

**Minutes of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
April 4, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse Committee was held Monday, April 4, 2016. Chairman Cizl called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Cizl, Mayor Bring, Kovach, Smith, Erdei, Wtulich, Gee, Stark

Absent: President Rosso, Superintendent Hastings (excused)

Attending: Park Board Gee

\*Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to accept the minutes of the March 7, 2016 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

**SEWER CREDITS/UNPAID CHARGES FOR TAX DUPLICATE: None.**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** *Mayor Bring* advised we did put the bids out for the roads and we did have 2 people bid on it; Cross Roads and Griffith's paving and I believe Griffith got the lowest bid. I don't know if that is actually public yet but that is what I understand. I would imagine mid to late summer we will be doing those roads. We were having a problem with the water pressure and I don't if you guys all remember that and we all talked about that for a long time. We found a leak over on Elm Street and that is relatively a new street, that water was running directly into the storm drain and our guys just happened to find that. That was actually costing us about \$18,000.00 a month. I just want to give our guys kudo's because they by chance found that and then we had another one on another street too that we fixed and that was also going directly into the storm drain. The reason I brought that all up is that we do have that gentleman that we did hire which we are going to pay \$7000.00 for and he is going to go through the whole city and he is able to detect any underground water that is leaking. So I think the \$7000.00 that we spend on that is going to be well worth it. So we are going to go around and try to get all that and that probably will be something we do on a yearly basis just to make sure of that because we were putting a ton of man hours into this. We thought something was going on with Avon Lake and they were saying no you are turning the valve off and on and we showed no valves going on and off. We are glad that we found that but that is the kind of thing that we do have to make sure that we keep up with. The other thing that I want to talk about is the water meters and I know a few of us still haven't gotten their water meters put in but originally when this was all talked about, when we started looking at the process and how we are going to do this and we said okay so we awarded the bid and Neptune was awarded that. We had figured on only getting a thousand of those meters in during the winter time but the winter was so mild we

actually got almost all of them in. We are way ahead of schedule but we still have a few left. The reason I am saying that we still have a few people that are saying things on the social media about that. We are correcting those problems and we are trying to find out the ones that were being missed and my understanding is a few of the guys that were doing this I will be blatantly honest with you they looked at some of these ones and they said they were too hard and they skipped over them. They said they were going to come back to them and then the weather got bad and they never got back to them. So that is why we have a few of them that aren't put in on various streets and that is being corrected now. So we are going to get that done and then we are going to get the rest of the ones on Lake Road. Meanwhile they put the repeater up on the Perch on Lake (formerly Erie Shore Landings) and they are going to put another one up on the water tower. They have got training coming in tomorrow for everybody to start learning all of that. So again we are way ahead of the curb here but we are still doing this so I am just asking everybody to be patient. I have had a couple of people write me letters saying we shouldn't be charged because this is bs, I have heard the whole thing. Again when we all talked about this this was not going to be done until this spring sometime. The other major thing is the pump station down there at Devonshire and I don't know if any of you took a ride down there this past week and you saw the rented equipment by which the City installed 3000 feet of surface pipe with two massive portable pumps. They got everything all hooked up and they successfully pumped what we had to and in that process; I will read this as what our Superintendent has written, "1) permanent bypass valves and transfer pipes were installed. This allows for future bypasses to be quick and focused at the station. More importantly it allows for a contingency pumping plan to be realized. Much like a drinking water emergency contingency plan, we are creating a similar plan and mechanism for emergency pumping of sewage. This plan and mechanism has been non-existent to date and I hope to have the final plan for the entire city in place in this quarter. 2) the City removed many years of settlement in the wet wells during the bypass. This protects our pumps from abrasive debris collections and improves the overall capacity of the station. 3) the City replaced the guide pipes on individual pumps. Some of these pipes were totally gone and those that remained were rotted. These pipes are critical in protecting seals which were also failing. 4) the City has removed a failed pump, experiencing electrical failures and seal failure. This is scheduled for repair next week. In the interim another pump was positioned in place of the pump being repaired. 5) although "bittersweet" another goal was to replace a base plate assembly while in bypass. Having cleaned the wet well and removing the failed pump we discovered the plate to be sound and will return the part as it was not needed. This bypass, however, afforded us the ability to inspect all the base plates and submerged assemblies. Our next goal now is installation of the new force main scheduled for this summer, the \$460,000 project in addition to this recent work will realize great improvements to the system." Mayor Bring reiterated this was a major

