

**Minutes of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
February 2, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse Committee was held Monday, February 2, 2026. Chairman DeBottis called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Rosso, Kovach, DeBottis, Petrucci, Gee, Cizl, Morrow, Service Director Hastings.

Attending: Citizens.

Excused: Fogel, Mayor Radeff

*Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the minutes of the January 5, 2026 meeting with any corrections noted. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

SEWER CREDITS/UNPAID CHARGES FOR TAX DUPLICATE:

-545 Irving Park Blvd. requesting a sewer credit in the amount of \$1,091.48.

Service Director Hastings states the leak did in fact go down the drain. It was in the bathroom. A similar situation to 712 East. Dr. That did make it down the toilet in that case. The first one was into the tub area. When they filled out the form, I explained the process to them. For both of them, since it was treated sewage, I would recommend the board denies the credits. *Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to deny the sewer credit at 545 Irving Park Blvd. in the amount of \$1,091.48. Member Morrow says I don't like that if they would tell a lie, that they would be able to get the entire thing wiped off. If they are telling us the truth, I think the truth should have value. While it may not give them the entire credit off, I would look at potentially giving them half off for telling the truth. I don't think we should reward somebody coming forward and saying that it didn't go down the drain, if it in fact did. They're coming forward, they're being truthful. So, I just know if I was in their position, I would want something. President Rosso states it's not a matter of truth or not being truthful. Even if this was valid, the service dept. will go out and verify where that water went. So, it wasn't just a matter that they would call and say, oh, it really didn't go down the drain, it went here or there. The service dept. actually goes and verifies where that water went. The city's paying 100% of that, or, let me rephrase that; that sewage is going to get paid, and if we gave half, the city's going to pay half of somebody else's sewage. I just want to say, it's not like they could have come in and said, oh, it went in the backyard. The

city has to go there and they have to prove where that water went. Just trying to clarify for what it's worth. Member Cizl asks when they do the investigation, they pretty much can tell what caused the leak, because it has to be repaired. I don't look at the application, yes or no. I mean, what caused the leak, where did it go? I would assume between the city and the repair, we can find that out. Member Petrucci says again, I would like to say this went on for 5 months. It started in July of 2025 and went through November of 2025. 5 months of very large water bills that should have alerted them to do something. So, I'm sympathetic to the amount that they have to pay, but there needs to be some accountability on their part. Member Morrow asks I just wanted to know if that were the case, somebody went out there and looked at it, and that was on a report, then why did we have you reach out and call again if somebody already confirmed where the water had went? Service Director Hastings responds that's because in most situations the utility is involved. So, when somebody circumvents, like the service dept. being involved and works strictly with the clerks, it's very easy to do the math behind what they're saying. I mean, what they're implying is 69,000 gallons of water went everywhere except for the drain. So, clearly it went down the drain. I think the residents are a little confused, maybe, in that. I'm not sure. But, in most situations, as some of your colleagues have said, the dept. is involved and knows what's going on. Member Morrow replies I'm just saying that prior to you calling them, we probably didn't have a service dept. person go out and inspect anything, correct? Service Director Hastings responds correct. Member Morrow says again, what I'm saying is that there's the potential to reward someone that's lying. Let's just say that, for instance, if I would, I'm not going to, but if I would call up and say, hey, if you really want that discount, you've got to tell them that none of the water went in there, and, you know, then they could lie on the report and maybe get an entire discount. So, I guess I don't like the system the way that it is, that it could be misused. I guess that's where I'm at. Service Director Hastings replies I do appreciate your comments. I could tell you that we're in the industry, so when we see those repair tickets and receipts, which you have to have those to even get past our tier one, clearly, we can tell a difference between a three-quarter-inch copper failing in the yard or a hose busting. Once it goes inside and we see that, it's pretty difficult to not be honest. What can happen, and I think happened here, is they didn't understand the nature of a sewer credit, and the nature simply is this. If it went down that sewer, it's part of the \$97,000 bill that we get at the end of the month, and the utility wouldn't be able to afford covering these. President Rosso says the reason why we didn't act on this in January, because nobody had a chance to go out there and investigate it yet. So, if these would have been turned in with enough time for the service dept. to get out there and investigate, we would have had this information in January. Member Morrow says your (Service Director Hastings) call was the only difference between our last meeting and this one. You didn't go

