

**Minutes of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
June 3, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse Committee was held Monday, June 3, 2019. Chairman Cizl called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Chairman Cizl, President Rosso, Gee, Kovach, Wtulich, Radeff, Erdei, Stark

Attending: Mayor Bring and Superintendent Hastings

*Motion by Erdei/Second by Gee to accept the minutes of the May 13, 2019 meeting with any corrections noted. Note: Councilperson Gee came into meeting late. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

SEWER CREDITS/UNPAID CHARGES FOR TAX DUPLICATE: None.

MAYOR/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

OLD BUSINESS:

Pump station's projects – Superintendent Hastings stated we just had a punch list agenda this past Friday and so that project is wrapping up. We are still waiting for a cord for a pump station#1, being pump 3 which unfortunately got chewed up in the propeller when they installed them and there is a lot of extra cable so when we had heavy rain, it lifted the cable and it went in. So, that is being replaced brand new at their expense.

Abbe Road/301 – Mayor Bring advised the Gas Company has started over there and will continue that process until they are done. Superintendent Hastings advised we could see activity yet in June. We have had some lining of the sewers on the west end of town. The good thing is with all this rain, I think we had one or two phone calls and that was it. The phone calls that we had are still the same people that have called constantly which they have an issue with their house that they have not corrected. So, the things that we are doing, they are working. The guys have been out there really doing a good job, I am really impressed on how hard they have been working.

Superintendent Hastings reported to the Mayor's point Abbe Road has started where they are lowering about fourteen gas services due to the full depth repair of the project.

Ditch cleanings; Day Ditch by Holl/Shumaker Ditch – north of Richelieu, east side by Buckeye – Superintendent Hastings reported I have gone over the engineering for Day Ditch with our engineer recently and we are shooting for late summer to put that out to bid.

Lincoln Blvd; nature trail from Oster to Lake Road proposal/wetland study – Harris Road – Superintendent Hastings reported Harris Road will be opened up for bids this week on Wednesday and back tracking Harris Road was opened up the bids and that apparent low was Fitch Co who did our Lake Breeze line. So, Harris will open up as well. We added an alternate to put in messaging boards for the general public to navigate the traffic which is going to be admittedly a little challenging. However, this is by far a benefit to the city.

4th Ward sewer relining – Superintendent Hastings reported to the Mayor's point, we have started last Wednesday on the grouting and lining of the sewers and that is about halfway complete.

NEW BUSINESS:

A) Update capital improvement plan for the water/sewer as well as the asset plan.

Goal – Superintendent Hastings advised the capital improvement plan is hinging on a grant that we submitted for Community Road. As you know, Council rededicated that road which opened up fund sources and grant opportunities to put in a new water line that dates back to 1929 as well as redo that road. That is part of the capital improvement plan that I had written and I am trying to see if that makes it to the County Commissioners of which I believe it will the month of June or July. So, I hope to bring that to you. The water rate last increase to start 2019 and so I would definitely like something in front of the Council to consider and all of the public meeting opportunities for people to see. I think small incremental changes has camillid substantial projects. We have already proven it and the Mayor has asked me to give you a presentation of some of the technology that we have and I am still trying to put that together, it is working. When you look at the City of Cleveland recently in the paper or some of our closer neighboring communities, they just at you with \$7 to \$20 in increases so, hopefully we will come at it nominally with manageable increases in a plan. Mayor Bring advised if you look over in Pat's office which used to be one computer screen we now have four and Lisa has two computer screens. It is almost like a little command center there where he is able to watch pump stations and do many other things on those computer screens now. It makes his job a little easier where he can spin around

and look and see everything that is going on right now. Lisa can now have the one screen going and then if someone calls, she gets on the next screen which helps those people out. So, things are improving over there too. Superintendent Hastings added another shot at technology that we are very proud of is the GIS system. We just worked with the Fire Department so now as they flush 635 hydrants, they will interface through I-Pads through it and if there is something wrong with it, it changes color if something is wrong with it. Then we know it is out of service and work towards that which by the way is all required now in asset management and EPA laws. I am pretty proud of the city for that.

