 that are on here. Mayor Bring continued 6 or 7 different companies that he looked at. So we are not hung up on 1 company but most of the facts came from that one and he will start talked about that. Obviously this is a lot of money for the City of Sheffield Lake but if you look at some of the facts on there in about 11 years we can recover the money that we have lost. This will probably increase some of the water bills due to the fact that right now if we turn the faucet on, that first initial run is not getting detected by these old meters. So these new meters will detect that. If you look there is a graph in the back there of the line of some of the old water meters and how it goes up and down. It shows the graph of this company of a consistency all the way across for 20 years, so they warrant their product for 20 years. We have spent some money on meters before, it was kind of a disaster, so this is something that we are trying to be very careful with and we wanted to bring it to you tonight. So he is going to take over from here and we will take some questions afterwards. Superintendent Pat Hastings advised basically I have prepared this as a lot of you

know the circumstances of our utility but I wrote it so that everybody from step 1 would kind of understand of where we are at. Most importantly right with those first 2 pictures on the cover page – the ability of a meter to measure that water at full flow which you see in the bathtub or that drip; that little bit of flow multiplied by the thousands of customers we have is virtually becoming blind to our current meters. So I wrote a report and I put a little narrative in the chapters if you will with some supporting documentation based on all the companies I have worked with so far. I was involved in the beginning and as circumstances changed I took more of an active role in this and this is kind of the culmination of where we are right now. I figured I would just go through it and if you want to interrupt me then you can. Otherwise at the end you can do it. But without reading word for word, our city has a distribution system; every drop of water we get we are buying it. It is coming into our city through a meter from step 1 and all of the sustainability of our utility is pretty much proportional to effective accurate meter reading. We believe that the meters are the foundation for our operations maintenance infrastructure improvements, all the topics you talk begin with that cash register or what we call a meter. The ability of the meter to register the drop and full flow or its efficiency is normally about 20 years and our meter inventory in the ground is exceeding 40. So the report will examine how we can improve our system with the list that you see here. We start with the Ohio EPA and they come through every 3 years, they are divided amongst the industry based on your size on how often they come into the city. We were fortunate just to have them last year and operator of record Tom Erwin met with them and I included there their report as a supporting document because right out of the gate they recognized and suggested quite strongly to the city – you got to take note of these meters. You can about that in the EPA report enclosed and it also covers other things as far as our average costs to the citizens and you might note that the ratio of water to the median household income is about at .75 and this figure falls below the Ohio EPA range of 1.3 to 3.1 percent. In other words despite the complaints you might be hearing our utility is still priced low comparatively speaking and that plays into your consideration on a program like this. Then the end of that page to the Mayor's point we have talked to upwards of 6 different companies through this process and I listed all of them. Some were more intense than others because of what they did. Companies such as Neptune would come in and allow me to take meters out of the ground and they bench test them. Some companies came in and I gave them all the financial data and they were able to put it in a package which is included in this. Moving onto the next Chapter if you will; system facts and revenue considerations. The pages attached here are going to describe the present conditions of our utility, projects water loss, percentage improvements, revenue effects and labor savings. Ultimately the redirection of our maintenance driven objectives because you are going to lose all