out to their house to inspect or anything. I think there should be like a standard for investigation at some point, but I don't want to address that now. Chairman DeBottis asks the service director to tell him the process. Service Director Hastings replies they call the clerks and they'll describe that they had a leak and if the clerks determine that it has the possibility of a sewer application, a credit, then they'll have them fill it out. In most situations, the utility service crews are involved, because predominantly it's a break in the yard or around valves and hoses outside and we go verify that. If they don't, then I call them. The service crew goes to verify. Then I ensure that the application has receipts to prove what they're saying and then it goes to Brandy and I give you a report like I just did this evening. Member Gee says A red flag from me the very first time I saw this was they replaced the toilet fill valve. When I replaced ours, that was inside our toilet tank. So, it's obvious if they had to replace that, they had a leak inside their toilet tank. That definitely goes down the drain. Chairman DeBottis says in the 2 years that these have come before me, I think this is the very first one that we've even recommended to deny. So, I think that we take them very seriously obviously and we look at all our options. Service Director Hastings states in most situations that should have been stopped by the clerks. They very well might have been given a little bit of running around. I don't know. I don't want to speculate. The checks and balances stopped where it needs to be stopped and that's in front of this committee. Member Morrow says if a bill runs up this high, you could have by a ne'er do well individual, they might have had a leak in their toilet tank and they got that fixed, but in order to get the credit maybe they go out and bust off their hose outlet for the outside which is only a \$25-30 repair and say it froze and broke and all the water ran outside. Then they could get the \$1,000 credit. This system has a tendency to reward people that don't tell the truth. Service Director Hastings replies we have a good understanding of the water system. I mean if your faith in our resident is low like that... Member Morrow replies I'm not saying that, there's bad action in every bunch. Service Director Hastings replies that's the impression I get. In my career, I haven't really encountered anybody being deceptive about it, just maybe not understanding it. Which is the case here. I think it's beneficial that it's discussed in front of an entire committee.

ROLL CALL: Kovach, DeBottis, Petrucci, Gee, Cizl, Morrow. Yeas All.

-712 East Dr. requesting a sewer credit in the amount of \$733.58. *Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to deny the credit at 712 East Dr. in the amount of \$733.28. ROLL CALL: Kovach, DeBottis, Petrucci, Gee, Cizl, Morrow. Yeas All.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

