

**Minutes of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
February 5, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse Committee were held Monday, February 5, 2018. Chairman Cizl called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Cizl, President Rosso, Mayor Bring, Erdei, Kovach, Wtulich, Stark, Radeff, Superintendent Hastings

Absent: Councilperson Gee (excused)

\*Motion by Erdei/Second by Wtulich to accept the minutes of the January 8, 2018 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

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

**MAYOR/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** Superintendent Hastings advised the first thing in advance of our next Council meeting, we will have prepared the annual bid for aggregate, fuel and the target paving list. That will be drafted with David to help me. It is not urgent, but I would hope that Council would consider that by emergency, so that we can get some numbers moving. In speaking of fuel tanks, we do have the fence finally around them and are completely compliant now with the US Fire Marshall. I do have the report here with me this evening that I went through in detail last month and I would be happy to answer any questions if there are any. I am hopeful that the committee at this point is comfortable enough to send that through to Council to begin the process of approval or denial. Certainly, if there are any questions that prohibit that motion to move forward, I would answer now. The sanitary pump station; I am still engaged with the Ohio EPA and somewhat stalemated but I think when we submit our plan review here, hopefully in the next couple of weeks, that will reignite that project. I will be submitting a Water Revolving Loan account nomination, which does not carry any obligation for it, but for some planning a couple of years out on Harris Road. That would be for a project to mimic Lake Breeze with the replacement of the water line and repaving and again this is out in 2019 or 2020 but you have to be this far out to get on their agenda and that certainly has several milestones that the Council would have to approve. I did submit the grant here for the Lincoln Nature Trail, which is on our notes. Councilman

Erdei asked did Lorain notify you of how much they are going to increase their rates for us? Superintendent Hastings answered no, that notification will probably happen in October this year. My goal is for the Council to consider this and have in place, so that when we go to them, we have not only the capital improvements 5-year plan in place but the funding source to get there. Also, the city needs to have in complete operation our new pumping station by then. So, that we will have the very data that we need to begin the negotiation against. President Rosso asked Pat, just give me the bullet points and the last page of your plans for the summary. What are you asking for, is it just an increase and you want a 4% increase in the per unit charge and a .34 (34 cent) increase in the capital improvement? Superintendent Hastings answered right, so it is 2 different funding sources. The capital improvement currently is at \$2.00 and we are billing our debt service now that is exhausting that money. So, the city has successfully with this project coming pumped about a million dollars with the existing cash flow and capital improvement money. So, we are asking for just over 3 years a nominal increase of another \$1.00 so that we can continue to plan and implement capital improvements. The 4% increase is otherwise linked to everybody's meter use of water and that is to offset the increase of treatment. As you can see in some of my graphs earlier, that number has jumped by \$100,000.00. So, the cost of treatment and the volume is climbing, but our ability to counter that on income is stagnant. I might add, that I believe that we are going back to 2012 before those had been addressed. President Rosso asked do you know what the current per unit charge is? Superintendent Hastings answered \$3.45. President Rosso stated, okay, so we want 4% on \$3.45. Superintendent Hastings advised right and I didn't put numbers, much like the water because we are subject to the City of Lorain raising rates annually. So, if we were to identify a specific number, it would immediately be corrupt if they change that. President Rosso clarified so we would up it 4% on the \$3.45 until our rate would change in Lorain. Superintendent Hastings answered 4% is right and subject to any change. President Rosso stated then every year go up 4% for the next 3 years. Mayor Bring stated it is like 14 or 15 cents. President Rosso stated I know it is not much. Superintendent Hastings stated, we all see often where... President Rosso advised I would kind of like to get some legislation written up and I would kind of like to know what we are going to ask. Superintendent Hastings continued I personally read and I am sure others do too, where utilities say wow, we have sat on this too long, we need to raise your rates 50% or we are going to raise your readiness to respond is what they call it \$4, \$5 or as much as \$20 I have read in the county. I am trying to be conservative and proactive at the same time and with planning you can do it right without a massive impact to the residents. That is kind of