these meter reading requirements from the men and you can kind of redirect them. This might be redundant to some of you but I did list it just so that everybody at every level would understand our distribution system is running about 25 million a month and is predominantly supplied by Avon Lake and they have 2 meters both at Lake Road and Walker Road. We read those meters every week in addition to the City of Avon Lake and then that is all correlated with monthly operating reports with Ohio EPA. I broke how many meters are in the city and basically about 3,000 meters – $5/8 \times 3/4$ residential meters/142 meters – $5/8 \times 3/4$ (at the same size) commercial meters, you would see those in like Mariners Watch complex, some of the stores, that kind of thing – the smaller stores/25 meters – 1” meters and so on and so forth with the biggest being 6” and that would be Erie Shore Landings. As most of you know but I still went ahead and listed it, all of our meter billings is separated into 3 sections at any given month and 2/3 of that is in estimates. So we are only reading 1 month at a time per any given section and throughout the report you will see that the meters are outdated. The inefficiency combined with the unaccounted system leaks in Sheffield Lake is currently estimated at about 20% loss and these meters effect the ability to help fund capital improvements which were also identified by the Ohio EPA which includes water line replacement and those kinds of things and all of that plays into what I continue to say is the cash register or the meter. Then this past season I know Council President Rosso was on site with us as we did some repairs in front of our Shoreway and the Mayor, we were digging up lines from 1928 and is also relevant over there on Lakewood Beach and Lake Road – when you touch these things they disintegrate and it is just indicative of an aged system. This is at least in my opinion the first step in solving that. President Rosso asked Pat, the line about the fund capital improvements identified by the Ohio EPA including water line is that their recommendation to replace the 4” with the 6” line that goes to the hydrant. Superintendent Hastings answered yes, that is actually a new construction absolutely required now. But certainly a recommendation of the Ohio EPA and they also recommend an overall capital improvement plan where you are identifying the water main which the Mayor has actually told us to but before we actually implement that plan we have to implement a fund source and a structure to measure that drip/drop. President Rosso stated so these new meters can and in fact the money raised from them use to help replace the water lines which we need to increase the size of. Superintendent Hastings answered absolutely I consider it the foundation of the entire utility and it is really supported everywhere you look. You need only google these kind of things and you will see it all over the State of Ohio, all over the country really. What municipalities are facing, come are more proactive and farther along in the process and we happen to be back to square one but we certainly have a solution and the means necessary to get us along. Councilman Erdei asked the

meters that Avon Lake has on Lake and Walker Roads – are those up to date meters or how old are they? Superintendent Hastings answered it is totally up to date, it is the head of the meter that is able to be removed and calibrated and over the course of this frazzle icing event that we have had, those have been taken off, worked on and calibrated. We have actually benefited the entire water utility from Lorain through Sheffield Lake through Avon Lake by removing them and allowing our water to flow from Lorain to them and really avert a catastrophe if you will. So yes they are updated regularly and their plans I consider the best management practice. They are the Leader in the region. So I continued on with some of the facts that I found for different companies and in some cases I redacted their name, I mean their names are throughout this report but I didn't want to get a biased approach I guess. This also identifies what will happen if we take no action. It identifies the 20% loss which I mentioned earlier and how a meter program can attack 40% of the program. Also consumption revenue at approximately 1.7 million which is 85,000 annually and that continues with a spread on the next page. Starting at year 1 – both consumption revenues without the project/with the project/the annual revenue improvement. That basically concludes to a total new consumption revenue with the project at 1.7 million for a total net loss of consumption revenues without the project at 2 million. We also included a labor benefit findings and that is basically a 4-man department right now. 3 of those men are assigned to meters every month and this time of year, you are looking at every bit of 10 days to 2 weeks given the conditions for 1/3 of the city. While the city wouldn't necessarily eliminate the people, you have to consider the advantages to redirecting their energy and their assignments. It is fair to at least look at the financial side of that which equates at the end to about \$304,000.00 annually. President Rosso asked on your consumption revenues, the one that has years 1 through 20. The first year you have 1.1 million and that is what we consider what our revenue would be without replacing the meters right? Superintendent Hastings answered yes. President Rosso asked so why does it go down? Superintendent Hastings answered let me come back to that if you don't mind. This particular chart was designed from a company based on figures that I presented to them and while I read 90% of this 90 times – I don't necessarily have the answer on that. Councilman McCullough stated the math don't add up, that is the problem. He continued the annual consumption revenue, so if you look at that – we replace the meters and the city is going to be charging the residents and let's just round this and make it easy for everybody so it figures out and it makes sense. Let's say it is \$90,000.00 is what it costs our residents. So 3000 meters at \$90,000.00 is about \$25.00 a year is what my quick math is what it works out to. So it is going to costs about \$2.00 a month – is that we are going to be realizing on the meters, from these numbers that is what ii figured out real quick. Superintendent Hastings answered

