

**Minutes of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
September 10, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse Committee was held Monday, September 10, 2018. Chairman Cizl called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

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

Attending: Concerned Citizens

\*Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to accept the minutes of the July 9, 2018 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

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

*4345 Tennyson Ave. in the amount of \$125.65 – (TABLED)*

*610 Kenilworth Ave. in the amount of \$207.00 – (TABLED)*

*877 Community Rd in the amount of \$82.80 – (TABLED)*

\*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to UNTABLE items 1, 2 and 3. Yeas All.

\*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to remove items 1, 2 and 3 as there has been no further action on them. Yeas All.

Superintendent Hastings advised 2 of the 3 when asked to produce documentation, did not do so and paid the bill and have withdrawn. The third one is a vacant property where the water is off and was also told to provide documentation (Kenilworth) and because the water is off it remains in limbo and I told them to refile which they have not done.

*356 Maple Ave; in the amount of \$642.61 – Superintendent Hastings advised this one had documentation on the repairs which were pretty substantial; \$2487.00. \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to approve the credit of \$642.61 for 356 Maple Avenue. Yeas All.*

*4925 Lake Rd., in the amount of \$89.75 – Superintendent Hastings advised this was also verified through a plumbers invoicing and approved. \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to approve the credit of \$89.75 for 4925 Lake Rd. Yeas All.*

*805 Marion St., for the amount of \$272.80 – Superintendent Hastings advised this one was done by the homeowner. However, we were able to verify through our spike and usage on our software and we clearly saw the water running and repaired.*

\*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to approve the credit of \$272.80 for 805 Marion St. Yeas All.

*4980 Lake Rd., in the amount of \$111.29* – Superintendent Hastings advised similar to the prior one, the homeowner simply turned off the spigot. However, we were able to verify on the software with spike and usage to verify it. \*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to approve the credit of \$111.29 for 4980 Lake Rd. Yeas All.

**MAYOR/SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Mayor Bring advised we had talked about the refuse of .96 (96 cents) as we had a meeting with Republic and they want to raise it .96 (96 cents). They are obviously having some issues with the recycling where it is not being bought overseas. This would be a volunteer effort on our part in good faith. Now, we still have a contract for two years and I thought I had said something to you afterwards, but David had made a comment to them for the next contract, if that would be beneficial if we would do this and he said that would be a good possibility. I just thought I would bring this up to you guys and see what your thought process is and let you think about it. We can discuss this at any time, now or later or we can discuss this at Worksession when Mr. Graves will be here. Councilman Wtulich asked so it would be a .96 (96 cents) per month per household increase. Mayor Bring answered, correct. Have you read the papers or seen anything over in Avon, arbitrarily just raised it because they could and it kind of raised a lot of grief over there. But they are losing money in their recycling and the process of selling it now, the grading of what they are selling and what they are able to sell is much more stringent. Chairman Cizl stated I thought when you mentioned it that it was because of recycling, but I thought our contract was expiring in this December. Superintendent Hastings advised 2 years. Mayor Bring explained he wanted us to do it now, asked us. President Rosso clarified, we are talking about doing it now, that is what the Mayor has mentioned. Chairman Cizl stated so amend the current contract is what you are saying. Mayor Bring advised like I said Mr. Graves had mentioned to them in the next contract negotiations whether that would help us. So, I am just bringing it up so we can discuss that and have David have more discussions with them to see what they want to do and they can’t do anything because we have a contract. It is just that we had a meeting with them and they discussed it and then we had another meeting with them and it was worse than what I had anticipated by then. So, a lot of the stuff that they were shipping overseas is not being bought. There is just too much of it and like I said if you looked in the paper about Avon, pizza boxes with grease or different types of bottles that aren’t cleaned is what they are not accepting any of these anymore. The green glass, the brown glass is going totally separate and that is not being bought up. So, basically, the aluminum

