

**Minutes of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
October 7, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse Committee was held Monday, October 7, 2024. Chairman Wtulich called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Wtulich, Stark, DeBottis, Kovach, Gee, Service Director Hastings.

Attending: None.

Excused: Rosso, Petrucci, Cizl, Mayor Radeff.

\*Motion by Gee/Second by DeBottis to accept the minutes of the Sept. 9, 2024 meeting with any corrections noted. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**SEWER CREDITS/UNPAID CHARGES FOR TAX DUPLICATE: 765**

Lafayette Blvd Dr. requesting a sewer credit of \$28.80. After a brief discussion/review by Service Director Hastings, approval recommended. \*Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to approve the sewer credit at 765 Lafayette Blvd. in the amount of \$28.80. Yeas All.

953 Stark St. requesting a sewer credit of \$374.40. After a brief discussion/review by Service Director Hastings, approval recommended. \*Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to approve the sewer credit at 953 Stark St. in the amount of \$374.40. Yeas All.

**PRESENTATIONS:** None.

**MAYOR/SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Service Director Hastings reports contractors are mobilized on Forestlawn Ditch. The first phase is Oster Rd./Harris to Idlewood Ave. The second phase includes lowering the water main there. Another major ditch project is Shumaker Ditch. That hasn't been surveyed in over 100 years, so we are working with Network Title to identify, it is private parcels throughout, so we are identifying all of that and we do have some survey work underway. We have Alameda phase two under design, which is the 700 block. That includes a new water line, new road, improvements to drainage and improvements to sanitary man holes. We just met with Community Development who is the funding source of that grant and we explained we hoped to have design done by November and the project bid by the end of the year. If the weather is favorable, we may even see mobilization in February/March. Another water line we are considering replacing is on Park Dr. That is a 4in. main on a dead end, which is

not recommended anymore; today's standards are minimum of 6in. We have had some troubles with it through the years. When the city did the project of the lot of Lafayette and Lake Rd. box culverts, I actually had the water main brought underneath Lake Rd. with valves in place for a future project being Park Dr. Now that the city has acquired the easement, I will pursue funding for the replacement of that water line. Another water line we are working on right now is with the OVI. The 103<sup>rd</sup> OVI approached the city this summer and they produced some minutes of their board meetings as well as some minutes of the village council at the time. The Village of Sheffield Lake in 1927 involved all of Sheffield Lake and all of Sheffield Village. Researching back, while we are able to see and acknowledge that the village council at the time drafted an ordinance that once they built the water line, that they would take on responsibility and directed the mayor to formalize an easement and an agreement. That to our knowledge does not exist. While we recognize that their board and the village council at the time discussed this, there was nothing recorded. To protect the interest of the OVI, they did consult an attorney who has been in contact with our law director. Our initial discussion, which I pursued, was to get field work and a design for this water line replacement with the idea that maybe the city and the OVI could share those costs. That is still being negotiated. We recently received the quotes and it's about \$22,000. If we are successful on pursuing that, I will draft a grant application to the Water Supply Revolving Loan Account administered by the Ohio EPA and that might have potential of principal forgiveness. The water tower project I've been working on for some time is kind of contingent on our ability to move T-Mobile's equipment off our existing water tower so I can tear it down and then the city would erect a new water tower. We do have a lease with a telecommunications company who is a private company and I do have plans for that pole, but I haven't heard much from them as of late. I have the quotes for the design of the water tower and the civil engineering involved with it. The design is at about \$113,000. That is the actual tank, the hydraulics and the pumps. Then we have another civil engineering design that would involve the topography of the land and the geo technical side of it. That came in at about \$75,000. The city has all of this money earmarked in the budget. The problem I discovered is while the money is there, it is not appropriated. I'm not sure we will pursue that this year or attack it in 2025. We are gearing up for leaf season, but that is kind of contingent on the weather. There have been some residents at 3910-3918 Lake Rd. who have frequented our meetings about a drain on Lake Rd. and we were finally able to start that job today. Member DeBottis asks do you know what the total cost would be to replace those lines at the OVI? Service Director Hastings replies I don't. That is part of the \$22,000 fieldwork and design. I would need that cost estimate to pursue water supply funds from the Ohio EPA. Member DeBottis asks we get our water from Avon Lake? Service Director Hastings replies yes. Member DeBottis asks you must know how