you are right on target but it is at the end of my report - \$1.40. He continued I have examples from other cities. Councilman McCullough stated that is okay, let's go high and let's say it is \$25.00 a year/\$1.40 or \$2.00 – it is a negligible amount. It is not going to go up \$10, \$12 or \$15.00 a month. Superintendent Hastings answered \$1.55 is the exact figure. Mayor Bring advised in the same retro effect though if these meters are now detecting all the water – your water bills also may go up with the fact that it is going to be monitoring every drop of water that goes through the system. So in turn, water bills may go through that but that should be the real number that they should have been paying a long time ago and that is the lost revenue. Councilman McCullough stated that is the point that I am making it is not going to be a burden. Mayor Bring and Superintendent Hastings answered no. Councilman McCullough stated yes that is the point I am making, it is not going to be a burden. Mayor Bring and Superintendent Hasting answered no. Councilman McCullough continued the truth is you have to look at it because we bill sewer from those as well, so this actually has a double benefit is we are paying extra sewer charge even we have a lot of water infiltration after rains we are still not collecting the right amount of sewer money than either. Superintendent Hastings stated that brings up a great point in that the City of Canton which I included in this report added a surcharge if you will in their case of about \$1.70 which would otherwise not affect the sewer rate which you said would. You would include our \$1.55 calculation towards sewer and that is actually up to folks I would think through legislation. Councilman McCullough stated it is not legislation, the sewer is billed off how much water they use. Superintendent Hastings answered right but effectively this is referenced in North Canton as a surcharge. Councilman McCullough stated take off the North Canton, I just want to look at these numbers, what you presented here. We charge, our water bill goes off of consumption and our sewer is figured on that same consumption. There is not a separate sewer meter. Superintendent Hastings answered right. Councilman McCullough continued so if it goes up, let's use your number now \$1.55 – the sewer is going to go up \$2.00 so now it is going to go up \$3.55 because the sewer is a little bit more than water. Superintendent Hastings debated I would still argue that, that doesn't necessarily have to do that. It is no different than the capital improvement fee of. Councilman McCullough interjected why wouldn't the sewer go up? Superintendent Hastings answered because the sewer bill is calculated based on the use of water, I am saying that that \$1.50 surcharge really has no effect on the use. It is designed solely and strictly to pay for the loan on the meter program which the resident would also realize several gains which is actually at the end of my report. Councilman McCullough stated I don't think we are talking about the same thing here. Let me try to flip this around, I am only worried about the resident right now. The residents water bill, they have not been charged the right amount for water. So

now their new water rate is going to go up \$1.50 and their sewer rate has to go up because they are now being charged for the right amount. They are not paying for the sewer. Superintendent Hastings asked you're not talking about the program to fund this. Councilman McCullough answered no that is a whole different thing. I got way too many questions before we get to funding of the program. Mayor Bring answered yes you are right. Councilman McCullough stated because John-Q public out there when they call and they say how much is my water bill going to go up - I can say listen your water is going to go up about \$2.00 and your sewer is going to go up about \$2.00 and to fund this thing we figured out that we are going to put a \$4.00 charge on for the next 2 years or whatever it takes. Superintendent Hastings stated I apologize Kerry. Councilman McCullough stated all this sounds great and all these numbers sound great but the fact is you can tell anybody up here anything but the people who are going to field the calls are the girls over there in the office and him and her. We don't even get the calls, you could drop an atom bomb in the middle of the city they are not going to call Council - they are going to call Dennis and Tammy or you because they see you on the street. Superintendent Hastings stated I would counter that with not only are you getting a city wide program like this but also every single resident benefits in other ways. Councilman McCullough stated we are not saying that they are not benefiting. President Rosso stated okay you got your question answered which was the sewer is going to go up because the water usage will be accurate. Councilman McCullough stated no I got my question answered approximately how much a bill is this going up. President Rosso stated let's continue on here, let's not get too much off until you are finished. Superintendent Hastings answered yes I will continue. So we pretty much covered the labor side. Councilman McCullough stated that is the next question that I have. How many days does it take 3 employees on sunny June afternoon with 70 degree temperatures to read 1/3 of the city? Superintendent Hastings answered 6 or 7. Councilman McCullough stated it takes them 6 or 7 days out of the month? Superintendent Hastings answered yes. Councilman McCullough stated 3 guys? Superintendent Hastings answered yes. You didn't say hours, you said days because we are obviously are broke up. We start the day with sewer, their responsibilities are 10 fold. Councilman McCullough continued say we got a crew and they start reading 1/3 of the city and that is all they do until they get done with 1/3 of the city. You got 480 hours here a year so that is 40 hours a month so divided by 3 that is basically 2 days. Superintendent Hastings answered yes if they can commit 100% which is virtually impossible, it just doesn't work like that. Councilman McCullough stated then those annual wages don't add up then. You got enough there to pay maybe 1 person. The annual wages we are savings is going to actually not save, that manpower can be used in other areas is going to be a lot more \$15000.00 a year. Superintendent Hastings asked you are saying it is more