and some of the clear glass and some of the paper is being bought but that is about it. Chairman Cizl advised from the news article that I saw that was on Television, I think it was from Avon but I am not positive they were saying because the people aren't sorting it properly at home that it is going to cost them more to do it on-site. Mayor Bring advised that was part of the problem because of the new standards. In the industry, you have a pizza box and you think that is and just throw it in there. But most of the people leave the pizza laying in there and it gets stained full of grease or whatever and that gets kicked out. So, they have to throw that in a scrap bin. You know, you leave a bottle of grape juice or something and you don't clean it out, it gets kicked out. People are throwing things in there, but they are doing what they are supposed to be doing, they are throwing aluminum foil in there and that is a no-no and different types of plastic that are getting kicked out. Councilperson Stark asked has that been communicated? I am trying to think of the last time that was communicated to us what could or could not go in that recyclable bin because maybe that is something that we need to think about doing? Mayor Bring advised that is a good point Leanna and I don't know if that has been said. Superintendent Hastings advised it was in the flyer at inception. We actually have an opportunity through a solid waste grant that I got that will include some advertising in the Avon Lake Press and I can add that to it. Councilperson Stark stated I mean if it helps out and we just throw stuff out and put it in there. Mayor Bring advised I would like to have David Graves explain a lot of that to you. I just wanted you to be aware and I couldn't remember if I mentioned it to you or not and apparently not. Superintendent Hastings advised I thought you did in some meeting. Chairman Cizl clarified so the .96 (96 cents) would be voluntary whenever we determine. Superintendent Hastings advised they asked for October. Chairman Cizl advised we will talk about it at Worksession then.

Superintendent Hastings advised I did have something that may or may not be appropriate for tonight's meeting, which began in Ordinance about the sewer credit applied for 3 months out of the year and Ordinance had sent it to Worksession on the review of it being removed. I can go into detail in advance of Worksession or I can wait until Worksession. Councilman Kovach stated it is sewer credits right? Superintendent Hastings advised essentially the ordinance identifies the 3 months out of year credit for our sewers for customers. I am not sure of the total reason why it was implemented, but I somewhat attribute part of it to the fact that we had a quarterly billing then. So, the residents weren't inundated by a summer's worth of use and then a powerful bill in September when this credit was given. When I did the report that you guys probably remember some time ago at the beginning of this year

for our capital improvement and our rate increase. I identified in the utility that the cost of treating waste water has climbed up \$100,000.00 and then I gave the figures each year from '15, '16 and '17 illustrating that. That credit, although it is designed to ease the burden of people who wash their car or water their lawns and so forth, the real decision of the administration for your consideration to remove is because the cost of treatment of water is so large, it is at \$100,000.00. Now, when we raised the rates, I did account for that to stay on equal ground, but the reality is it impairs our ability to improve I&I. I&I is definitely the cause of this and there are still opportunities for people to save money and one is to pool credits, if they are filling their pool. Those who are steadfast on watering their lawns with sprinklers and so forth, you can get a deduct meter so that there is no sewer charges and you are charged solely for the water you use which a lot of residents have with sprinklers. But that question was brought to me, real quick in 2015 we were running about twenty-one million, four hundred thousand a month. In 2016, twenty-two million, three forty-seven thousand a month and in 2017, it was twenty-three million, four hundred and seven thousand. So, it is climbing a million per month. When you equate that to dollars that went from four hundred and six thousand to five hundred and six thousand over that same 3-year period. So, these are the reasons why and I will certainly will share more in Worksession but because it was questioned I wanted to say that. I would conclude by saying that reducing that would equate to approximately seventeen thousand, two hundred and eighty-seven dollars. That is what we call the consumables area over a 3-month period and I had to use 2017 because we are in the middle of that credit now and should the Council remove it, it would not happen until 2019. But, we would recover approximately seventeen thousand dollars, which if you divide by the number of households divided by the number of credit months equates to \$1.83 per month per house. So, you get about \$6.00, a little under \$6.00 credit on average. That is based on an average home of 7,706 gallons and I would conclude in that as I wrote in this report, our sewer rates are still far below the state average. So, I just wanted to give that and I did take out a couple of pages that kind of summarized everything that I said and I made copies if anybody is interested, to take a look at before Worksession in case they had questions while they consider it. Since it was a sewer credit, I wanted to bring it up this evening. President Rosso advised I have a zillion questions because I am the one that called Pat. A – what I called Pat about was legislation that said, hey people this was done because people would water their lawn, blah, blah, blah and we determined that the majority of that water goes into the sanitary sewer. I said that is not true and there is no way in God's green earth that that is true. If you want to say that we can't afford