B) Superintendent Hastings reported I did have to report unfortunately on our water meters a second instance where the meters in Mariners Watch are crammed into a single pit of four meters. When they were installed back in 2016, if they weren't able to make contact they followed that plumbing as best as they could visually and program the meter to a resident. As you know, this did happen a month or so ago where we discovered it again, we found another. This was a result of the city being proactive by contacting the resident due to our software noticing a leak and she contacted a plumber to find the leak but they could not find the leak. So, after much investigation they started playing with the meters and discovered they were crossed. The value is not a whole lot, it was pretty consistent use between the two which is about \$257.42. I will be working with the Law Director and the Mayor which I have already reached out to both of the folks and will probably do a similar situation. The only catch to this one is that the woman claims that she had spent \$1200.00 in plumbing bills which I am not quite sure how but if she got potentially continuous plumbers continuously looking for leaks it is possible. I wanted to bring it up in a public meeting while we investigate further. Also, recently the City Council passed an increase for Republic Services in a 7 year contract. I had mentioned in some prior meetings the strong interest in growing participation in the leaf project. Originally, I had thought that Republic was going to abandon yard waste pick up but they have since claimed that they will continue that through the contract. That being said, it doesn't alleviate the participation and the response that we have from the residents. We have one truck to put that leaf program together predominately through grants and we really were hoping to piggy-back off of this increase for another leaf trailer. Right now, we have a dedicated leaf trailer that blows it into a truck that has a special box on it because it has to be screened so that the material doesn't implode the truck. In this case, we are researching a piece of equipment that the city had about 25 years ago that is all enclosed trailer with about 20 yards of material and the vac, everything is on it.

Then I could get a second crew out doing that. It is designed to be pulled by two 1-tons back that. One is from the 90's, possibly a 98 and the other one is pretty worn out as well. The plan was to fund the purchase and replacement of those two trucks for a new F550 as well as this trailer vacuum system. The original intention was a one-man operation, two steering wheels to control it by a joy stick which came in at \$180,000.00 which quite frankly you need a lot of dexterity to run them as they are challenging and it is limited. This other option with the two pieces of equipment one of which that truck could obviously be used throughout the year would peel about \$80,000 off of that. Somewhere in that neighborhood, I have to update my quotes. So, to conclude this, the city has a fee that is charged to us per customer that you recently increased and then the city has about a 8% up charge on that for our operational expenses and overhead, the clerks, the mailings, the billing, the calls and all of the operational cost. The mailing alone is \$25,000.00 and so I was hoping to go after that upcharge and get some firm numbers for you to consider. That has not been increased to my recollection for probably 15 years, this upcharge; the cost regardless of whether we go after equipment because overtime we are separating too far our overhead from the cost of doing business. So, that would be by ordinance and right now, the city is authorized just like the water and sewer bill to provide an equal percentage increase as imposed by the supplier for the service or utility. So, that would be a change in ordinance and that is an update on that and I should have that by the next meeting. Councilperson Stark asked where we are putting the gas line on 301, is there a way or how long is that going to take because I noticed when I was coming in west on Walker to cross over 301 they have that up so high that you cannot see around the corner and you are having to pull out into 301 in order to see? Superintendent Hastings advised the process will be a couple of weeks but I will contact their foreman tomorrow and tell them that mobilizing there, the off hours is not smart. Councilperson Stark advised they have dirt that is piled up pretty high and you cannot see around it. Superintendent Hastings confirmed yes, that is already an accident area and we don't want to aggravate it but I will call their foreman tomorrow. Mayor Bring advised the fee for the refuse thing is not going to be that high, it is minimal which I talked to Mr. Rosso about it and with everybody that is participating in the leaf program now it is very difficult for one crew. He advised probably 90% of the calls in the fall are when are they going to get here for my leaves but it gets a little frustrating because we only have one truck. So, we are going to have to do something. President Rosso asked can't we look at the capital improvement and raise that? Superintendent Hastings asked the capital improvement that we renew