then what they projected? Councilman McCullough answered it is more than what you have here; current labor reading meters – there is no way we only pay \$15000.00 a year to read meters. Not if it takes 3 of them even a day and a half. Superintendent Hastings advised again this admittedly anything with that box up top was drawn up by the company. Quite frankly those are questions that I will put some answers to. Councilman McCullough stated plus those guys, the average costs for \$31.00 an hour per guy right? Superintendent Hastings answered yes that is wages and benefits – everything. He continued the next pages are essentially some of the bench testing we have done on our meters without going through everyone. I put like the worst case scenario which we pulled out a meter from 1973 – Badger which pretty much coincides with the pictures on the front of this report. At 15 gallons per minute when you are filling up that bathtub we got a 98.2% and you get down to a ¼ and an 1/8 of a gallon and the meter doesn't even see it. That is consistent throughout, now there are examples where we pulled out meters and they are still doing very well. I don't want to give the illusion that all these meters are terrible but the industry standard and the revenue stream that we look at now is pretty much and the EPA leading you to believe that the entire package is a good one. Financing – I did include with that some of the different companies that were involved with what they might be able to answer and some of my narratives, the City of Sheffield Lake infrastructure, the AMR-AMI is a pretty profound project. I included in these attachments cost estimates for a complete fixed network, the attached charts also include our return on an investment which the Mayor related to is about 11.5 years. Basically in summary it is estimated about 1.2 million initially and with an 8% improvement on our current usage we could yield a return with the calculations identifying an additional 2.2 million dollars over the life of the loan or 20 years. I also noted Avon Lake regional water has already identified to us a 3% increase in 2015 and 2016. I thought it was important to let you folks realize that is their Board's recognition of their planned improvements and growing expenses. While our ordinances are drafted to work with that concurrently, in other words as theirs goes up – ours goes up by ordinance without a necessary mechanism of Council. All of that should leave us to reflect on our own planned improvements which we believe this AMR-AMI (automatic reading, automatic infrastructure) would be the foundation. The funding strategy included is government leasing with projected deferred payment cycling; basically all the equipment, all the software, all the installation is done and about 6 months later after an increase in revenue is when the billing starts. The other alternative is I mentioned several times with Councilman McCullough was the Canton water meter program, in there they shared equally among all their customers over a 20 year loan period. Our scenario, that equates to about \$1.55 a month. Again when these folks are calling and why is my bill up and so forth, also with that is substantially more service for every single

resident. Your billing is monthly – actual and let's face it this is their residence as they control how much water. All we are doing is accurately reading it which we are obligated to do to fund a utility. We have 24-hour leak detection, all of the opportunities that we collect leaks are every 3 months when we are reading these meters. These computers and signals shoot out a 24-hour leak detection system so good that not only can we tell you when that the meter is leaking but when it is happening. So a resident can call and we can identify – “listen, between 2 am and 6 am while you are sleeping your toilet is running”. We can even go so far as to email that data for people who do it that way, who are into the electronics of it all. We can do tamper and reverse flow event alarms. That is unfortunately indicative of the times we are in but if somebody is in that meter we will know it. Also the immediate service call response is no longer where the girls take a call and write up a service order and then the guys get to it amongst dealing with water breaks, sewer calls and the many other things that we do. They ping a meter and they will have it in 7 minutes. The funding strategies also include municipal bonds which I eluded to our Finance Director, I don't know all the ends and outs of that and quite frankly that is why we do this. The conclusion was I appreciate the time to work for all this, I put my contacts in there and I have video presentations on my computer. Also factory tours if you guys or anybody quite frankly want that sent to you electronically I can. Our current meters are positive displacement meters; as the water enters the chamber – it is a fantastic meter, its ability to read the flow. Moving parts at the beginning – great, from both the smallest to the greatest amount but it is moving parts. Positive displacement, again anything that is moving is deteriorating/becoming inefficient. So that is where Sheffield Lake like many other cities are blind to the smaller amounts. So that meter is still a good meter and today's warranty coverages are still carrying those out pretty favorably. The latest technology is a mag meter, there is no moving parts and it is a 20 year guarantee. It is magnets sensing the flow of water in between it and they're accuracy is profoundly greater. That does have some disadvantages though because it is a battery unit. I just got off the phone with a gentleman and I don't remember what state he was in but one of the gentleman I was working with, I said to him – what is the possibility of the 22 year after all our warranties go that we have mass failures of all these batteries and what is the condition of all these wet pits. Those of us who have been around know the history of the city and some of the problems we have incurred doing meter programs. All of those things are addressed and part of a bid package, part of a request and guarantee to the City. Councilman McCullough asked what is the average warranty on these meters? Superintendent Hastings answered 20 years. Councilman McCullough asked what is the average costs? If I wanted to pay cash for my meter what do I pay? Superintendent Hastings answered well it is a little bit all over the board, anywhere from 140 to