undertaking and like I said it was just something that was very poorly designed in the original design and hopefully we can fix that. During this process when borrowing the money from the EPA and they want us to report a contingency plan, they want to know what the city is going to do for back-ups and everything else. We have nothing on that so this is part of the process of now we have to gather all this information and we will write up forms and have a booklet on this so if the EPA or whatever comes in here, if we have to bypass into the lake or whatever and they want to see our books we will have something written on that. As of right now we don't have anything but that is being corrected. There has been a lot said about the ditches and the storm water. I will say a former Councilman brought that up to a newspaper, we have had public records request that we have been dealing with for the last week. We have spent countless hours on pulling all that information out, what and why this all came about I have no clue. This was back in 2001 when we borrowed 2.5 million dollars for storm water and everybody knows that. We are still paying that back, well somewhere down the line that person told the newspaper that we are spending an absorbent amount of money on that and that we are spending \$200,000.00 to repay that. I told the reporter if there is any other way that you can find out that we can get this for free I would be more than glad to take that and bring it on. I told him (the reporter) we have to pay that money back until 2021 and after that is paid back I would hope whoever is the Mayor after that during that time would actually look at borrowing some more money to continue that process and enhance moving the water out of this city because that was the goal of setting up the storm water. I know if you all know but there were outfalls put in and everything else and a lot of piping was connected to that, Cove Beach was set up through that with curbs and drains to remove the water out of the city. Now you see Avon Lake, I think Lorain and Avon are all doing the same thing. Fortunately Bill Gardner had the foresight to see that and it has probably saved the city 2/3 of what they would have paid for it now. We would have been paying an outrageous price for that plus we have it. There was also more things brought up about removing the water out of the city, we weren't spending enough money on this and I think all of you know that this was all brought through the newspaper through our former Councilman. When I became Mayor we were barely able to pay our bills so for almost 3 years here we were scrambling to get money to keep our Safety Forces and everything else. So finally after we got that going I continued this process of cleaning the ditches which had been ignored, we are trying to move more of the water out and we put 2000 feet of pipe in last year and we are going to put about 2000 feet of that in this year. That also goes along the roads and when we pave the roads that hopefully that will keep the roads in tact so that we are not constantly repaving the roads. So a lot was said and a lot of questions were asked for the newspaper and I don't appreciate it but I would hope that when you guys don't agree with something you tell me in this type of a form or in committee form and not later on after you resign or whatever and decide to bring it all up.

Tammy Smith spent hours and hours and hours and then we also had the auditors come in here today and start this process of a 3 week audit that she had to be prepared for. I am just telling you that is what is going on and you are going to hear probably a lot of nonsense that is going on. There are absolutely no secrets so if you guys have any questions I will be more than glad to answer them at any time just like I told the newspaper I said this is what is going on and don't ask the Finance Director about projects back in 2001 as she only knows what the numbers are, she doesn't know what the projects are. I still remember what happened back then and I was able to answer all those questions but I am being accused of over spending money on things and not spending money on storm water. Councilman Wtulich asked I was just wondering if you guys have any kind of estimate on how long that leak was going over there on Elm? Mayor Bring answered 3 months and normally when we have a leak it comes up to the top and like I said we looked at everything we possibly could, we put monitors on the water coming in and we were going to shut the water off in Avon Lake and turn it on from Lorain but when the water goes right directly in the storm drain it is kind of hard to see. The only reason the guys found it is that they were physically out of their trucks and they started walking up and down the streets and they saw a little indentation in that road which is a brand new road and when they dug that out the only thing that was holding that was actually the concrete – everything else underneath that was gone so we are very fortunate that that big truck didn't drive over that and go right through down about 6 foot deep. That is how they found and that is what my fear is is that we have other ones of those going on and that is kind of why some of our water bills are off-kilter from what we are receiving and then what we are billing out. So this is how we are trying to correct this.

