

**Minutes of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
January 4, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse Committee was held Monday, January 5, 2021. Councilman Wtulich called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Wtulich, Rosso, Stark, Kovach, Gee, Cizl, Radeff, Erdei, Superintendent Hastings.

Attending: Citizens.

Absent: Mayor Bring.

*Motion by Gee/Second by Erdei to accept the minutes of the November 2, 2020 meeting with any corrections noted. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

SEWER CREDITS/UNPAID CHARGES FOR TAX DUPLICATE:

854 Howell St. requesting a credit of \$263.84. After a brief review:

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to approve the request. Yeas All.

MAYOR/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Superintendent Hastings reports the city is going to reengage with the water tower study at Ferndale. It would start with the hydraulic study of the system to determine the necessity for a tower, and if so, where it would be located in our water system. That will start this month. We started the day with a pretty substantial water break. We came in at 7am and noticed the charges showed substantial pressure loss. Within about 20 min. we were able to find a leak on the wooded property behind Amber Oaks. Unfortunately, it probably ran for several hours. It did impact Amber Oaks because they have a basement. We did repair it. We had to cut out a section of the watermain and replace it. We have a 24-hour boil alert for a small block of Treadway between Richelieu and Lake Rd. We are continuing to work on Lake Rd. including the culverts. Some of that includes the right of way acquisition. We had a substantial snowfall, over a foot of snow. We went through just under 200 tons of salt. Member Gee asks how many men were out during the snowstorm and what vehicles? Superintendent Hastings replies at the strongest point we had 4 trucks running. We do about a 15-hour shift for two men, but I would bring in two more to overlap them for about 6 hours. Our longest truck ran a total of 40 hours. We had six pieces of equipment at any given time. We had one hydraulic leak which is not bad considering. All streets were done twice within 36 hours. Member Erdei asks is that spillway by Jordan's completed now? Superintendent

Hastings replies yes, the storm sewer bypass is complete. Member Stark asks concerning water bills: I know there are still backups with the mail, if it continues, are we going to do what we did in December and push it back a couple days?

Superintendent Hastings replies it has been very challenging. Several hundred residents still have not received their bill from December. We shipped January's bill last week. I did a project with brochures, over \$6,000 in direct mailers to 3,400 residents with all of our garbage, water and public safety information. Those were mailed December 3 and are gone; I haven't even been able to trace them. So, while we continue to experience this, we have waived all the fees. We have done our best to notify everyone that they can go online and see and pay their bill. The office is also available from 8:30-4:30. Member Stark asks is there a fee to pay online?

Superintendent Hastings replies the new service does not have a fee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lincoln Blvd; nature trail from Oster to Lake Road proposal/wetland study-

Superintendent Hastings reports I am waiting for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to approve this. It includes a site visit, and they are terribly backed up due to Covid.

Member Gee states there is a gentleman at 232 Gayle Dr. that had issues with one of our plows pulling up asphalt off the road. I did not see any plow going that low, but I wanted to make you aware. He was highly upset on social media. Superintendent Hastings replies he did not contact the city. One of the workers shared the video briefly with me. The city has snow wheels on our equipment that were very expensive. They save the wear on the blade. Some cities choose to drop them directly down, double the blades and then they replace blades 6-10 times a season. We make this investment in the wheels and only change blades 1-2 times a season. Those wheels keep it up about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch. Due to the irregularities in the road, yes, we certainly can pull up a patch here and there.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY: *Chuck Nowak, 335 Maple Ave.* states I sent pictures to everyone of my flooding problem. It effects the north side of my house. It is so wet there that I am lucky if I can get the lawnmower back there before July. It effects the neighbor to the south of me as well. There is a ditch there, but it is all blocked up the last 100 feet going to Buckeye. I am looking to get it cleaned out, trenched and into the Buckeye drainage. That should alleviate a lot of the problems. It abuts the old Lake Erie railroad. My lots are all cleaned out and nice, but underwater. Chairman Wtulich asks is that private property back there? Mr. Nowak replies I own it, up to Hawthorne. Shows council the lots on a map. Superintendent Hastings states originally, I visited this property May 3, 2016. I toured it and have my own pictures from that day. At the time, we looked at the water on Hawthorne and the water on your own property swales. I had explained that the city would happily tap the storm