MAYOR/SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Service Director Hastings reports I wanted to advise the committee that the project on Walker Rd., which is the replacement of gas mains in advance of our road rehabilitation and sidewalks, has been paused due to weather, and we're looking at about a 2–3-week delay on that. At this time, it doesn't seem to be impacting our spring schedule to start. I am scheduled to open bids for phase five of the lakefront connectivity at the end of the week. West Dr. stalled briefly because of the winter as well. However, they are scheduled to mobilize this week and continue at least storm sewer upgrades. I wasn't sure if you wanted to use my report to discuss the sanitation, the refuse. I know Mr. Givens made it today. I did get some questions from Clerk of Council Brandy, so I'm not sure how the committee wanted to do it. The only questions I received was actually from you (Chairman DeBottis). It was regarding the Better Business Bureau, which is a customer-based metric. The idea of a Better Business Bureau, low-ranking, you had said, you know, why? I think he'd be able to talk about different accreditations that they have, but Better Business Bureau is a customer-based metric, so the idea of that is when a consumer writes about that, the company is to respond to that, and failure to respond to an individual consumer complaint automatically ranks you poorly. Just from my research, I think Republic has 13 million customers, so I doubt they have a staff that answers Better Business Bureau. Chairman DeBottis says so what I looked up is the BBB just for Ohio, not all the other states that you do business in. So, I guess the first question that I had is it said you're not accredited with them, and then you have an F rating in all the counties in Ohio. So, I just want to know if you could explain that, please. Dan Givens, Republic Services responds in the service industry where we're basically classified as a utility, the Better Business Bureau was something that we don't get involved with, nor do we track. Our score itself is in the industry, it's called NPS, Net Promoter Score. Our local area, which services your community, is really moving into the world-class category. Our numbers are up every year, we're focusing on that every year with regards to how we deal with responses, how we deal with customers, how we deal with their billing issues. So, the BBB is based upon really complaints, it's a complaint-driven process that only takes care of those people that go through the process to the BBB. When you're looking at large organizations, and I kind of crafted a written response, because I got this late in the day, I mean I was literally walking out the door. Questions have been raised and brought to my attention with regards to the relevance of the BBB ratings when evaluating large national waste service providers such as ourselves. It's important to place these ratings in the proper context overall. For companies providing essential rock-based services such as solid waste and recycling, the BBB ratings are not generally considered a primary indicator of service quality or contract performance. Large haulers serve millions of customers across hundreds of jurisdictions, which naturally results in a higher volume of complaints being recorded, at a state or national level. These complaints often relate to billing issues, service schedule changes, or customer service interactions, rather than systemic failures of the contractual obligations. In immunity procurement and contract oversight, performance is typically

measured through objective criteria, such as the route reliability, the response time to miss collections, compliance with contract terms, regulatory compliance, financial capacity, etc. The BBB ratings are not commonly used to score criteria in requests for proposals and are not determined in awarding contracts. While the BBB feedback may provide general insight into consumer sentiment, it should be viewed as supplemental information only and weighed alongside all the verifiable data that we provide. When it comes to providing services to a community, we are servicing overall the mayor, the service director, etc., and most of the time your residents, are calling that individual or that office and then we're reacting accordingly. We have a goal that when somebody turns in a service complaint or a service issue, to have a response to them within 24 hours, and that's with regards to a service request. Billing issues may take longer if you have to get numerous people involved or people in different states involved. I guess this is the first time any community has brought up the BBB to me just because it's something that normally we don't get involved with. Chairman DeBottis asks do you get contact from them? It says that there was a failure to respond and complaints were not resolved. Mr. Givens replies the BBB gets a complaint and they send it to you, to the corporate office. There's plenty of times where with another organization, I would get it 3 months later. We have hundreds of customer service staff representatives on hand to deal with these complaints on a regular basis. It's a matter of us being aware of it. My experience is always that people are going to the BBB once they're just unhappy, disgruntled, and they want to dig their heels in and create more chaos. Chairman DeBottis asks consumer affairs, their ratings? Mr. Givens responds once again, something I don't know. Chairman DeBottis says just to clarify, because I said this was a big number. So, out of 1,964 reviews, you're a 1.2. This is for 41 states. There are a quite a few for Ohio. The bulk of the low ratings were within the last 6 months. So, I had a little bit of a concern there. Mr. Given replies I guess in that regard, you as elected officials, have you gotten these inordinate numbers of complaints from your constituents with regards to our service? I mean, you're the first line of defense with regards to those types of issues. I can't comment on a blind number that you're telling me. I can't respond to that. I can only respond to, you know, you call up and say, Mrs. Rabinowitz said, you know at 17th and Maine we didn't pick her thing up. Then I would hurry up and get with my ops supervisor to make sure that we picked it up. That's what we are very good at and that's what we're, responsive to. That type of data that you are talking to me about, I can't explain. I sit down with every service director, every mayor, council members, when they call up and try and address the individual actions that happened that week, that month, to rectify it. We talk to the route supervisor, we talk to the drivers when it occurs, so that we can rectify it and solve those problems. For the Elyria business unit, which is the one that's servicing your community, our ratings have never been higher, because the GM and the leadership there feels it's most important. They don't want those phone calls. Chairman DeBottis asks where he can find that rating. Mr. Givens replies it's an internal system that we have. I can get you some information. Member Gee says we have a council person that's absent tonight. The