Councilperson Gee asked is there a time line on when we are going to have the new force main put in? Mayor Bring answered that will be sometime this summer.

Councilperson Stark asked when do the asphalt companies open back up? Mayor Bring answered they are talking about opening up early this year so I am expecting at the end of this month. Councilperson Stark stated because I know they have had to do up and down Thelma and now I have got gravel, they were nice enough to remove the thing but now the gravel is all over the road. They were out doing work today so I didn't know when we were going to start cold patching or whatever we can do.

Mayor Bring stated we had this real nice weather and now all of a sudden now this weather is real cold again and then all the rain. As soon as the plant gets operational we will start really patching better because right now we are throwing cold patch in there. Councilman Smith stated normally it is like April 15th. Mayor Bring stated they were talking about opening it closer but now with this weather who knows.

Councilperson Stark stated over on our side of town water pressure fluctuate and I didn't know with all the water problems that we have had going up and down Thelma and Gayle. Mayor Bring answered he is going to go up and down every street.

Councilman Smith asked the water meters, I heard mutterings that our guys are going

to start putting those meters in for them? Mayor Bring answered only over by the OVI only because there are lead fittings over there or some type of a fitting that the other guys can't do and if those are fittings then those fittings have to be replaced by the EPA standards. That is the only thing, right now we have Shannon following these guys around to make sure that they do what they are doing. If you see Shannon, he is carrying sheets around with him with all the reads and everything else and at the end of the time when these guys get done with that they are supposed to have the reads from the previous meter and they have to turn that in so the girls know that when the next read goes up they can go back on it. So Shannon is making sure that they keep and he is also taking notes and making sure that all the connections are proper and not leaking when they do it too. Councilman Kovach stated you had made mention that in the future possibly taking down the water tower, what will we do with the antenna's? Mayor Bring answered we are going to have to have that water tower looked at to find out – obviously when you don't put any water in it then it corrodes. So if we do end up raising that up and then putting the water back in we are going to have to have that all cleaned out. The first step before we even think about tearing it down is going to be to see if we can raise it up. Councilman Kovach stated I was just wondering what we would do with all those antenna's. Mayor Bring answered the biggest thing is that we have to make sure that there is no corrosion on those things, we will get everything tested first though. Councilman Erdei stated is there any way we can help them people out on Warwick on their flooding issues, that water just lays in the street up to their porches? Anything temporary to get it down to the level? Mayor Bring asked where at? Chairman Cizl stated on the 700 block? Councilman Erdei stated yes. Mayor Bring stated that is their property, I mean if they put pipe in there or whatever else. I mean I got somebody very close to me has a piece of property and he has got the same thing and he is going to have to dig it down and put some pipe in there and I have already told him that, that is my son. It is your property so you got to do it and he can't expect the city to come out and do that stuff, it is a big corner lot and he is low right there and there is ditching right there. I think when they put the sidewalks in I think that sold and when the sidewalks in it blocked all that water from running into the ditch. I did the same thing over on Kenilworth when I bought a house because they put in a brand new sidewalk in and all that water stayed back there so I cut slices in with the concrete saw and ran pipe in there and took care of all the problems. I think that is what he is going to have to do too. Either that or bore underneath the sidewalk but that would be a simple solution, there is ditches on both sides. I think that one ditch underneath the street may have to be cleaned out because I noticed that is running slow so we are going to look at that. But that is not his problem. Councilperson Gee stated the gentleman on the corner of Ferndale that had an issue with the odor, was Pat able to take care of all that? Mayor Bring answered we are going to try to put some "socks" on the inside of that and hopefully those will stop from coming up through there. I will tell you I walked over there and