190 and even a little bit more with some of the ultrasonic meters are even higher. Quite frankly I wouldn't pursue that for the city, ultrasonic – there should be a happy medium. Councilman McCullough stated okay where is low and high – 120 to 140? Superintendent Hastings answered yes. Mayor Bring advised you guys were talking about how much costs and stuff and I told you the one time it was 1.2 million dollars and you got 3000 meters. Obviously at 140, that doesn't add up but you also got software and you also have installation prices which they gave him. President Rosso asked is that what this Buckeye quote is? Superintendent Hastings answered yes that is an example of how you would see a quote and that one is for Sheffield Lake. President Rosso asked so the meter is \$217.00? Superintendent Hastings answered in that case yes. But again that is a bit of a baited question because the meter itself and then you have some of the equipment; the antenna if you will to get it out. President Rosso advised obviously there are other items there that you would have to buy if you wanted to pay his share. Superintendent Hastings stated well to my point, that \$217.00 includes all that pre-wired 10 foot of cable and so on and so forth. So you can buy a basic meter and continue to read it but once you get up there to the \$200.00 mark then you are buying all that software and antenna and everything else. Councilman McCullough asked is each singly owned meter cost us total? Superintendent Hastings answered even installation is another fee, you are looking at upwards of \$200,000 for a city wide install. He clarified like I said I included some data from all of the 6 groups. Some of them I tried to redact the names. Mayor Bring advised I think Madison has Badgers that they put in a number of years ago when they tried it. President Rosso asked radio read? Superintendent Hastings answered yes and when he came here to talk about this he read the ones on Madison and they worked. Mayor Bring explained the ones on Madison now are the ones that you drive around in a van with a computer and it reads. Superintendent Hastings clarified the ones in Madison now have the ability to be read as a drive-by only. They will not shoot it to a signal and then the signal to the office. He advised Councilman McCullough I will certainly get that information, this isn't broke down and I am not quite frankly prepared to say what each meter costs over the 1.2 million. Mayor Bring continued right now if somebody has a water leak, it can take up to 3 months for them to know that they have a water leak. When we are having sewer credits we are granting sometimes an absorbent amounts and that is part of this and that will eliminate a lot of that too. This will also free up the girls time because these sheets are going to come out, computer sheets. We are still going to use the same billing, the billing will still go through CMI. There was a brief discussion on recent billing question by a citizen who was in Council's audience. Mayor Bring advised I was at a Mayor's meeting about a month ago and I know that Mr. Zilka stated that he had some testing going on in his city and found out that they put one in by his house and it automatically