only thing he was interested in this contract was to see if instead of listing 4 items, if you could list a dimension also. My question tonight is more directed at council. Roads and Drains meeting, June 2nd, 2025, Roads and Drains, July 7th, 2025, Roads and Drains, October 6th, 2025, Roads and Drains, November 3rd, 2025, Council meeting, November 25th, 2025, which all current council people were in attendance at that meeting and Roads and Drains, December 1st, 2025. All those meetings, this contract was mentioned and was discussed. Chairman DeBottis says some of your cities, they offer a pickup for disabled seniors. They call it the backdoor program. Is it possible to get that here without an increase? Mr. Givens replies we offer that to all communities. We ask that the resident call into our customer service dept., explain what the situation is. We evaluate what the request is for, and then we determine to provide that service. The most difficult part of that service is having your driver remember that he's supposed to pick up 1336 W. 25th Street on a random basis to go in the backyard or whatever it be to get it. We have standardized rules with how far back a can can be or can't be; 350 ft. off the roadway, etc. We work with communities and for those individual residents all the time. You can't just be a senior citizen to get that service. You have to have a special need. They would contact our 1-800 number and start the process. Member Morrow says I had tremendously great service from you guys, from any other trash hauler that I've ever worked with or have had in the world. So, I want to preface that by saying I did have one instance where you guys missed me. I called support, they said that they would get somebody right out. They never got somebody out. Then I called back and they just kept on putting me to voicemail. Unfortunate, but a large company, you'll have things like that happen. You'll have things slip through the channel. I've seen a few things online now. There was a post that was on the Sheffield Lake Buzz on Facebook of supposedly a driver flipping off a house from a Ring camera. I can't prove who that is or not. All I have is a word that it was a driver. I've never experienced that. President Rosso asks did you get a follow up from the lady that posted that saying that the driver came back, they talked, it was a total misunderstanding and she was actually going to call into the office to make sure he did not get in any trouble. Mr. Given says we saw the complaint and had the driver go back and address it with whatever transpired. I know there was a large pile of debris that they were cleaning up. I don't know exactly what happened. I saw the follow up post where she said that basically there was an error. She's happy now. Member Morrow says the second question that I have in the contract is, and I sent you an email I believe on Saturday about this because I didn't get done talking to one of my lawyer friends and he was saying that the, I forget how it's worded in the contract, about the, for our community center, for City Hall here, that those containers can't be put on there as no charge. That the city operations can't be dispersed or put on to the city residents and I didn't know if you've had that type of experience or not. I've read the Ohio Revised Code, obviously I'm not a lawyer, but it does say for that like, let's just say that we owned electricity utility and we wanted to pay for a field house with the electricity utility, by charging a little more on that electricity utility, they say no, that's not legal by Ohio law,