there is an odor, there is no doubt about it. Councilperson Gee concurred yes I have been there twice and there is. Mayor Bring advised Pat made mention of that and I asked Pat if that was a viable thing and he said we can try that. He said that might be an easy solution so that is what we are going to try first. Chairman Cizl asked when that man comes through to test for water leaks, how does he do that above ground or smoke? Mayor Bring answered he actually has a made that he actually walks around it and it actually detects vibrations or whatever and he knows. I will tell you what he has found 3 or 4 and they were like dead spot on. We tested it first to make sure it worked because anyone can tell you anything. Like Alan I can tell you I got a guy that can do a transmission in 30 seconds and you don't believe it until you see it. But this guy, we went out and we let him go up and down 3 streets and he found 3 leaks. Chairman Cizl asked will he do the whole city or will he go where you see trouble spots? Mayor Bring answered he is going to do the whole city. Chairman Cizl asked do you we get the water meters in the shopping center and city hall and whatever else too? Mayor Bring answered we changed all those out. That was another thing, city hall and these departments never had water meters and they do now. Chairman Cizl asked when we had to run that sewer through the woods over in Devonshire, did our guys do that or did the company? I was under the premise that they were waiting for EPA to give us permission to go through there to the tracks. Mayor Bring answered the EPA gave us a timeframe because we have warbler and there is some bats and some other stuff, you can't touch trees or anything within a certain period. Matter of fact the deadline is over so we were able to go in there and make that path with their okay and we got out of there and we are done. Although it would be a nice place for the bike path. Chairman Cizl stated you mentioned the 2001 the whole storm water, I had no idea what any of that was all about. Mayor Bring advised I think Steve, Rick and Alan were all on Council and I wasn't even on Council at that time. Chairman Cizl stated because we are paying, I think that is when it all started. Councilperson Gee answered yes \$4.85. Mayor Bring advised yes I wasn't even on Council then but yes the city residents pay \$4.85 but they put pipe in by Tennyson School/36" black pipe and then they put outfalls. I have one by my house and there is an outfall by Jordan's and we have a couple of other ones, I think by Grantwood there is an outfall down there. There is one by DiBenedetto's but it is not hooked up but we are discussing that. Councilman Kovach advised those were all put in and that was actually my suggestion to do that before they paved Lake Road so that we could have them in even if we weren't using them at the time. Councilman Smith stated there is not an actual outfall there yet. Councilman Kovach stated no but the pipe is under the road for it. Mayor Bring stated I think you guys spent over a million dollars on Lake Road to have it paved and you probably said don't pave it and then dig it back up because that is ridiculous. So they put that pipe in the ground before they did that and got that done. There is Cove Beach was done, curbs and gutters and all that water that was over there used to sit along Walker Road and everything and all that water is

