

**Minutes of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
September 11, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse Committee was held Monday, September 11, 2023. Chairman Wtulich called the meeting to order at 7:20pm.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Wtulich, Rosso, Stark, Kovach, Shaw, Gee, Cizl, Radeff, Service Director Hastings.
Attending: Residents.
Excused: Mayor Bring.

*Motion by Kovach/Second by Cizl to accept the minutes of the July 10, 2023 meeting with any corrections noted. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

SEWER CREDITS/UNPAID CHARGES FOR TAX DUPLICATE:

4675 Edgewater Dr. requesting a sewer credit of \$165.75. After a brief review by Service Director Hastings, *Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to approve the credit for 4675 Edgewater Dr.

937 Stark St. requesting a sewer credit of \$852.48. After a brief review by Service Director Hastings, *Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to approve the sewer credit for 937 Stark St. Yeas All.

4205 Lake Rd. requesting a sewer credit of \$449.92. After a brief review by Service Director Hastings, *Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to approve the credit for 4205 Lake Rd.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

MAYOR/SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Service Director Hastings reports we opened up bids for Warwick Dr. and we did receive 5 bids for the project. The apparent low right now went to Buckeye at \$613,401. That is for the 900 block that starts at Forestlawn. In coordination with other utilities, Columbia Gas would like to take advantage of the construction and replace their lines which are also original to the development. We have agreed to let this project extend into spring of next year. Today I submitted changes to our Alameda Phase 2 which I am still trying to get a quarter million dollar grant for. Total cost of \$618,000. I received a letter today addressed to the Roads & Drains Committee from a property owner on Kenilworth Ave. at the dead end who had a concern about the narrow street conditions and talked about his mailbox being run over and a delivery truck hitting a rock in the city right

of way. He requested the committee address the concerns on what he measured at only being 14ft. wide down there. That road does terminate asphalt and switches to gravel. I will check it out. We did have some substantial rain that impacted a lot of residents. I did ask that they email me so that we could compile a list on that hopes that collectively throughout Lorain County, we could pursue funds through FEMA. Unfortunately, the initial response from them is that a disaster typically is not declared when the primary damage is flooded basements, because insurance is traditionally used for that. They look more for the city literally being under feet of water like New Orleans after hurricane Katrina. There are some services available primarily kind of devoted to the seniors/disabled. We are continuing to update that list. The city had 7 sinkholes develop from that and are currently working in that. We were responding to people with drainage issues such as Dunny Ave. and Sunset Ave. We had a 48in storm sewer repaired on the Pasadena line. I have the list of the problem areas and an itemized list of about 70 residents who experienced some kind of flooding. Chairman Wtulich asks the gas lines on Warwick, do those run under the sidewalk? Service Director Hastings replies typically they are on the same side as the watermain and not under the sidewalk, but very close. Right behind the fire hydrants. Member Cizl says thank you for all your work on Warwick Dr. I was curious since it's a dead-end street, how would they typically handle a large project like that for traffic? Service Director Hastings replies typically if there is an excavation through the road, they will have steel plates on the road. Member Cizl asks the cone at the intersection of Forestlawn and Warwick, is that from a sinkhole? Service Director Hastings replies I think that is a compromised lid, I will look into it. We had a sinkhole develop in a property right next to the boat launch and that turned out to be a land tile from when it was farmed. The pipes haven't been active for decades. When we do jobs today, we fill abandoned pipes with LSM, low strength mortar, so you don't have these decades down the line. Member Shaw asks regarding Lake Rd. from 3870 to 4070, in speaking with residents there, they have had some major flooding issues anytime it rains. Are there any plans to address that type of flooding? They aren't asking the city to fix it all, they are just asking the city to give them options to tie in their lines so their yards don't flood. There was a house that had standing water in it for almost 8 weeks. Nothing is draining. I think 4-5 storm drains have either collapsed, sunk or have holes big enough I could crawl into. This has been this way for months. Did the mayor send anyone out 2-3 months ago? Service Director Hastings replies yes, at that time the complaint was 3 properties on Lafayette and 3910 Lake Rd. We are aware of it and the problem in that area is there is a 10in. line that is sporadic. We have cleaned it on our access points. The goal would be to put another access point there. Unidentified audience member says that is what we are asking for, something we could at least pump to. All the water off Lake Rd. puddles in my driveway. Unidentified audience members talking back and forth with the

service director about their flooding issues. President Rosso asks you said they vacated a road, Pat? Service Director Hastings replies yeah. President Rosso says when you vacate the road, the property goes to the property owners, so the city doesn't own it anymore.