every year, capital improvement for refuse or are you talking about the annual loan? President Rosso answered there is a cost on our water bills called the CI line, whatever that we raised a few years ago? Superintendent Hastings answered that is the water/sewer side improvement earmark. There is a capital improvement's which I think is classified annual note that the city brings to Council every year and I know the Finance Director is considering that for the outright purchase and then funding its pay back. So, I am hoping to be in the neighborhood of fifty or sixty cents to do that but those have certain limitations on time. I will have to condense the math so that within five years it is paid. Mayor Bring explained part of the reason why the flooding has subsided is because these leaves are not going into the drain and the guys are going now and Pat has sent the guys out there and started cleaning the drains. One of the guys were commenting on why are we doing this and as he started doing it, he couldn't believe the debris that were in there. So, this is part of the reason why some of the flooding has reduced and we need to continue this process. I hate to say this but it has almost become a necessity to do this and it is part of growing as we move on. You know, trying to fix all of the little things that we have ignored for a long time due to funds and this is actually one of the things we need to do.

Chairman Cizl thanked Mayor Bring and Superintendent Hastings on behalf of Lakewood Beach as the neighbors are no longer complaining about the storm sewer and the garbage can collection as that has been resolved. Superintendent Hastings advised we are still working but we had a hydraulic leak, very condensed on that machine and we wouldn't even recognize it right now. But we do intend to put in more additional pipe as well as final grade. Chairman Cizl stated I see they came right back when they saw it had popped back out of the ground. President Rosso asked you piped the ditch and then covered it. Superintendent Hastings answered yes, sections of it. Mayor Bring advised there was a very sizable swale over there, when we went down and looked at it, I just thought that was the best option was to just fill that in. It was quite wide and deep right there.

Superintendent Hastings added and the road was failing and falling into the ditch which further justified it quite frankly. As a matter of fact, we did another one way up on Ferndale for the same reason. President Rosso pointed out that you run into the issue of the people that have storm sewers are more than likely assessed for them years ago and paid for them and now people are getting storm sewers without paying for them. Mayor Bring stated I think we are going to do more of that to be honest with you because once the storm water utility fee will be paid for I think in 2021, we are going to continue that process. Yes, some people did pay

for it but it is like the tuition that the billionaire's paid for and all these people are saying why didn't you pay for the rest of everybody else's. There is only so much that you can do. We are going to continue that process because it is a good idea and seems to be keeping that water flow better. It is just like Mr. Hastings stated we look at the roads because that is one of the big things where we had swales. If you remember Walker Road which was just failing tremendously and had those big ditches on either side there. So, it does help so we are going to, as soon as this is paid off we are going to borrow and use that utility money to do that. That is another thing that is way overdue. Superintendent Hastings advised it is probably worth noting that the storm water utility fee does provide the utility some maintenance dollars, so we actually install a couple thousand feet a year of this pipe. We determine that based on a) we are going to putting new asphalt down, b) if the homeowner's complaint much like a resident came here concerning Robinwood last November and when we reviewed it all that many properties were affected. As soon as, we do that I get a call immediately that I want my yard filled. Well, if it is a single request then most likely it is denied. However, if it impacts half a block or better than we do it and the Lakewood Beach case did impact half a block. We did Buckeye this year already, substantial; 700 feet. We did sections of Robinwood. So, to your point we don't just pick and choose, we try to get it as a group and storm water does afford about \$30,000.00 a year in material. Chairman Cizl advised unbeknownst to me, our issue was the mandate of the garbage cans on one side of the street and I didn't know that you had this resolve and maybe that is why there are no more complaints. Councilperson Gee stated the storm water utility has in it that allows maintenance, what about the leaves which is part of storm water utility. Is there anyway part of that could be used? Superintendent Hastings asked to fund the equipment? Well, the money is tight because of the debt service which the Mayor mentioned but over time it would free up but it wouldn't free us up until 2021. So, in addition to the debt service, it pays for employee's salary and benefits and again, we squeak out about \$30,000 in material. So, I would have to forego the very projects that we are talking about to fund it. So, not quite yet. But it would certainly fall under that if it was free but it is just not free yet.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to adjourn at 7:30 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 COMMITTEE

Kay Fantauzzi

CHAIRMAN

Mark Cizl

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 June 3, 2019.