which I found out this weekend. So, is this something that is done commonly because they're like, that's a big no-no to put no applicable charge for the city operations. Mr. Givens replies I did receive your email, didn't know that it was addressed specifically to me, it was me and the law director and everybody else. That's specifically for your law director to address. All I can tell you is there's plenty of communities all over the place that conduct business this way. Service Director Hastings asks just so I understand a little clearer, are you saying that if they offer it at no fee for the benefit of the public service or our service, that that is questionable? I'm just trying to understand. Member Morrow replies no, if they offer it to the residents, the way it was explained to me, our fee on our water bill is for residential service. So, as long as it's residential service, it can be charged to the residents. If it's not residential service and its containers that's sitting here, that's not residential. So, that's what they're saying is that that's not legal to put into the water bill for that unless ordinance is passed and a separate rider is put onto the water bill. I do want to say I like your service. I've had no problem with it. You guys have always been very professional. Mr. Given says since we are creating this area of judgment with regards to the company, we are rated on numerous levels. We're a nationally traded company. The company itself has been awarded by Fortune Magazine as one of the most admired companies. We've got certifications that 83% of public employees rate it as a great place to work, which says a lot. As well as the Atmosphere Institute rated us as one of the world's most ethical companies. So, we try and do everything above board. In this instance when we're talking about the contract that's before you, historically, people such as myself who are meeting with the communities, you can't negotiate a contract on the floor of council. You negotiate with representatives of the city so that we can hear their concerns. I can take them back. We can talk. It's a lengthy process to get to this point. The proposal that is on the table has come to you after months of that discussion. We've gotten to the point where the parties involved on your end and the parties involved on my end finally felt that they had a package to put together that made sense for all parties involved. I believe, based upon the data that you presented last week, that I've also sent to the service director, that we're showing you that you are getting a good value for the dollar for your residents. Member Gee says I don't remember who on council, but someone had brought up Avon Lake. I checked with Avon Lake. I got all their printouts. They're part of the Lorain County Consortium and we are not. Service Director Hastings replies no, it's a \$5,000 application fee. Member Gee says that being said, their prices were not that much different than ours and there were things that are extra on their current contract. I also called other communities that were mentioned. I have to say, if someone wants to do their research, they're going to realize the contract Mr. Givens and Mr. Hastings worked together, really is not a bad contract. We're still getting bulk every week on it and most of us up here remember when it was once a month. This is a blessing. Chairman DeBottis asks let's say this gets approved, bulk's gonna change, how do we notify the residents? I guess, do we have a plan to make sure that this runs smoothly and say, here's what we've negotiated,

here's our new contract? Mr. Givens replies this doesn't take effect immediately. You have the ability to put notes on your utility bill. They're going to look at their utility bill every month. Service Director Hastings says the other language was suggested 4 item limit. So, we have been suggesting and pushing that home for the last many years. Many occasions I'll stop at a resident's home when they have a little larger than normal pile, explain the process. Sometimes I offer to call the route manager and see if we can get them to return. Sometimes I offer to assist. To answer your question, we've been trying to do that anyway. I think predominantly the customer base knows that it's suggested at 4. If the route supervisor, as I explained in my presentation last week, he stops by my office 3, 4-5 times a day. We'll just continue to work with him in addition to, as Mr. Givens suggested, posting it on our bill. I'd like to comment on Mrs. Gee speaking on behalf of Mr. Fogel. When you define an area as opposed to a bulk limit, it sets up for these smaller items that should otherwise go in a can anyway. I think a lot of us know that our history has all of our ditches strewn with garbage. That has changed. It's not nonexistent, but it has improved greatly. I'm fearful that if we define an area that, you know, somebody's ability to drop these small items, which should otherwise go in a can, could become problematic. Member Morrow says this is on behalf of Aden; When I talked to him in discussing about that, he was worried that if somebody put a couch out, well, we've got 3 cushions, and then the couch itself, is that 4 items? That's what he worried about, was is that someone would say, hey, that's 4 items instead of 1 item. I think having like a thing where furniture plus its cushions or dressers plus their drawers, appliances, are each 1 is considered 1 item. Or if you guys consider them 4 items, then it should be considered 4 items and stuff. I think it's a heck of a value that you do offer. I've never been to another community that has as much for the for the trash pickup, even 4 items once a month. I think that's a heck of a heck of a deal.

OLD BUSINESS: Member Gee says I sent out an email and you were one of the people I sent it to and the building inspector answered, no one else has answered. Question #3 on it, could something be arranged with the service dept. that those cited? This is for property maintenance. Can those cited use a dumpster free for that incident? If so, could that be included in the first warning that they get? The building inspector responded there is a fee scheduled located in code 965.07 for using the city's dumpsters. You most likely would have to have this revision approved through council. Before I even went to ordinance in regards to this, I wanted to get your feedback at this meeting. Service Director Hastings responds as I tried to explain, because I was able to manage the garbage coming in from our communities, I actually didn't charge people. So, in the scenario you're saying I would have waived the fee. I never thought it was prudent to charge a resident when that container came at no cost to the city. I just I panicked a little bit when it was broadcast come one,

come all. Within days they're driving around and contaminating my dumpsters. I think that'll control again very quickly and we'll be able to accommodate that.