Audience members give their name and addresses.

Amelia Walters, 3918 East Lake Rd., Elizabeth Carter, 705 East Dr., Jeff Paul, 3910 Lake Rd.

Service Director Hastings states the limitation that I have is essentially you're asking us to go on private property. However, I did walk it with the idea that say we get some kind of agreement together, we have to talk about vegetation, etc. and we are talking about a substantial expense. I don't know the answer of whether the city should get involved, whether the neighborhood goes collectively, etc. I think the front I can address. We have put two drains in within the last 6-8 months. Unidentified member says there are 16 houses on Lake Rd. that do not have access to drainage. Service Director Hastings says with State Route 6, the plans I have are from 1929. They really don't have a lot of access points, they never did. President Rosso asks audience members: to clarify, your concern is you want to know if you can put a yard drain in and connect it to the city storm sewer? Mr. Paul says if we can connect to anything, even a yard drain to pump to. Short discussion about storm and flooding. Member Shaw says I did some quick math and just the houses on the south side of Lake Rd. pay a little over \$55,000 a year in property taxes. I understand not all of that goes to the city, but that's a lot of money over how long it has been flooding, not counting the north side. Short back and forth about flooding and what to do. Mrs. Walters says I came to the meeting on July 10th and was told someone would be there and have communicated with Mr. Hastings several times. On August 25th, I had Chris from Wise Choice come to give me a quote to do a cement drain and tie into the city. We were here the day after that huge flood and were told we were allowed to tie into the city. Chris can not get anyone to give him a cost for a permit. We also had Black River Drains give us a quote. Again, no one will give them a call back from the city. They came in here and there was a gentleman sitting here and three women and I was looking for Mr. Hastings. Service Director Hastings states I do not issue those permits. Did you see me when I came in the backyard, I waved to you and I have photos? Mrs. Walters replies I didn't see you. Mrs. Walters describes the flooding in her lawn. Lengthy discussion about process and infrastructure. Member Gee says on the city web page is the building dept.'s email. Send an email with exactly what you want permit wise and cost. Service Director Hastings says you can copy me on it and I'll see it. If there is a delay, I'll intervene. A discussion about how to proceed and things that can be done is had. Chairman Wtulich asks the problem on Holl, you said was the box culverts, can you go over that again? Service Director Hastings replies that is a FEMA flood zone. The city did spend \$450,000 and cleaned out from