sewer in front of your house to run that water, on your property, to that. It never came to fruition. When you visited 6 months ago and provided the maps, I told you that because it being summer, the trees prohibited the city from cutting them down. I said I would visit it again in the winter months which is where we are now. I am concerned that it is forested wetlands. Initially, I offered assistance to the public storm sewer out front which would require some effort on your part to move the water. Mr. Nowak replies I would almost have to pump it out of there. Right now, the ditch goes all the way back to the railroad bend, down Hawthorne, we can't get to the (inaudible). Superintendent Hastings replies I will revisit it. I certainly want to help. (Inaudible) Williams, 4059 Tennyson Ave., states I have lived here since Sept. 2001. The lady I bought from had her washer and dryer on crates in the basement. It was like 6 in. off the ground and I never really questioned it. She said occasionally, we get a little water in the basement. That was a big lie. I pump the basement out at least once a year. I don't believe our sewer system and water drainage is sufficient to hold it from backflowing into my house. A neighbor told me have a backflow put it, well it blew hers out 2 years ago. There was so much pressure, that's what she said. I know when they built this, it came from the north end to come down the north side and it flows right by us to the main street. It's too much for our drainage system to handle. I'm paying the price for it. I have gone through 2 furnaces, 6 washers and dryers and 2 water heaters in twenty years. Something has to be done. When it gets too much, it backflows into our basements. I'm just sick of it. Superintendent Hastings asks have you called me about this? Mr. Williams replies the last time I complained was in 2017 and I spoke to the mayor. Superintendent Hastings replies I'll be happy to give you my card so we can talk later. Is the water coming from a sanitary line, like a floor drain? Mr. Williams replies half the time it's water and half the time sewage and water. Superintendent Hastings asks with the latest rain event, did you have a problem? Mr. Williams replies yes. President Rosso asks where does it flow to, Howell? Superintendent Hastings responds the problem I believe, is the sanitary sewage, the combined sewage. The forest main at the bottom of the hill in Jordan's dip, runs so much head pressure that Lake Breeze and those lines can't get out. Mr. Williams states when we get over 1.75in. straight, I guarantee it's coming in my basement. Superintendent Hastings replies I am familiar with Mrs. McCullough's event, although I don't think it was a blow out due to reverse pressure. I would be happy to talk to you further. Mr. Williams says we do not have correct drainage on our street. Superintendent Hastings replies admittingly, that has been like that for a long time. I may be able to address that. Mr. Williams asks we have a big grant, don't we? To rebuild this stuff, the sewer systems? Superintendent Hastings replies we did just redo all the pump stations, about \$1.4 million. President Rosso responds to be clear, there is no grant to do all the sanitary sewer lines in the city. The grant was strictly for the stations. Superintendent Hastings says the position of the city was to

repair and make all of our pumping stations first, those had dated equipment. We have done that. The next step is to pursue and stop the cross connections in the city; the thousands of sump pumps and footer drains that are going illegally into the sanitary system. Unfortunately, that takes a little grit by the city. Once you identify a property, you have to remediate your problem. You have a certain timeline and then are fined if you don't meet it. Council and administration even has the authority to send us on the property to do the work and then put a lean on the property. It's a very delicate thing to do.

Robert Mackrell, 4063 Tennyson Ave., states I have lived here 4 ½ years and my basement has flooded 27 times. Friday night we did not get 2 in. of rain, yet our basements flooded again. 11:30 that night, I heard the basement drain gurgling and went downstairs. There was between 4-6in. of water. (shows pictures). I have had a plumber come out and snake my lines and clear them, send a camera in to see. My lines are good. It's not stormwater, it's stinky sewer water. I have a professional company come in and clean it, which is what the Ohio EPA recommends. It costs between \$2,700-6,000 five times a year. I need something done about this. I own ozone machines at the cost of \$4,000 a machine, just to kill the smell. Something has to be done. I spent \$700 this morning to replace the motherboard on my furnace because of the problem. This is the third one. I've never dealt with this problem in any other city. President Rosso asks do you ever get rainwater in your basement? Mr. Mackrell replies absolutely. When it's raining heavy in spring/summer, I can take a toy boat at the corner of Howell and Tennyson, set it in the water, and that boat will end up in my basement. That is a separate issue than the stinky water that gets into my basement. President Rosso says in the last few years we replaced the stormwater line from the corner of Tennyson north on Howell to Lake Rd. on both sides. The stormwater should flow pretty good. Mr. Mackrell says it does, right into my basement. President Rosso states there is a storm sewer on the north side of Tennyson and Howell where Mr. Shoemaker lives. That was done in the last 5-6 years. Superintendent Hastings says I think you are midblock and there may not be anything there. Mr. Mackrell replies I measured it Friday night and it forms a 110 ft. long puddle that is 6 ft. wide and 4-6in. deep, in the middle of the road. The water doesn't go anywhere. I have left messages on three separate occasions and have not gotten a response. Every time my basement floods, I run out to see if you guys are working on anything and that flashing red light is always on. Superintendent Hastings responds the flashing red light means we are in high alarm; the flow is higher than normal. Do you have a check valve? Mr. Mackrell replies I do not, I am looking at having one put in. What can be done about this? Superintendent Hastings replies we can definitely improve the storm sewer issue potentially still this winter by moving some projects around. There are alternatives on either side, both at Howell and Lake Breeze. I would like to research the sewer a little bit more. I didn't know these issues were this

profound, I apologize. Mr. Mackrell states I sent out a sample today to see what exactly is being put into my basement. I will volunteer my own equipment and crews of guys that will help out. We will donate our time, diesel, etc.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Erdei to adjourn at 7:37 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

Brandy Randolph

I, Brandy Randolph, duly appointed Clerk of Committee certifies this is a true and exact copy of the Minutes of the Roads & Drains Committee of January 4, 2021.

CHAIRMAN

William Wtulich Jr.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Richard Rosso