detected a toilet leak which he didn't even know he had instantly. Again the people might say well we are paying a little bit more money but in the long run everybody complains because we only get a third of the city done and the estimating that is going back and forth is killing everybody, they never know what their water bills are and they are constantly calling and asking us. If something gets messed up, they will get probably over 100 phone calls in there and it is non-stop. So most of this will all be eliminated with the new water meter system. Superintendent Hastings advised this is an example of where you would have the manpower to send out for leak detection on the main lines as well. That is actually a separate program entirely but it is something that we don't pursue actively. President Rosso asked for clarification, this is a radio transmission – not a van driving around right? Superintendent Hastings stated I apologize when you ask for the price of the meter, I have been given so many scenarios. Some cities buy the meters only when they start up that program, they have no wires and all that but they have the head ready to go. Some buy that to read it by van but don't have the repeater on the water tower as in our case. So to look at one quote and divide it by 3200 is not always the scenario and that is just because I have talked with so many scenarios. President Rosso advised you are doing a fine job Pat. Councilman McCullough stated the problem is Pat you got to break it down for us because I want to know what the public is paying. Superintendent Hastings advised the public is paying what they are using and we are accurately measuring that. Councilman McCullough stated I am not saying, I am just saying when they ask questions and for you to tell them 1.2 million it doesn't equate to their pocket. Superintendent Hastings stated I certainly don't profess to know what you guys deal with, I don't come here often. Frankly this meter is your usage, it is our responsibility to be highly accurate and that our utility be funded from its accuracy and the best management practices is Avon Lake and North Ridgeville. It is all over the industry. Mayor Bring advised this is kind of a casual thing tonight but as we move on we can bring 1 or 2 of these companies in here and do a presentation and invite the public so that they are aware of what is going on. I would hope that they would attend and hope that everyone would get involved in this thing. The last thing we want to do is go ahead and start moving forward with this and having everybody screaming and yelling at us. I think the example is when we did the garbage containers and I know Rick and I were sitting here discussing whether to do half or a third of the city and we decided that we were going to do everything at once. I think once that was done, overall it ended up being very good but if we are going to do this instead of doing a third of the city or whatever I think it is going to have to do the whole thing so that everybody is on board because then we can just get it out of the way and get it done. President Rosso asked how long to install? Superintendent Hastings answered to do everything; installation and training – 6 months, they will have

them in the ground in 3 months. My goal tonight was to flood you with information and give you something to take home and think about. I don't know how often you talk about million dollar projects but if I am involved I want to give you as much information as I can and get my questions – I have got 4 tonight. I think that is how I feel we should be prepared. Finance Director Smith asked I just wanted to know how the meter works if the water is going through the meter, it's a magnet? Are these all the same type or all different? Superintendent Hastings answered that is a decision that we would have to collective make. Their guarantee is between 98 and 102% for 20 years and if it goes off then it is changed at their costs – period. Now that is the higher end but if you are not careful and you write a bid carelessly some of these companies can bring a meter in that is no bigger than this phone. Mayor Bring advised we have already gone through it once. That is something else that we talked about at the Mayor's meeting, there is also ones that you can put on top the existing meters and everything. But as Pat and I discussed our meters are so antiquated right now that we don't want those in the ground anymore, we want to get rid of them. Councilman Erdei advised more or less you get what you pay for, my main thing is you are going to buy what is best for the city and less headaches for you and be done with it. Who do you recommend if you brought 2 companies in? Superintendent Hastings answered I'm not quite ready to answer that. I do have some answers but not comfortable at a public meeting to say it yet. They have to convince us a little bit more, this is 6 months of research and I'm not done. Mayor Bring advised I do have a question for all of you, do you think we should move forward or do you think we shouldn't? If you guys are dead set against it, then we are going to go on doing what we are doing. Councilman McCullough stated I will answer and these are the 2 thoughts we have; needs done and we also have an infrastructure problem. This is a great start but we need to continue to move towards fixing all this infracture too. I am hoping that nobody reading means that we can get this water line replaced and then maybe identify that maybe that water line is the next and go in and replace that one. That is what I am hoping for and I am hoping that the benefit for the city is long term. Mayor Bring stated it is what we are discussing and also discussing funding too and that is one thing we were talking about of how we are going to do this. There is an avenue for the sewers that we hope that we can maybe chase down that too. President Rosso put the question to the Board, does anybody have and we are not making obviously any discussion but is anybody's opinion that they are 100% against it no matter what the numbers come back at because I think the next step is everything you said makes sense, come back and let's see how the financial end works. Superintendent Hastings advised yes I would recommend that you have some of the companies themselves as I pointed out at the end of the report – they will give you a professional presentation. Mayor Bring stated the next time we do this do we want

the public there or do we want to do this again at a Worksession? President Rosso answered I don't have a problem with either way. Councilman McCullough stated is the city is involved because you brought up a really good point, you were talking about the blue canister problems. There was a public hearing before a Council meeting and I was here and I couldn't ask a question because I didn't live in the damn ward where they were being tested. Mayor Bring agreed you want everybody involved because it affects the entire city and it is everybody's pocket. Councilman McCullough stated the one thing that I have seen that I thought was better than anything was our infrastructure the way it is and everybody knows it is old and antiquated, the homes aren't any newer then the infrastructure and if they can determine a water leak at a home one day the people can say alright now I can figure out how I am going to attack this water problem. Not 90 days later, oh my God I got to pay the water. Yes I get a sewer credit but I still have to fix it. That is the biggest thing, the benefits far out way the costs and like I said that is how you got to sell anything, you got to make the benefits and value of it far out way what it is going to costs. 1.2 million dollars is too much but \$6.00 a household isn't if you understand what I am saying. No voices of objection were heard.