NEW BUSINESS: Water failure relief ordinance: Member Morrow states my idea here for this was to empower the service director to make decisions that are underneath a certain dollar amount with a threshold that if it were to surpass a certain threshold, then we're made aware of it and then we can say, okay, everyone else passes threshold, then we can approve it or not approve it just to help to streamline, make things faster for the residents and not necessarily have to get us involved in every sewer credit, especially if the sewer credits are, just say a hundred bucks here, a hundred bucks there. When it comes to the larger ones, then, yeah, I think that we should have a say so in it. I was putting it out there to make things faster, give a little more authority to Pat to make decisions. President Rosso says I believe we talked about that in work session and as far as changing the ordinance, we weren't going to change anything. We didn't want the service director making a call regarding money. That should be council's decision. Plus, it puts them in a tough spot. What came out of that discussion was if Pat could check with the software company that collects the information for our water bills, and if they could provide a notice, we could pick a time, once a week, every day, anything that shows this residence has had continuous water usage for the last 48 hours. Then we could reach out, because that's got to be a limited number, I would think. Or some criteria that identifies this potential leak, and we could go to them instead of them waiting 4 months. Service Director Hastings responds as I think I did explain, we tried a pilot program where we pumped out letters because of intermittent or continuous use, and there were about 200 of them. 85-90% of them were justifiable, and so what it created was all these unnecessary phone calls from power washing to extra laundry, have company over, etc. I did want to report that what we do as far as continuous use is put a door hanger on the door to call the utility. I guess the question would be frequency. So, we do it maybe every third week because we have very strict deadlines in the water dept. There are 2 girls. I guess the thing would be frequency. Right now, we're doing it about every 3 weeks. President Rosso says I have a hard time shedding any tears or concerns about 3 weeks is a lot shorter than 5 months, so they should be getting notified that there's something going on, and maybe these people that went with these credits got it and ignored it or something. But, I mean, if it's 3 weeks, I don't have a problem with that. Service Director Hastings says I have had people share with me quite a few, and this is more in the lines of, hey, I've got a break in my front yard, a very clear decision for the board and myself on the credit. But it's a \$6,000 bill, and they scramble to put the money together, they drag their feet, and they're 3 months down the line. Short discussion about how it's checked. Chairman DeBottis asks do we have the ability with the system that we have where we can get a text? It bypasses the girls in the office? It bypasses you. They sign up

online and as soon as there's any type of whatever fluctuation, they get a text, and they can go online and check it themselves, relieving the city and the service dept. of any duty. If that is the case, do you know what the charge would be, if it's possible, if residents want to sign up for that? Service Director Hastings replies I believe our software does allow a greater consumer interface. It will cost more. I know that the utility can't afford to eat that cost because I'm trying to replace a 100-year-old system, but I can be happy to get firm numbers. It's just a tight budget. I mean, when the city just recently passed the capital improvements, it's \$184,000 a year. I have it tapped out. Chairman DeBottis asks and if we pass that cost onto the resident, what does it take to implement it? Service Director Hastings replies the implementation, aside from an IT setup, is probably not much at all. I'm sure they could accommodate it quickly. It's the maintenance. I'm not a computer guy, but I would believe it would be the maintenance, the updating of it, the firewalls, etc. Those are the fees you pay for. Chairman DeBottis asks I'm assuming that this would be whatever the cost is, and we would probably have to have so many people even be interested to offset whatever it's going to initially cost, correct? Service Director Hastings replies correct. Our automated metering interface and collector, etc., that carries a \$15,000 a year cost. I mean, it's expensive. Member Gee says let's all remember the text messages that everybody thought everyone wanted. It finally just stopped being used completely, because nobody bothered to sign up for it, other than council members. Member Morrow I know in some of the communities that I've lived in before, in order to pay your water bill, if you paid it in person or you had to have a statement mailed out to you, they would charge anywhere from \$2 to \$5. If you paid it online, you didn't have to pay that fee. So, you saved a lot in postage and somebody would have to stuff the envelopes and everything like that. They also would collect text and e-mails just so that if they wanted an alert, that you had the ability to give them an alert, and they would advertise that on the website. Now, I've been told that it's only like 1% to 2% of people ever sign up for that after they have a problem that costs them \$1,000. Then they do end up signing up for something like that. Part of the contingency of if you don't sign up for that, well, then you may not, if you apply for getting a credit for, you know, a break in your line or something, it's not that much. The other thing too was is that some of the places created like a little fund that was set aside. So, if somebody had water line break in their front yard, the city would actually offer a program which would be a reduced amount to come in, use their backhoe, dig up the line in the front yard, cap it off so that it wasn't just leaking for months. Then it was much cheaper for them to get it fixed from there on out. I didn't know if any of those have been thought about or in the past have done them in the past or not. Service Director Hastings responds as far as the last one, are you implying that when you say the city would go in and cap it off? I mean, we have the ability to shut it off. Or when you say cap it, do you mean like do the repair? Member Morrow replies in one city where I lived, Midland, Texas. Yeah, they did that, but that was