the goal. President Rosso advised at least I know or think I understand to write the legislation to say we are going to do a .34 (34 cents) increase to the capital improvement charge, but how do you write up the 4%? In legislation, do we need a dollar amount? Superintendent Hastings answered no, much like the water section 935, it just list the month of each year. So, January 2018 would be a 4% increase, January 2019 would be 4% and again in January 2020. I am saying that we don't put a dollar amount because if during that time Lorain raises the rate than that dollar amount is corrupt. So, all we need to do is identify each year. The first year will not obviously be January because if you approve it, we are going to be into March or April. So, effective with the legislation and then thereafter would be January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Councilman Erdei asked our system for sanitary is all made to flow to go to Lorain right? Superintendent Hastings answered yes. Councilman Erdei stated so you couldn't switch it and go to Avon Lake? Mayor Bring answered not right now. Superintendent Hastings advised all of the sewer in the county, in the state is under what I believe is called a 208 plan. So, anytime you make drastic changes like that, it is impacting the entire region. So, you have to get approval from the entire region, the EPA and it is pretty profound. It doesn't mean we won't do it, but I certainly wouldn't try to cram it in this summary. It would almost have to be a separate project and fund source in years in the making. Mayor Bring advised if we did that, it would probably just be one pump station, not all 3. We discussed that a long time ago about doing that because I don't know that we could get all 3 of them to go that way? Superintendent Hastings answered it would cost a fortune. Mayor Bring advised so the one farthest away would be a possibility, to run it up that way. That would help and relieve some of the flooding, but again with these new pumps, the way they are that might help alleviate some of that problem anyway. President Rosso asked that goes down to French Creek right? Superintendent Hastings answered no, Avon Lake has their own treatment plant behind Beach Park Towers. President Rosso stated I thought we had talked about that years ago to run it? Councilman Kovach advised that was the North Ridgeville facility, but that was just like an option. Superintendent Hastings stated surprisingly, I just attended that regional meeting within the last two months where everybody in the county was there. With that came a map of Lorain County and all the sewer districts and locations of sewers and surprisingly the Village has massive areas not covered by sewer when they have a plant in there. Albeit, belonging to North Ridgeville. My point being, undoubtedly, they are going to tap that resource in time. I mean the writing is on the wall, but development is here. Sheffield Lake is built up, but Avon and Sheffield certainly have room, but what they don't have is sewers so they are going to tap that. The idea of moving that to Avon

Lake is real and to the Mayors point is to relieve the burden that we have and in this plan I actually wrote a reservoir for sewage should we stay in Lorain if we can capture up to a million gallons would satisfy the same goal and far less money. President Rosso stated so the consideration this evening is coming out of this meeting if you were interested in this to get the legislation moving to get it on for 3 readings. So, it would be the first one in March and take effect in April. But the Mayor and I talked after Worksession I think and it really has got to come out of a committee if we want to do this. Chairman Cizl clarified this committee? President Rosso answered yes and it should come out of this committee and for my two cents I would encourage you to seriously consider it to at least get the ball rolling. Councilman Kovach asked the gas line over on Lake Breeze? Superintendent Hastings clarified where they wanted to cut through our road? Councilman Kovach answered yes. Superintendent Hastings advised I haven't heard anything. Councilman Kovach asked so they haven't moved forward on that yet? Superintendent Hastings answered no, they have cones by their pump station and I see excavation in the Village. I really think the winter weather has hampered everything right now. But we were very clear that if they go they have to do directional boring. I even talked to the Law Director on how to stop them if they show up. So, we are cognizant of them for sure. Councilman Kovach stated well, I hadn't heard any more and I thought this would be the appropriate time to ask. Chairman Cizl advised I agree with Mr. Rosso that this needs to move forward out of this committee and get it on Council agenda and get moving on this. I would think no later than April if I am not mistaken. Chairman Cizl stated capital improvement is \$2.00? Superintendent Hastings advised capital improvement increase is \$1.00 over 3 years, .34 (34 cents). Chairman Cizl stated it is basically 16 cents a unit for water this year. Right, 4%, roughly? Superintendent Hastings stated 4% on \$3.45, yes. \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei that we move forward with legislation in regards to the sanitary sewer rate review to be processed for our next Council meeting. Yeas All. President Rosso asked Pat, are you going to work with David to get this legislation written up because it is pretty sure that what we just voted is pretty ambiguous. So, you will work with the Law Director? Superintendent Hastings answered yes. Mayor Bring clarified and going three readings isn't going to hurt anything right? Superintendent Hastings answered, I suggested 3 readings so that the public would have an opportunity to comment. President Rosso stated which will be the first one in March. Superintendent Hastings asked the first one in what? You mean it can't go this month yet? President Rosso answered no, the third reading would be the first one in March. I want to get it on next Tuesday and that is why I

want to get with the Law Director. Chairman Cizl thanked Superintendent Hastings to such a good report.