the credit anymore because our sewer bill is high, then say that and vote to repeal it. But don't tell the residents that their watering their lawn is going into a sanitary sewer. That was my question to Pat was show me your documentation that says you determined that it was going into the sanitary sewer. I am not saying the voting against it, I am just saying that let's clean it up to where it says we just can't afford it anymore. My other point is who brought this idea forward and made the suggestion? Where did it come from, where did it initiate – this legislation. Mayor Bring stated we just had a staff meeting the other day and I brought it up. President Rosso answered okay, then how come it didn't go to this committee instead of Ordinance. Mayor Bring answered that I can't tell you. President Rosso stated, okay which this is just procedure now. This is water and sewer, it should have never gone to Ordinance and get legislation written up and moved to Worksession without going through this committee. Mayor Bring advised I think Mr. Graves did that accidentally. President Rosso stated well, he isn't here tonight, so I will tell him tomorrow. It should have never gone to Ordinance first and those are my 2 points that I wanted to make clear and if Pat wouldn't have brought it up tonight, I was going to talk to Rosa after the meeting about it. But I called him and said hey, if you want to repeal then repeal it, but don't tell people it is because the water is going in the sanitary. Superintendent Hastings advised I did review my notes and I was very clear at least in my comments that it was to counter the I&I in the city and to your point, somebody did mention their lawns. But I think that the point of that is that the credit is given in part because of that. President Rosso stated I am just saying that let's be honest and upfront. Superintendent Hastings concurred I absolutely want to be honest. President Rosso advised by no stretch of the imagination am I questioning your integrity or that you or the Mayor or anybody in the city have tried to pull a fast one. Let's just do it right and then nobody can complain. Mayor Bring advised Mr. Hastings didn't even hear that comment and I said yes, it was made because he didn't hear it either. Superintendent Hastings stated I have a report summarizing the proof of I&I but the utility will survive if you choose not to, but you know, we have a lot of problems to deal with. President Rosso stated I am not arguing against it, let's just clean it up and say we want to repeal it and take out because we think it is going into the sanitary. Superintendent Hastings advised the account right now is \$78,000.00 in the red. Councilperson Gee advised when it came before Ordinance, it was the first time Ordinance had heard about it or seen it. So, I sent it straight to Worksession. President Rosso answered right, but it never should have been added to the Ordinance agenda. But we will talk about that later as that is just a procedure. It's no big deal, but I just like to do things straight because then I don't have to read about it on the

internet that we are cheaters. Councilman Wtulich asked for this credit, it is \$6.00 per month, it is that only for the 3 months out of the year? Superintendent Hastings answered yes, you receive a 10% credit on your sewer for 3 months out of the year. President Rosso stated it is \$1.83 per month. Superintendent Hastings advised that is what the average is. President Rosso stated so it is about \$6.00 a year. Superintendent Hastings added again, while you consider this, this is a year away. You have plenty of time to consider and talk about it, I have a ton of data. Mayor Bring advised when I mentioned it, the Finance Director almost fell out of her seat and she said I can't believe that we are still doing that. Mayor Bring stated I told her, yes, we have been. The Finance Director then asked why? Mayor Bring stated I told her because that is what we have done and that is why we decided that we are going to have quarterly meetings because we can discuss this kind of stuff because it was totally forgotten about and with what is going on, she is always watching nickels and dimes. Councilman Kovach stated so the gist of the whole thing is the \$17,000.00 or about is going to be used for improvements into the I&I, the repair. Superintendent Hastings answered right. Councilman Kovach stated so exactly what you are saying is that we can no longer afford it as we are going to put it into the system and it doesn't matter where that water was going. Mayor Bring answered, correct and we discussed having the lowest rates and everything else but instead of going okay, well, let's bump it up another 2% or 3%, that was one of my thoughts as we are still giving this credit and then everybody said well, what was that and it is not a lot. President Rosso stated I am not opposed to repealing it, just word it better and do it.

***Pump station's projects*** – Superintendent Hastings advised the Mayor and the contractor's all met this past Friday and signed all the contracts and the manufacturing supplier has ordered them. They are being made in Germany and they are about 8 to 12 weeks out.

***Road paving list*** – Superintendent Hastings advised I owe a phone call to Griffith

***Abbe Road*** – Superintendent Hastings advised Abbe Road will be getting a letter extending our OPWC loan and grant because the state is a little bit behind on the schedule that they gave us 15 months ago. But everything is on track.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

***Ditch cleanings; Day Ditch by Holl/Shumaker Ditch – north of Richelieu, east side by Buckeye*** – Superintendent Hastings advised under \$450,000 grant/retention pond.

***Lincoln Blvd; nature trail from Oster to Lake Road proposal/wetland study*** – Superintendent Hastings advised they will award in the fall.

