

**Minutes of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
September 12, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse Committee was held Monday, September 12, 2016. Chairman Cizl called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Cizl, Mayor Bring, Kovach, Smith, Erdei, Wtulich, Gee, Superintendent Hastings  
Attending: Park Board Gee, Concerned Citizens  
Absent: President Rosso, Stark (excused)

\*Motion by Gee/Second by Erdei to accept the minutes of the July 11, 2016 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

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

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Superintendent Hastings reported I just wanted to update briefly on some of the projects, the first was an application that we put out to OPWC which Council approved which is for Lake Breeze. At the same time, we have been researching the replacement of water lines in the city which the Mayor has asked me to start and I am working on the total report for you. I just wanted to put on the radar for Council and the Committee the cost associated with that, that is about a \$400,000.00 paving road project and the replacement of the water line doubles the project. These water line replacements while we are putting the figures together and the priority list are substantial. So I think it is important that it begin to get on your radar, I don't think we have had an increase in our actual water rates since 2012. The other thing and this is just throwing it out there for consideration is to potentially look at assessments for particular projects of that magnitude but obviously we have to have a fund source and I just wanted to bring that to your attention. In another project that we were working on was State Route 301 and the Law Director helped me put together legislation for your consideration tomorrow to apply to NOACA for additional funding and that project is at 1.2 million and the local share can be realized through Ohio Public Works through the County Transportation Improvement District and through some of our own local funds. So it is just another opportunity to get federal money towards a very expensive project. An update on the water meters; they will be coming through next week and completing the warranty work on some of the MIU's, the heads that transmit the signal. Other than that, that system is closing up and working well now. Councilman Erdei stated a while back you had storm water

control services on here to do a survey of the flooding basements and everything. Is that company still working with the city or what is going on with that?

Superintendent Hastings answered we did not engage their help because at the time of that flooding we reached out to engineering and to that company to 1) how can the city address the problem, 2) how can we help the homeowner identify the problem.

The engineering firm that we are working with said that it is really the smartest approach for the city and the tax dollars to identify all the flow into that ditch line and to address the easement if you will before you go out to the homeowner. Basically that program would cost the homeowner money all-be-it a reduced fee, ultimately they are coming to tell them what to do to their home to improve it. The engineer has implied that we might be able to do our part first and we are still on that point and actually seeking money on a grand scale through Senators Offices. Chairman Cizl asked what is that area that you are talking about? Superintendent Hastings answered Belle, Brockley, Knickerbocker, Holl was the primary. Councilman Wtulich stated the water line replacement you are talking about, is that on Lake Breeze that would double from \$400,000 to \$800,000.00. Superintendent Hastings answered it is actually more than double - \$935,000.00 but the point is that if the city invests all these dollars on the surface to ignore the infrastructure below it is tricky. Now that being said we can provide all the numbers and the engineering for you guys to look at and maybe come up with a strategy to pay for it but it is expensive. Mayor Bring stated just to inject a little bit but everybody has been kind of talking about us doing the water lines and doing all this stuff but that is just one street. It is like I told you before Devonshire is \$400,000.00 and when you look at this it is substantial money. So to go around and start doing all of the city you are talking multi-millions of dollars and this is what we are trying to bring forward to you guys so that you understand this and also the public understands what these costs are going to incur. If you go down Lake Breeze now and you look at the road and probably certain sections every 25-feet there is a patch so we would resurface it for \$400,000.00 and then you are going to see 400 patches because that is what is ultimately end up again. We just decided that we are going to give you guys some information and we will figure out how we are going to do this but this is just to start. We thought we would do Lake Breeze and we are talking about Harris Road and then some of the other sections of the city but extremely costly. Somewhere down the line we keep looking for alternatives as far as the County giving us money, the State giving us money and Federal but there is only so much of that. We are still going to have to pay our fair share of this stuff too and with 301 coming up I think the latest we go on that is 2018. Superintendent Hastings concurred. Mayor Bring stated there is a substantial amount of money there, we bring in about \$200,000 and some dollars each year off the tax for the roads and we have been spending that on the interior but that is just pittance comparison to what we are apt to spend. We are just trying to get you guys up and aware of what is going on. Councilperson Gee stated you said our last increase in our