much volume we buy from them? Service Director Hastings replies yes. Member DeBottis asks how close does that match up to what we use? Service Director Hastings responds what you are getting at is what I call lost water revenue. Does all of the water that we meter at the city limit reflect in every meter of the city? The answer is no. Before we changed our meters out, our lost water revenue was at 11%. We changed the meters out and then I instituted a program where they listen to our entire water system annually to determine leaks. When they find these leaks, we dig them up and fix them. So, we have reduced our lost water revenue down to about 4%. We then use those savings to start replacing water mains in the city. Short discussion about water loss/correction. Member Stark asks the ditch that is between Hawthorne and Lake, is there a way we can clean that out a little bit? Service Director Hastings replies we did try and when we mobilized, we were told to leave. That's another example of the city not identifying an easement and we don't have the easement rights to go there. I can reaffirm that with the law director. Chairman Wtulich asks have you talked anymore about what we need to do to open the culverts going down Sheffield? Service Director Hastings responds admittedly, I haven't done research on the cost of actual replacement. What I did do, was reach out to engineering on the hydraulic study on Day Ditch from 2020. I'll get back on that and report to this committee next month. Member DeBottis asks at Jordan's Dip, that's a pump house there? Service Director Hastings replies yeah. Member DeBottis asks can you tell me how does that function? Sometimes it automatically kicks on, sometimes it's off. What does it do exactly? Service Director Hastings replies all the sewage in the city is running north to Lake Rd. and then it's gravity fed. So, when you start at our Avon Lake border, it's at its highest elevation and then it makes its way down about three stories to pump station #3 at Shell Cove Park and then those pumps through a series of floats, so the computer senses as that water rises and turns the pumps on and off. I have variable frequency drive pumps meaning they are almost always turning to some degree. So, at pump station three, they pump that back up to the surface (within 3ft. underground) and that comes out somewhere about Bi-Rite. Then it is gravity fed again down about three stories until you get to Jordan's Dip and then again, it's pumping that water through a series of floats and pumps it up the hill to just past Risko's and then it begins to descend again gravity flow all the way to Devonshire to the final pump station. Then that runs through two force mains to the City of Lorain. Member DeBottis asks is there anything as far as we get overwhelmed where that dumps out somewhere? That's probably not even possible, is it? Service Director Hastings replies in theory, there are overflows that would get into Lake Erie. All lakefront communities have that and of course the EPA discourages it. If it gets bad, you have to report it. Our pumps are powerful enough to handle most of these events. The real problem is when you have all these heavy rains and all of that water is running in. We do have the capacity to send that all to Lorain for treatment, but as

you know our sewer bill is beginning to climb and climb because the City of Lorain is tasked with treating all that water. Short discussion about rates/treatment. Member DeBottis asks Jordan's Dip, that's where those ditches that Mr. Wtulich said all drain down there? Service Director Hastings replies yes. Member DeBottis asks is there anyway to install a pump to where when that gets overwhelmed, to keep pumping out into Lake Erie? When we get these bad storms and rains and there is a north wind, is that actually pushing that water back up instead of it going out into the lake? Is there anyway to put a pump there to turn on in bad storms to keep moving that water out of the ditch and constantly into Lake Erie? Service Director Hastings replies you would start by saying is the box culvert that is 6ft. wide and 6ft. tall at full capacity blowing out into Lake Erie and being obstructed? The reality is no. Even in those heaviest of rains and water rising, that box culvert has never reached capacity. I think the greater answer is increasing the size of the box culverts that affect every one of those streets.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Member Gee asks the water leak today, could you fill us in?

Service Director Hastings replies we have water surfacing on Warwick Dr. in the 900 block. We have shutoff certain valves trying to determine where it is coming from. At one point, the water stopped, so we attributed it to the flushing program of the fire dept. Several days later, we saw it again. We have a company coming out that uses technology to pinpoint that. We also had some activity on the sewers where a resident had a blockage and thought maybe when we moved the fire hydrant 7 years ago, we did something to his lateral or maybe a street post. After some investigative camera work, it's tree roots unfortunately. So, the city is going to clean our main line in that area. The other major project I was on was on Lake Rd. where we had dug in and tapped the main sewer line to help that flooding.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY:** None.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee,

\*Motion by Kovach/Second by DeBottis to adjourn at 7:32 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*

---

CHAIRMAN

*William Wtulich Jr.*

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 Oct. 7, 2024.

---

**PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**  
*Richard Rosso*