*******COMMITTEES*******

ROADS & DRAINS: None./SAFETY: None./BUILDINGS, LANDS, VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT:

Mayor Bring advised we brought about the snowplow truck and I gave you the information on it with the spec's.

/ORDINANCE: Chairman Kovach advised there is a draft of an ordinance in regard to the rental permits that everybody can review. President Rosso advised this was one about holding Landlords more accountable; back taxes and things like that. Councilman McCullough stated something I would like to see as I read through this and I want to see some type of penalty and I will go over this when we go back to Ordinance, some type of penalty for misrepresenting. They say in here, we have an out that allows people to move in and then have to revoke it because they knew they were lying. You know what it is like trying to get somebody out after you get them in. I would like to see some sort of penalty added for misrepresentation and a major penalty. We got to start moving forward, not backwards. I want to see more of the better renters because we do have some great people in this city who rent their homes. I want to see more of that in this city and less of the homes that people can move into because nobody checks on them. Chairman Kovach reviewed legislation on the agenda for next Council meeting.

/FINANCE: None./PARK BOARD: None.

*******ADMINISTRATIVE*******

MAYOR: None./FINANCE DIRECTOR: None./SERVICE DIRECTOR:

Mayor Bring advised Pat did look back on that graph so he can answer the one question of the figures going down. Superintendent Hastings advised the 1,106,000

is today's consumption and the reason it is going down is over the next 20 years if we do nothing our meters are going to become even more inefficient so the revenue is going to go down for that reason and that is what is reflected on that graph. President Rosso stated so it is going to start reading less and less?

Superintendent Hastings answered exactly. With the project you will see somewhat a consistency that is your 20 year guarantee meter so that is why that was. So now I am down to 3 questions. Mayor Bring stated back to the bill back, we had another discussion about that today. Over the weekend we had I think 3. For example we had a gentleman call and said he had a water problem so he called the Police Department and they called Pat and Pat called a guy out and the guy got ready and going out the door and the complainant called back and said cancel the call. Well the guy is already in route. But then Pat made a good point too because we had call-outs where people actually did their due diligence of calling a plumber on 2 separate houses where they did have a water problem. The plumber called dispatch and the dispatcher is not a plumber so she connected plumber to Pat and he answered the question. But where there is a check valve in the sewer line which is kind of in the middle of the yard and there was no water in the resident side but there was on the city side. That water between where it was backed up and where the city's line is could have still been in their line but it wasn't. So in 2 cases it actually was our fault. It is kind of difficult of how are we going to charge these people because there is certain times it's not. In the case of the guy that called out and then cancelled we paid 3 hours overtime on a Sunday. Superintendent Hastings advised yes it was a Sunday, I am called 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Unfortunately, a quick review of the calls I deal with in my mind, only those when someone is calling which we get a lot are those that say my house is flooding – I need somebody here immediately to shut off this water. Well, why didn't you call a 24-hr plumber because the city as a whole is bearing the costs of that one person's isolated residential problem. That is really the only scenario in my opinion where a bill-back consistent with maybe what a plumber would charge is reasonable and the resident know that with us going in. President Rosso stated they can't shut the water off. Superintendent Hastings answered I can and doesn't everybody have a shut-off valve in the house. Finance Director Smith stated I have a master shut-off in my house. Councilman McCullough advised I have a mast shut-off in my crawl space that I can reach from an outside window if I have to get it. But what if it is broke in front of that? Superintendent Hastings advised well then the meter would have to be shut off. Councilman McCullough stated that is what I am saying. Should the populous pay for it – no, the populous shouldn't have to pay for it. However they pay for everything else. Councilman Smith stated I had a water leak in my own meter Friday and I didn't call you Saturday or Sunday. I called you Monday but the populous paid for all that water, so the populous pays it

either way. They came out and fixed the meter and it was done but they went through a whole weekend with the meter leaking that the people pay for.