water was 2012? Superintendent Hastings answered that is from my memory, I don't know that as an absolute fact but I believe that is correct and I believe it was an increase on the base rate. My goal would be to present a clear project and the costs associated with it and the increase necessary to achieve it. That is what some of our neighboring cities do, every single year our water is increased by the Cities of Avon Lake and Lorain and very clearly they identify what they are doing with that and in this case 6 million dollars in potable water, retention and Lake Road in front of the plant and another 3-million dollar water tank. So in other words we wouldn't blindly ask for the money, it would be very clear on the program and quite frankly to do more then one a year. Councilperson Gee asked what would be the other alternative you would consider? Superintendent Hastings answered patching, digging them up as they break. Councilman Smith stated just for clarification you said our quarter percent income tax brings in \$200,000 and some thousand dollars a year. It brings in almost double that. Superintendent Hastings stated that is what we spend on the interior roads is what he is saying. Councilman Smith stated okay because that quarter percent brings in a heck of a lot more then \$200,000 and some thousand, I just want to make sure that is what you were talking about. Superintendent Hastings stated that is what he mentioned for the interior streets. Councilman Smith stated just wanted to clarify that. How much were we saving per road with our water leak? Superintendent Hastings answered this month we were down 10 million gallons and we saved \$24,000.00. Councilman Smith stated for this month? Superintendent Hastings stated for this month. Councilman Smith stated so we are roughly about \$18,000.00 plus ahead now in the water. While we are talking about raising rates, that don't make sense but that is for further discussion I guess down the road. Superintendent Hastings stated well that has to be offset by the total operation of the department though. Councilman Smith stated I know I was just trying to do the figures real quick on that because we have been spending that money over and over and over and now we are getting a big chunk every month but when you start talking rate increases. Superintendent Hastings stated if you look at the receivables historically though they are also going down. Obviously I am not saying just raise the rates, I am just saying it is one of the alternatives. Councilman Smith stated I just want to make sure if you got the figures right that's all. That is a lot of money to save every month. Mayor Bring stated we also lost that money for 3 years. Councilman Smith stated I know but that is almost like a revenue source, that is a \$18,000.00 a month revenue source, we just gained. Mayor Bring stated I agree with that but our money was so depleted out of that department it was down to nothing, that is the problem. Councilman Smith stated I am just saying that is a big chunk to get back, to start help paying for some of this. Mayor Bring stated we also have some issues right now with what Lorain is billing too, so we are having a discussion about that too. We will bring that to you but I don't want to discuss it right now. Superintendent Hastings stated I wish it was that smooth and we have only been realizing those

savings since this summer. You know about the water meters are completed the guys were out fixing more leaks in which we spent \$7000.00 on a city wide leak detection. Councilman Smith stated you are talking \$400,000.00 roughly for a water line for one street. Avon Lake just put a main water line from Sheffield Lake line to the Bay Village line and it cost 1.2 million. That is a long way for 1.2 million and you are talking \$400,000 or \$500,000.00 for one street, that seems like an awful lot. Mayor Bring stated you have from Lake Road all the way to the railroad tracks. Superintendent Hastings stated it is 4000 feet, engineers estimate I didn't pull it out of the air. Councilman Smith stated I see figures here and figures there so I am just trying to make it real, that's all. Superintendent Hastings stated there is also a dedicated line going that whole way, ours has 62 taps on it with 3 different sizes/12 inch supply/line valves – so all of those things at \$800 to \$1500.00 per connection. Councilman Smith stated just trying to get my bearings. Mayor Bring stated at this point all we are trying to do is let you guys know about what is going on, we are going to do a presentation for you but just like Pat said it is not just a water line there is so many other factors involved. We are just trying to let you get an idea. Councilman Erdei asked what is the status on Roberts Street? Superintendent Hastings stated Roberts is the state level for CDBG grant funding that the city was awarded \$105,000.00, that will be a new engineered street for 29.5 year useful life and new drainage. So it was pulled off of our road list this year because it was such a greater project once we got approved. Councilman Erdei asked so when do you think that might start? Superintendent Hastings answered that will be signed by the Mayor in December and then we will have till November 2017 to have it done but we will do it in the spring. Councilman Wtulich stated we have a fund somewhere to place street lights right if we have a dark street in the city because on Belle Avenue it is real dark and I don't think any of the lights are out, I just think it is dark. So how do we go about that, just see a road that needs some more lights put on it. Superintendent Hastings answered I would contact Ohio Edison's engineer and yes we have a street lighting fund. Mayor Bring stated we have added lights here and there but it is not cheap. Councilman Wtulich clarified so we would just let the Service Department know and you guys would look at it and make a decision whether you think it needs it. Mayor Bring advised we contact Mr. Faga from that and then he will pass it along but I can get you a price but it is not cheap. Chairman Cizl asked when a street light goes out, we contact Ohio Edison or do we contact the city? Superintendent Hastings explained Ohio Edison ultimately does it but people do call the city of which case we go out and get a pole number and contact Ohio Edison. Chairman Cizl asked do they bill the city for it then? Mayor Bring answered we pay them monthly. When you talk about adding a street light that is totally different. Councilman Smith advised when a light goes out you can also do it online. I had one across from me go out and I went online and typed in the pole number and the address where it is close to and they were out the next day and fixed it. Chairman Cizl stated I was just curious how the