Mayor Bring advised if you drive around a little bit and look at the some of the roads that we had paved, we are having some issues with the roads. They are starting to unravel a little bit and Mr. Hastings and I am aware of that. This weather with the really, really cold has just shown that what we are doing is good. Is it the 100% way of doing the roads – no but we are trying to get the biggest bang for our buck. So, we are having some issues with some of the roads and I just wanted you to be aware of that. So, if anybody complains about it, yes, I have seen them and it is on the radar. We will address that when it warms up, but just in case. Chairman Cizl stated, we haven't heard anything about Abbe Road, there was some discussions a couple of meetings ago about the plan that we are going to be doing with Abbe Road.

Superintendent Hastings stated there is a couple of things about Abbe Road. 1) they just completed and submitted to us a speed and traffic study of the Walker Road/Abbe Road intersection. As you know the speed limit is journalized with the State of Ohio for 40 and for 30 plus years we have had it at 35. To my surprise, their final recommendation is that a 4-way stop be created at Walker and Abbe which is currently a 2-way stop because of the number of crashes that have occurred over a 3-year period which I believe is 12 if memory serves me. So, this is a real data rich document which is quite dry reading. They analyze everything from view to speed to how long a person is delayed and they give short term and long term recommendations. The short term is to install advance warning on Abbe Road as you are coming to Walker saying, intersection ahead, bright sticks which are those sticks on the sign, crosswalk markings in paint. They recommend that in the short term. In the long term they are saying to increase the road to 40 mph with a 4-way stop. As the city we have the authority to do what we want. But you have to take some of what they are saying with the idea that they are holding quite a bit of money and all of the time associated with this project. So, I am working with our engineer and I think that our response will be that we will be putting up an advance warning sign at the intersection, the bright sticks and so forth. Of equal importance with Abbe Road, there is like 5 or 6 fund sources, very complex to get 1.4 million dollars. He advised the State is giving \$380,000 and I got about ½ million in grants to date and we have an OPWC project loan I think for ¼ million. The point is we are going to fall short of some money. Now, logically we can absorb that in our 208 account which is our income tax money over 2-year's time. But, it has been recommended and just so you are aware, they have a program through the State Infrastructure Bank, which is a lending machine that identifies a big project like this with all these fund sources and a



municipality can take a section of money from this bank and then distribute it all out. In the meantime, we get ours back and in like a 2-year turn around you pay it back. The point is, all that money has to be ready to go when the state is ready to go. So, it might be something that we need to consider and I don't have all the particulars quite yet on that. It really boils down to when the State of Ohio sells the job, my biggest hope was to see it happen this year, but I think the reality is that they will sell the job this year and bid it and it will be too late in the season to see construction which will bring it into the spring of 2019. But if they expedite it, we have to have the money ready to go. That is where I will bring that strategy of state infrastructure bank to the Council, Roads & Drains and Tammy. Chairman Cizl stated years before I was on Council, there was a discussion about stop sign regulations. You can't use stop signs to control traffic. Superintendent Hastings stated correct, but this is the result of the State of Ohio study and that is certainly different. If your goal was sit them all the way down Forestlawn in your neighborhood to keep cars from moving, that is illegal. Mayor Bring stated the problem is with that being that way for years, I think it would double the amount of traffic and accidents. We have had some accidents there, but nothing huge, but I think if you put a 4-way stop sign there, for the first year or two we would my as well put a traffic cop there because that is all it is going to be. President Rosso stated would be my concern about a crosswalk too. Mayor Bring advised it would be not so good. Councilman Erdei stated they are talking about having our speed limit from Lake Road to Walker 40 mph. Superintendent Hastings answered well, the whole stretch in Sheffield Lake. They definitely recommend 40 but conversely, they say to put a stop sign there and it seems illogical to me but I am not an engineer in traffic. I think the idea is the amount of time that somebody is delayed is if they are going 40 and have to make a stop and pick up and gone. That is all set by 35 and no stop at all and safety. But we all live here, I mean when they told me there was 12 accidents, I was quite frankly surprised. That is why it is up to the local authority at the end. President Rosso stated well, if you reduce the traffic to 40, it's a 10-mile reduction to where we are today actually. There is nobody that does 35 down that road. Councilman Radeff asked what is the overall goal to do Abbe? You said that 1.4 million? Superintendent Hastings answered a total reconstruction, rip out everything there, new concrete, new curbs, new catch basins, new monument boxes – everything. He explained, because it is a state route, the State of Ohio comes in under an Urban Renewal paving program and they give X amount of dollars to a municipality to pave the road. The city for years was not able to capitalize on that offer. That was in the Mayor's first term in which quite frankly we were struggling. So, that State of Ohio while they offered the money, the cost of the project kept