running out. Councilman Smith stated part of that money went to Ferndale for the storm water part. Mayor Bring stated they also paid one employee on that and I don't know whose salary that is. Councilman Smith stated it is not just an employee for that but they could use the funds of an employee. It is all documented, you can go back through of what we borrowed it for and it tells you exactly the list of what we are supposed to do. Rosa knows she has been hounding on that for years so she knows. Councilperson Gee advised I was chairman of that for a while. Mayor Bring stated that is what some of the people don't realize, people say we have never done anything in the city for storm water – well we really have, we have done a lot. Councilman Smith advised we were way ahead on that one. Chairman Cizl stated I see a lot of the city's just starting to do that. Councilman Kovach stated we actually put a lot of pipe in over off of Ivanhoe to drain Alameda, when we paved Ivanhoe and we paved Richelieu to get the water out of Oakwood, Alameda, West Shore and that area. Councilman Smith stated like at Jordan's, we paid and bought that piece so we could the easement through there and do that. Mayor Bring stated there was a big culvert that was put in there because that was flooding all the time too. Councilman Smith stated there was all kinds of projects but there was also money that was used for regular storm water issues; piping and cleaning up ditches, depends on how you work what is storm water related and what is not. Just like the employee, if that employee is working on a storm water project it doesn't matter which employee it is there is employee dollars that you can pay that guy for doing a storm water work. So it is not one specific person to pay that salary to work for the storm water and that is all he does – that is where the money comes when they do storm water projects that you have another revenue source to use that's all. Mayor Bring stated with those outfalls and stuff being in we have connected several pieces of pipe to go along with that for more to drain so there has been a continuous thing for the storm water. That is what I am saying people are saying that the city has never done anything but we have done a lot and we still got a long ways to go, Sheffield Lake is just a very low spot and it had a ton of water. You guys have all lived around here forever and you know all the water there used to be. Councilman Smith stated there is 2 outfalls we didn't get in, one of them is down there by DiBenedetto's and the other one is where Diana lives right across from Bi-Rite and that is why she got on Council because she wanted to prevent that from going in. We were going to pay her but she didn't want nothing to do with it so then she joined Council to fight it and we never did it. So those 2 which that one would take care of all that Lafayette area drainage and DiBenedetto's would take care of all of that side. So those are the only 2 we really haven't got in, all the rest of them we pretty much did. Chairman Cizl stated its been about a year and a half that you brought it to us, the major water discrepancy between Avon Lake and what we were getting. Is it possible that there are even more leaks over on Elm or was that possible leaking even longer? Mayor Bring answered I don't think that was leaking that long. Here is the thing, just like I just told you our municipality didn't

have any water meters on it so we had all these entities that weren't on there and they were using water albeit I don't know how much but we were going crazy trying to figure out an exact figure. Well you can't figure out an exact figure until you have everything connected and know where the water is coming from and how much you are using. So that is what we are trying to do now with all these meters and everything in there. So once we get all these meters in here now and it is all computerized we will be able to figure out almost exactly what is going on as far as usage and what we are bringing in and what we are using and what we got going out. That could have never been determined I don't care who you were there was just too many variables. We spent months trying to figure that out and to be honest with you I never even knew the municipalities were not connected and as soon as I found that out I said we are doing it. Our bills were so high and the revenue coming in was lower than that which is supposed to be balancing out and we are supposed to be getting money for projects and everything else and we were barely scraping by to make it work and then we had to raise it up to offset some of that but you can't keep raising water bills and making people pay until you get everything in order and that is what we are trying to do now. Now that we have done some of the things that we are doing and getting some of these leaks fixed it will be a much easier way to figure all this out. Councilperson Gee asked when are you going to get the pictures up from the work that was done? Mayor Bring answered I have them right here. Councilperson Gee stated me too but I wanted to make sure that you got them on the city site before I put them on the storm site. We took pictures of all the pumps and what we did and what we didn't do in there and we will continue that process not only for the fact that I want you guys to see what goes on but again the EPA wants to make sure that we do everything that we say we do and we have to document everything. Councilperson Gee asked are you going to have those on the city site? Mayor Bring answered we are going to try yes. Councilman Wtulich stated we can get together with Pat and he can take us and show us.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

*Ditch cleanings; Day Ditch by Holl/Shoemaker Ditch – north of Richelieu, east side by Buckeye –* **Mayor Bring** advised we did make a new bucket, there was a bucket that we got a long time ago when Gardner purchased some equipment and it was a big steel bucket. We have taken that and cut it down a little bit, we didn't do it Rob did it and re-welded it and made a new bucket so you will see if you go by and look in the back by the Service Department there is the excavator that has that bucket on it. So we are going to go out and start doing some of these ditches with that bigger bucket, it is probably 5 foot or 6 foot. It is a pretty good size and that is another thing that we are looking at doing. Councilperson Gee asked is that going to put more of a strain on our equipment? Mayor Bring answered no, that is why we cut it down as it was even bigger.

**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.

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CLERK OF COUNCIL

*Kay Fantauzzi*

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

*Mark Cizl*

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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 April 4, 2016.