

**Minutes of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
May 3, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse Committee was held Monday, May 3, 2021. Councilman Wtulich called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

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

Attending: None.

Excused: None.

*Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to accept the minutes of the April 5, 2021 meeting with any corrections noted. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

SEWER CREDITS/UNPAID CHARGES FOR TAX DUPLICATE: 610

Robinwood Ave. requesting a credit of \$446.20. After a brief review, Superintendent Hastings recommends approval.

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

MAYOR/SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Superintendent Hastings reports the Lorain County Commissioners have requested shovel ready projects in advance of any potential stimulus money that they might administer. Typically, the state filters that down through various programs. Our list will include projects such as the traffic light at 301, replacement and upgrade to LED as well as Walker Rd. refurbishing. As far as Walker Rd., the administration is considering application for that project to OPWC. That would be milling and resurfacing between Avon Lake and Abbe., but continuing the project west to Maple, improving the road and potentially carrying the storm and sewer lines to Maple as well. Projects for Lake Rd. including resurfacing and culvert replacements at about \$2.5 million dollars is on track. We are wrapping up easement acquisitions for the culvert portion near Elm and Lafayette. We submitted the funding on Alameda. It is to create a model to replace the water lines in the center of the town and it would include replacement of driveway culverts, new waterline and new road. I have annual bids tallied and this week will be sending out the awards. That will be followed up with a schedule. The apparent low is Karvo Paving which is a highway contractor. I am working with the law director on the

purchase of a sewer camera. It is on a state bid but exceeds \$50,000 so will need council's consideration.

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Superintendent Hastings reports this does require ODNR to do a site visit and they are in this section of Ohio the next few weeks, so we are hopeful to get them on the list. We hope to put the project out to bid by the end of May, with construction late June, early July. Chairman Wtulich asks with the trail, wasn't there someone we needed to hire for that? Superintendent Hastings replies at one point we needed to hire a wetlands environmentalist, which we done, and all the reports have been submitted to Buffalo. Mayor Bring says that was different, the EPA wanted a water control person on our staff. We haven't heard anything else. Superintendent Hastings responds the EPA constantly inundates with requirements of the city. Currently we have an operator of record in the water dept. which is fulfilled by Tom Erwin and myself. He does primarily the record keeping, and I do correspondence and asset management. That is now filtering out into sanitary sewage where they want to have an operator of record. It is not law yet; it is still in limbo. Councilman Erdei asks if there is any news on the water tower. Superintendent Hastings replies it is being studied to see if it can be refurbished which would save the city substantial money. Concurrently, we are doing a hydraulic study of the system for the feasibility of whether we even need a water tank in the city. If the idea is pressure alone then arguably you do not. T-Mobile will be mobilizing a crane at the water tower and changing some of their equipment on the tank. I did advise them we are doing studies and may take it down, but they still wanted to move forward. Mayor Bring states as Pat continues to change these water lines out, I think a long time ago I brought in a piece of water pipe to show everybody what the corrosion looked like, by doing what we are doing and putting that plastic pipe in, the tuberculation has decreased so our water is staying at a more constant level of pressure. This will help in case of a fire and in people's homes, etc. Member Radeff asks Alameda is a model for water and sewer lines? Superintendent Hastings replies water and road, sewer will be addressed through our internal programs, like these cameras. Typically, when you do sewer relining/refurbishing, you are capturing 6-8 blocks at a time because of the mobilization and cost. Member Stark asks Avon Lake is putting a traffic circle in at Miller and Lake, do we know when they are doing it? Mayor Bring replies it is still a study. Member Cizl asks how are we doing on the late water bills? Superintendent Hastings responds very well. We devised a series of payment plans and the first round is caught up and completely current. We have two more groups. We have had to shut off some water now and again, but 99% of the cases are there within the hour paying. Member Erdei asks is there anything on the street sweeper? Superintendent Hastings replies there was a demo recently in Sheffield Village, but my schedule

conflicted with it. I reached out to the company and asked we schedule it late May/early June. It is an invaluable tool. Member Gee asks is there any follow up on the corner of Alameda and Ferndale with the odor? Superintendent Hastings replies we thoroughly cleaned the lines and catch basins today.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY: David Rarick, 4840 Northwood Dr. states there are some issues. The first is the sewer. When I first moved to Sheffield Lake, I'm at the end of the road and there were willow trees on the city's property. These trees are notorious for roots and they plug up my sewer constantly. I snaked it and paid contractors to come do it. I replaced it myself with Mr. Gardner's help. It worked for 20 years, now 6 years ago I started having problems again. I had Rotor Router come clean my drain and that lasted a week and a half. I then called Mr. Rooter and they cleaned it out. That lasted 4-5 days. They put a camera in my sewer. I told them Mr. Gardner told me to save money, I didn't need to put in a 6in. line. He advised me to use 4in and advised me I couldn't break into the cleanout because I'm not a licensed plumber. I put the sewer in, and the city came and inspected it. After I had replaced the new sewer for over \$6,000, they noted on the bill that there is an issue with the cleanout. Mr. Hastings always sends someone to unplug the cleanout. It's been 6 years and they tried fixing it by putting hydraulic cement on the bottom. Your sewers for most houses go directly into the sewer pipe, mine goes into the cleanout. My sewage does make it through the cleanout, but it doesn't go the extra 1 1/2 ft. in a circle to go into the main sewer. The city comes and takes the sewer cap off and takes a shovel to push the toilet paper buildup into the sewer line and it drains. The sewage isn't even making it to the sewage pipe, it's all in the cleanout. I would like to have this taken care of. If my kids ever go to sell this house, they have to disclose there is an issue here that the sewer does not work properly. This devalues my property. Mr. Hastings has tried to fix it, but it is not fixed. The city came and inspected it. I should not have to replace my sewer again, I already did. Superintendent Hastings states I am familiar with it. The cleanout he is referring to is a main manhole. The city replaced and restructured that manhole. There is some confusion on the inspection you said you had. I don't know who did it and it's not recorded. When the water dept. does it, it is memorialized on an index card. Mr. Rarick asks well then why wasn't this? Superintendent Hastings responds I am not sure. An inspection usually refers to the materials being used, and the connections being used compliant with our codes. They do not go out and set lasers up and check grades, etc., that is why you pay a contractor. We are there every month and I just inspected the entire line from Irving Park all the way to your house to see any imperfections and trying to solve the problem. I am afraid the portion of this problem lies in the way your sewer was laid. Mr. Rarick replies when I put my sewer in, the city inspected and checked it with a 6ft. level. Any plumber knows you have to have pitch on the pipe. Superintendent