climbing and climbing. So, the percentages are still the same, a few hundred thousand, but the cost is 1.4 million but we can get there, absolutely. I am almost there. Chairman Cizl asked back to the sewer capital improvement, obviously we need the pumps to be completely replaced/refurbished. I think you said variable speed and then obviously we are going to increase per unit for water. What can we foresee happening in the near future, like the next couple of years as far as attacking our I&I? I see that we are controlling the flooding with the bumps and all of that, but in regards to getting our residents switched over? Superintendent Hastings answered so I&I starts with first controlling everything at home base, but then you need to analyze the sewers through sewer inspection. That would be through camera work and I actually have that equipment in this plan and we still can't buy it without your permission because it is expensive. But you perform camera inspections and then you re-grout the areas that all this is infiltrating in and you reline the sewers. I have actually got a grant, it is a \$400,000.00 project and I got a grant for \$100,000.00 on that already. So, while all of this happens in 2018, we will be able to pump in about \$100,000.00 worth of work in grant money. But, after that is done, these increases will finance both the equipment to attack it and the capital funds to improve it. Chairman Cizl clarified that is going to be on the city side, not the residential side. Superintendent Hastings answered right, as everybody pointed out we need to make every effort ourselves before we go to the homeowner and say dig up your yard. We will be able to clearly say we have done this, this and this and now, we are at the last step which is you. Now, we can educate them along the way which I think you brought up and I agree with that over the next year or year and a half through social media and the web page and so forth. Chairman Cizl stated, letting them know that it is coming is my point. Superintendent Hastings added how they can help also. Quite frankly, it helps everybody, not only the utility but also the homeowner that won't flood if we can reduce this water. Everything is in place.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

*Ditch cleanings; Day Ditch by Holl/Shumaker Ditch – north of Richelieu, east side by Buckeye – **None.***

*Pleasantview; access to Lake Road –* Chairman Cizl advised this was brought up last year, any progress on that. Mayor Bring advised we had some conversation with the property owner and we had an agreement and then a local attorney stepped in and nixed that idea. The cost of that went from around \$15,000.00 up to \$100,000.00. So, that is still in the works. We have property over there that Mr. Hastings made a turn around over there and re-graveled just recently, but we are still looking at possibly doing that. When that comes up I will let you guys know what we are doing. We may end up with an executive session on that.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*Lincoln Blvd; nature trail from Oster to Lake Road proposal* - Superintendent Hastings reported I have already submitted it and that is 2 years in advance of it even happening.

*Attempt to re-dedicate Community Road behind Shoreway* – Superintendent Hastings advised just a reminder for the committee of our attempt to look into re-dedicating Community Road behind Shoreway. The city has engaged with engineering to put all the data together and it is something that has a lot of positive benefits that will continue to keep your progress going. I believe the Mayor has in another committee, some development wants to go there which at their expense will simultaneously be done with that study. So, all of that is coming together to improve the Shoreway in the back.

**CITIZEN’S COMMENTARY: 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 February 5, 2018.