a very rich city. Service Director Hastings states I have 4 men and they do both water and sewer. There are third party companies, I get mail myself from time to time where you can buy an insurance program for your gas line, your water line. Member Morrow says I wonder if that's something we could partner with and put on the water bill. Service Director Hastings replies they have. It's been a while, but I have had them try to work with the city. A lot of times, they still charge us, which I think has turned me away. I could look into it again. It would be very challenging for our in-house to do it. I would be nervous about the insurance and liabilities once they left that right of way. Brief back and forth about some of the companies.

Expanding road dept. capabilities: Member Morrow says I just have wondered if you've ever looked at that or joining like a joint maintenance district or forming a joint maintenance district with a neighboring community. I've seen that down south where cities are much larger and much more sprawled out where they have joint maintenance facilities. So, they essentially have a 7-8-man crew that can actually put in the road themselves rather than having to bid it out. That saves them a lot of money over bidding it out due to the difference between prevailing wage and what union rate is. Service Director Hastings responds I have one shining example, and that was on Oster Rd. where we connected with the village. We still have to hire out the trucking to bring that volume or allow trucks that aren't that big. So, that's only one example and that's because half of the road is in Sheffield Lake and half is in the village. I did some quick research on equipment costs, and immediately it's like oof. Even the manpower is at half a million. We're crippled by our size really.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY: *Brandon McDonald, 849 Sunset Ave.* Business agent with Teamsters Local. (inaudible) We're not stewards; I'm on -site at the company. That's what I was at Republic Services when I worked there. I've heard great things when speaking about the workers that we have there. We have 300 members that work at Republic Services. They live in our communities. They service our communities. They are union members. None of the other trash haulers in this area are union. Kimble, that services Avon Lake with the higher costs that they pay for extra bulk. Rumpke, out of, I think, Twinsburg, also non-union and that's it. That's it in this area. So, we look forward to continue servicing this area and living amongst us. The only issues that we usually have is people don't wrap their mattresses or they don't wrap their couches. I mean, I get it. You could have the cleanest house in the world. We don't know that. Bed bugs are a thing. We don't want to take them to our homes. So, that's the only issue that normally we see. I mean, I scrolled through Facebook while I was sitting back there. The last negative comment I saw on Facebook on our Sheffield Lake community page for Republic Services was on February 24th. We

provide a great service. We look to make our customers happy. I mean, that's the nature of the beast. Sometimes we don't always do that, but we're all human. That's just how it is. I appreciate your time.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee, *Motion by Cizl/Second by Kovach to adjourn at 8:05PM. 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

CHAIRMAN
Romolo DeBottis

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 Feb. 2, 2026.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL
Richard Rosso