***Rededication of Community Road behind the Shoreway Shopping Center*** – complete,

**REMOVE.**

*\$450,000 grant* – approved for retention pond and ditch work for Belle, Brockley, Knickerbocker and Holl - Superintendent Hastings advised we have documents from the state that we need to set and I have it scheduled with our engineer, a lot of environmental review and the same things that we go through quite often with endangered species and wetlands and all of that stuff. We will spend half a year getting those studies done.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Councilperson Stark stated I know we haven't gotten the water that they said that we were going to get from this storm, but we are doing okay, no real flooding complaints? Superintendent Hastings advised we had no flooding complaints, it was a very steady rain and all of our pump stations stayed on track. We were proactive that Friday before cleaning catch basins and so forth.

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY:**

***Judy Palka, 843 Robinwood*** stated I wanted to talk about a drain issue as I live on the dead end of Robinwood and there is an open ditch right on the corner of Ferndale and Robinwood and there are 2 sewer drains there. One is ground level and then a little bit further down there is another big grate that is about that far (?) down and it catches everything. I am the one in the neighborhood who is down there with my rake to clean it out. In the fall; there are all these leaves and in the summer; one time I had them come and cut all the weeds down but all that rushes down in that sewer grate. I don't know what you can possibly do about that, but it is for an issue for me because on my side of the street, I am the one that doesn't have a covered dish and the people on up to Ferndale, they have done their own and the one on the end, the big pipe is actually not even down in the ditch. The water has to run uphill in order to get to the open ditch. So, when we get a real heavy rain, all that water goes into my ditch and overflows into the street because it can't drain and I know if my check valve on my sump pump ever goes, I am the one that is going to get all that water. She advised I did have one other thing out of curiosity, I see on Sheffield Road and Maplewood that they are putting in covered ditches in a whole row of homes – is the city doing that, I would like mine covered? It is Sheffield and Maplewood on the west side and there is a whole row of homes that have been covered, like the 700 block and on Sheffield Road also there is a lot of them. Superintendent Hastings advised the storm water utility fee that we all pay on our water bill does go toward putting in pipe, like that. We put in 5000 to 7000 feet a year and a street like Maplewood for example, to get on the road list, it is a chip and seal road then the city needs to improve the drainage. So, while a section of that was on the target list this year at the north end, the south

end or the mid block was not a candidate because the water couldn't get off the road. So, we use those dollars to improve the drainage and then get those roads, higher up on the list for the target list for paving. So, that is why that was done. Mrs. Palka asked how about for me, is there any chance? Superintendent Hastings answered your road is paved, but I just wanted to be clear, are you complaining about the low catch basin? Mrs. Palka answered that is like 2 separate issues I think. The low sewer is because it blocks up, so nobody's I am sure drains even from the far end of the street. It can't get down there. Superintendent Hastings advised well, some of it goes to the Forestlawn Ditch but I will be happy to review it there. Mrs. Palk stated, but also just for myself, I did inquire into hiring somebody and it is \$4000. 00 to have them do it. But then I see all these other homes having... Superintendent Hastings advised the city absolutely re-invest as part of that storm water utility fee, in improving the storm sewer and we typically attach that to road improvements, but if a resident or a block is having drainage issues than that pipe can be used for that as well. So, I would be happy to review it. Mrs. Palk thanked Superintendent Hastings and continued my neighbor, his ditch was not deep enough when he laid his big pipe, it is up quite a bit so the water has to go upward but it impacts my home the most. Superintendent Hastings asked that was probably put in some time ago in your neighbor's yard in the '90's? Mrs. Palka answered maybe, or the early 2000's. Superintendent Hastings answered I would be happy to look into it for you. Mrs. Palka continued also, I know no ones can do anything about that grate being so high, but could you maybe have them come down and clean that out more often. Superintendent Hastings answered yes. Mrs. Palka stated I don't mind doing it while I can but I am 77 and I am the one in the neighborhood that does down there to clean it out.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee,  
\*Motion by Kovach/Second by Wtulich to adjourn at 7:33 PM. Yeas All.

**CLERK OF COMMITTEE AFFIRMATION:** This meeting of the City Committee of the City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio was held and conducted under all Rules and Regulations Governing The Sunshine Laws of the State of Ohio as they may apply. All meetings are recorded and available in Council's Offices.

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CLERK OF COMMITTEE  
*Kay Fantauzzi*

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CHAIRMAN  
*Mark Cizl*

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

*Richard Rosso*

I, Kay Fantauzzi, duly appointed Clerk of Committee certifies this is a true and exact copy of the Minutes of the Roads & Drains Committee of September 10, 2018.