Ferndale all the way to the railroad tracks. Underneath every one of those roads is the original construction of a box culvert that is the size of a desk. Chairman Wtulich asks but we had no mechanical problems? Service Director Hastings responds none. Terri McDaniel, 4621 Edgewater Dr. asks have there been any studies done as far as our water table? My daughter works for the federal government and tracks water pollution, etc. When I got hit with the flood, I had 6.5ft of water in my basement. My daughter said at this point in time because of the water table, we are going to be a flood zone and continue having issues. I wonder what we are going to be dealing with. These storms aren't going to stop. Service Director Hastings says the studies that you speak of are handled through FEMA and we have a couple areas that are identified as flood zones. With local engineering, we don't do a lot on the water table to my knowledge. We don't have in house engineering. Member Stark asks the ditch between Erieview and Lake Rd., where we cleaned out and were having issues with homeowners, it is overgrown and with this last storm, the people with basements on the south side of Erieview flooded again. I didn't know if we could get in there and clean that out. Service Director Hastings replies it is not a defined easement. It is private property. It is in the law director's office right now on do we pursue an implied easement, etc. Member Shaw asks are there any repercussions or anything we can pursue with the county to come together to address all the water flooding everything? Mayor Bring replies I mentioned that when the Ford plant went in and we made sure they had a retention pond, etc. We also have all the development down past French Creek Rd. and all those houses, while they do have retention ponds, all that water is coming our way. I mentioned it years ago to Mayor Hunter and Mayor Zilka. Service Director Hastings says the regionalization you are talking about is being addressed on the sanitary level right now, not the stormwater level. Mayor Bring says the EPA doesn't want us to put anymore sewage out on the lake, but that's the only way it's stops everything, it's gotta be pumped out. We have brand new pumps that cost \$1.1 million dollars and they work great, but if they can't handle what's going into them, it doesn't matter how big the pumps are.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Member Shaw says Mr. Hastings I know you said you put out there for anybody to email you about what is going on, who is that put out to? I found out because Councilwoman Gee put it on Facebook that it would be emailed out to everybody. That's also how I found out the mayor was getting dumpsters. There needs to be some communication in events like this. Can we try to get everything to everybody? Mayor Bring replies with the dumpsters, we put it on Facebook and the city website. We can't go door to door. Member Shaw says maybe just an email to all of council so we can tell everybody. Member Gee says I got the info off the city's website. I also attended the county commissioner's meeting and stood up and yelled

about the flooding. I drove every street in the city and got pictures. Service Director Hastings says I received that email on a Friday after 5pm and I knew that people would at least read social media. President Rosso says I will come up with a plan that I run through council clerk and she will get the initial stuff and send it to all of us. To Pat's point, if it is sent at 6pm on a Friday evening, I don't know if we will get it or not, but let me work on the process.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY: *Ray Erne, 532 Treadway Blvd.* states three years ago I invested in putting a new house in Sheffield Lake and the basement flooded last week. The street has flooded three times so far this year. My sump pump can not pump the water out to the drains; the drains are backing up. I have a sink hole across the street and it looks like the drain is failing. My wife called about the dumpsters and was told there were none available. I would like to know when will that drain be fixed? Service Director Hastings replies they were there today. There was an obstruction in there, so we hydro excavated it. Service Director Hastings describes the pipes and work done on Treadway. Mr. Erne asks is there a reason the water is coming up from the storm sewer in front of the park? Mayor Bring asks Shell Cove? Service Director Hastings replies that's sanitary, it's infiltration.

Tammy Asire, 648 Maplewood Ave. says I feel bad for the people that have flooded and I'm going to say something that may not be real popular. I understand that the old pipes, everything we are trying to drain into, is 10in. diameter. In front of my house we have open ditches, they are deep and wide. We watched during this last storm as the water came up in our ditches and flattened out because the ditch is wide. On our section of Maplewood, the water never even got up to the road. 2 houses north, it goes into a 10in. pipe. and guess what? All the water that's laying in the ditch and spreading out is not flooding our basements or yards. I understand having closed ditches is pretty. Ms. Asire describes the ditch on front of her house. Service Director Hastings says there is a capacity advantage to what you're saying. The pipes we put in; we try to focus on where they are heading to an outfall as well. We just did Dunny and Lafayette. You need an appropriate outfall and we are trying to accommodate that. President Rosso says well maintained ditches really do good. Unfortunately, most of the residents are not good neighbors and won't clean their ditch. It is their responsibility to clean that ditch. You do a fantastic job, but if the person next to you doesn't clean it, it is going to back up more and more. The problem isn't so much that we put pipe in, it's you can't get the residents to maintain their ditches. If the city didn't do what it's doing today, we would be in even worse shape. Unidentified audience member asks can you fine them? President Rosso responds you can, it takes 60 days and then they fight it and still don't do it.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,
*Motion by Kovach/Second by Stark to adjourn at 8:08 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 Sept. 11, 2023.

CHAIRMAN

William Wtulich Jr.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Richard Rosso