funding goes and whose responsibility it is. Mayor Bring stated if that light is out, they are not making money so they react pretty quick just like Alan said they will be out as fast as they can because you are paying the electric. Chairman Cizl stated I assume there is a meter on every light, is that how that works? Superintendent Hastings stated no it is a collective total. Councilman Smith stated on a street light I always thought that when we request one then we look at it and then we decide whether or not we want one put there and then you can get a hold of them and have them put it up right? Mayor Bring answered yes. Chairman Cizl asked Pat can you give an update on the force main on Devonshire, how is that going? Superintendent Hastings advised the city is signing with the Utilicon tomorrow and they will have the right to begin work on the 13<sup>th</sup> which is also tomorrow and in December will require substantial completion by January so we expect the job to be done this year. That will be for 2006 linear feet of pipe burst force main for \$465,000.00. Chairman Cizl asked we don't have a street sweeper that works anymore, correct? Superintendent Hastings answered we have a very small portable one. Chairman Cizl advised I had a couple of complaints and I am wondering and first of all I didn't think we had one and my response was I think it is inoperable. Is the responsibility for that, is that the city or is that the homeowner; curb and catch basin is ours? Superintendent Hastings answered I believe it is by ordinance that the city will clean via street sweep. Chairman Cizl advised I was just thinking about the catch basins because I have had a couple of complaints about the catch basins and I told them I would follow up on it. Superintendent Hastings advised the catch basins we vacuum with our vac truck. The gutters where a broom goes by that unfortunately broke some years back. We bought a portable one but when you take on a street like Ferndale it admittedly is too much for it. It has a very small hopper and goes on a skid steer. Mayor Bring advised you can put those on the front of pickup trucks now, they don't pick anything up; they just sweep so we are looking at probably next year of acquiring something like that. Chairman Cizl stated I was just wondering whose responsibility it is because I thought the tree lawn, curb would be the homeowner because obviously we have complaints of people blowing their grass into the street when they shouldn't be doing that. Mayor Bring stated unfortunately it has been dry and there has been a lot of dead leaves already falling down so I think that is what some of the problem is to. The grass clippings this year have been minimal but a lot of trees have lost leaves. We did pay a company 2 years ago to do a lot of the streets that is kind of reasonable. Superintendent Hastings advised \$135.00 an hour. We used them this year a little and normally you get it done in the spring, I admittedly was out of commission this spring so it missed my radar. Chairman Cizl stated I am not complaining I just thought homeowners had some responsibility there. Superintendent Hastings stated well the residents have noticed and I have heard several times and it won't happen again. Councilman Smith stated although there is nothing wrong with a resident walking out and picking up some stuff and throwing it in the garbage can either. Superintendent

Hastings stated it is classified hazardous waste, it is actually very costly and cumbersome for the city to get rid of it. You can't just pile it on the ground, I have to write a report on it to MS4 and we have to pay hazardous fees and have it tested. It is unbelievable. Chairman Cizl stated I went down Warwick Drive and saw a bunch of leaves were right by the catch basin where the graffiti was done, it was building up so I hopped out of the truck and cleared it out and it flowed right away. I just wondered why other people don't. Superintendent Hastings advised that street did have a sweeper on it three weeks ago and that is the truth because people complained because of all the water breaks the dirt and everything so we paid to have it done. Mayo Bring advised the thing we want to try to do which is part of Roads & Drains is we were going to do a pilot program with the leaf pickup and see how that works this year too so that will help get rid of some of this stuff. We have those 2 leaf vac's and we are going to try and see how this works, we will test it and see how it goes. Chairman Cizl stated I noticed we used to get sewer credits and once we put the water meters in we don't get anymore. Mayor Bring stated these new water meters and new program that we have are detecting leaks and people are calling and Lisa is able to sit right at her deck and show them exactly what is going on. She can tell them if there is any water usage. We had somebody call the other day and said that she has not even moved into the property but she is still showing water usage. Lisa brought it up and told her it was on this day and this day and this day and the girl goes oh, I had somebody over working on the house so they used the water but without that program you can't tell. So it is making things a lot better but it is also detecting things much, much faster. We will still get a few but it is going to help out immensely. Chairman Cizl stated we haven't had any at this meeting to approve and I am thinking people aren't filling their pools all of a sudden but with the water meters that doesn't seem connected. Mayor Bring stated these would be leaks where their water was running but didn't go down the sewer but now that we are catching a lot of these things it is helping people out. Councilman Smith stated with the estimated every 3 months you wouldn't find out until 3 months later. Now you are finding out every day where before it would take 2 months to find out you had that leak then you go and say oh wait where is that leak at and then you apply for it. Just the system is working. Chairman Cizl asked is it cheaper for the city or more expensive for the city, water bills; I know some cities do it quarterly but we do them monthly. Is it cheaper because we have that outside company doing it monthly, I was just curious why we are monthly and other cities I know do quarterly water bills? Mayor Bring state we can have them break that down, I don't know what CMI charges us. We have a hard enough time just getting it monthly. Mayor Bring advised most people put that in their budget for the month.

**OLD BUSINESS:** *Ditch cleanings; Day Ditch by Holl/Shoemaker Ditch – north of Richelieu, east side by Buckeye – discussed above.*

**NEW BUSINESS:** Chairman Cizl recognized 2 citizens in audience and asked if they needed to speak with the Committee and they answered no.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee,  
\*Motion by Kovach/Second by Smith to adjourn at 7:25 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 September 12, 2016.