Hastings replies I am looking solely at the responsibility of the city and the main manhole and lines. We clean them and extract the paper. Mr. Rarick asks well it isn't working, is it? Whenever it rains, I can hear the gurgling. It's probably the illegal hookups going down that line and backflushing into my sewer. Superintendent Hastings responds that also contributes to the problem unfortunately. Mr. Rarick states if my line went into that sewer line, it would work. Superintendent Hastings states I still haven't given up on the problem. I recently put a camera down the whole line, and I'm just not 100% convinced that it is all the city's problem to solve. Mr. Rarick says I came to the city to inspect my sewer line and make sure it was properly put in so it would function. They flushed the toilets and the city worker said it works. Now all of a sudden, it's not your responsibility. Mayor Bring replies we are getting a new camera and we will check it out for you. Mr. Rarick says that is #1, #2 is the trees. I no longer have problems with the willow trees. However, one did fall on my house after I had a brand-new roof put on. My insurance agent let Mr. Gardner know, ok, this was an act of God. But, if another tree comes in the house, it's on you. Mr. Gardner took the other 2 willow trees down and I haven't had a problem since. Now there is something killing all the ash trees and I have another tree next to my house. It fell on my house last November. I just got done with \$26,000 worth of remodeling, now I have a tree in my roof, the side of the house is damaged, etc. President Rosso asks but your insurance paid that, right? Mr. Rarick responds the city paid the deductible. President Rosso asks when? Mr. Rarick replies last November. Superintendent Hastings says the mayor authorized us to pay that deductible. The problem with the removal of the trees is I have environmentalists there and a wetland study and the habitat of these birds, I am not allowed to cut them down. President Rosso states I am just saying if I was you, I would be very happy with our mayor. I would not have authorized paying anyone's deductible. Mr. Rarick states it is your tree. President Rosso responds if it was your neighbor's tree and it fell on your house, it is your responsibility, not the neighbor's. That is how insurance works. Chairman Wtulich asks when the nature trail gets done, some of those trees will be taken out, correct? Superintendent Hastings replies yes. Chairman Wtulich asks there are 12-13 streets going through the knolls, so there are 13 houses in that same spot, are you having any problems in any other houses? Superintendent Hastings replies no. Mr. Rarick says my neighbor across the street, her fence was damaged, and she had to spend \$600 to get it fixed. A month and a half later, another tree fell. She said to heck with it, why fix up my property. There is a 2-year-old girl that lives behind me and is always playing in the yard, if a tree comes down, you aren't responsible? President Rosso replies no, that is the law. Member Erdei says I had a big branch fall on my roof from my neighbor and my insurance man said it's your property and you fix your own roof. Member Radeff states I wanted to make sure everything on the city's end was taken care of before he spends more money. I have had extensive talks with Pat.

He has spent a significant amount of money and I don't want to discourage him from adding to the property, which is why I recommended he come speak on it. Chairman Wtulich asks so when you do the trail, all that will be cleared out of there, the trees, etc.? Superintendent Hastings replies not all the trees, but the ones for the trail and a handful that residents have requested. Member Gee asks you still have more research to do before you determined the issue with the sewer line as to what percentage may fall into his issue? Superintendent Hastings responds the issue is I have recently inspected the entire mainline and rebuilt it based in the threshold. There may be some merit in moving it down and not into a manhole. Mr. Rarick says I think when Shannon worked on it, if he would have had an electrical sweeping 90, and built it up as a canal and trenched it up so it went towards there, directed the waste into the main sewer, the problem wouldn't be here. Now it is basically flat. So, now I fill up that cleanout and it can only take so much and then it empties. Member Gee asks since the most recent work, has there been another issue? Superintendent Hastings replies this work was done a while ago, there has been no recent work, but we still go and inspect it and quite often remove a lot of paper. There is a very definitive pitch when you put a sewer in. The sanitary sewer, you can't put it too steep or level. You said Mr. Gardner suggested you go down to 4 and then you increased it back up to 6 when you had the latest job? Mr. Rarick replies yeah, they said the problem was maybe I didn't have a big enough pipe. I replaced it.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,
*Motion by Stark/Second by Erdei to adjourn at 7:42 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 May 3, 2021.

CHAIRMAN

William Wtulich Jr.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Richard Rosso