Councilman McCullough stated for somebody who has a busted line in the house and they don't shut it off and we go and shut it off. Mayor Bring advised the whole point of the whole thing is we thought this was going to be a real easy thing but it's not, that is the whole jest of it. Councilman McCullough stated why can't we do it just like we do sewer credits? President Rosso stated this is entirely up to the Administration to figure out a payment and a charge schedule and once you determine what you think it should be come back and review it. Councilman Smith stated there are some things that are just the costs of doing business. Mayor Bring stated that is kind of what we are getting down to because we can't identify 1 thing because that is going to create a paper nightmare. To your point Alan, sometimes it might be just the price of doing business. Councilman Smith stated just like the one that got cancelled, that service employee got paid 3 hours for doing absolutely nothing. Superintendent Hastings stated actually he turned around and went home, he didn't punch in. Councilman Smith stated but he still got paid 3 hours.

Superintendent Hastings advised no he did not, he did not punch in. I called him 40 minutes later for the next one and that is the problem. To me as an employee, the problem isn't the billing – the problem is the manpower and I am having a terrible time 24 hours a day trying to get people. Mayor Bring stated right now we are getting calls in the Police Department and they say when is the guy coming, we can't give them a time. The other night they were on a water main break when that snow was blowing and everything else and everybody is sleeping – they are out there fixing water leaks. So they had 3 guys on that and Pat is plowing, so if there was a water leak in somebody's house they are going to have to wait. People get very impatient with that but sometimes there is nothing we can do about it. Now with this real cold weather we have pits that are freezing so the water meters aren't working. A guy came home from work and called I don't have a shower and then wants to know when is he coming? President Rosso stated it sounds like a staffing issue. Superintendent Hastings answered it is and I agree with both of your points; you know maybe it is a costs of doing business. President Rosso asked what is our plan to help in that regards. Mayor Bring quipped you guys just give me about 2 million dollars and I will hire about 6 people. That is another that we have been working on. When I was talking about billing these people but then you start breaking it down so I don't know if we can do anything about that. He continued if anybody has any questions about the snowplow truck that Pat sent the email out about? No voices were heard./**SAFETY DIRECTOR:** Mayor Bring advised the 2 new cars that came in, we paid for a brand new camera's on both cars and neither one of those cameras are working. We have had discussions back and forth and have Officers working on that. There are cards that go in those things and they sent

us 2 new ones out and basically kind of threatened them a little bit. If she hasn't paid the bill then we are not paying the bill. Finance Director Smith advised I have not paid the bill and I won't pay the bill. Mayor Bring advised so I am not happy with this and just want you to be aware of it. We may get into a little bit of a peeing match on this. We waited a very long time for these cars and they were supposed to be all set-up and ready to go. That was the whole jest of it but they are not ready and now we have had some time without the camera's. We have had several man-hours put into this and now with these 2 new ones; we plugged in one and I don't think that is working yet. So I may have Vasu do this thing and then bill them back. So I am just telling you guys. Councilman McCullough stated is that why we are seeing them on the road? Mayor Bring answered that is part of the reason, it is for Officer safety. Also if you have a DUI you have to have that on camera for conviction. **LAW DIRECTOR: None./COMMUNICATIONS: None./OLD BUSINESS: None./NEW BUSINESS: None.**

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: Councils Agenda –

Council#007 – EMERGENCY – a resolution authorizing the City of Sheffield Lake to accept and approve the donation of an ice rescue shuttle board and cold water rescue sling valued at \$2025.00 from the United States Coast Guard Lorain Station to the Sheffield Lake Fire Department and the declaring of an emergency.

Council#008 – EMERGENCY – a resolution authorizing the Law Director to enter into a reinstatement of and first amendment to lease agreement with Family Dollar Stores of Ohio, INC and the declaring of an emergency.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this council, Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to adjourn at 8:10 PM. Yeas All.

CLERK OF COUNCIL AFFIRMATION: This Meeting Of The City Council 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 offices.

CLERK OF COUNCIL/COMMITTEES

Kay Fantauzzi

MAYOR

Dennis Bring

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Richard Rosso

I, Kay Fantauzzi, duly appointed Clerk of Council of Sheffield Lake DO HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and exact copy of the Minutes of WORKSESSION of February 17, 2015.

and/or

COUNCIL PRO TEM
Alan Smith