

**Minutes of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
September 9, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Roads, Drains, Water, Sewer & Refuse Committee was held Monday, September 9, 2024. Chairman Wtulich called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Wtulich, DeBottis, Kovach, Petrucci, Gee, Cizl, Mayor Radeff, Service Director Hastings.  
Attending: None.  
Excused: Rosso, Stark.

\*Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to accept the minutes of the July 1, 2023 meeting with any corrections noted. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**SEWER CREDITS/UNPAID CHARGES FOR TAX DUPLICATE:** 431 Buckeye Dr. requesting a sewer credit of \$79.20. After a brief discussion/review by Service Director Hastings, approval recommended. \*Motion by Gee/Second by Cizl to approve the sewer credit at 431 Buckeye Dr. in the amount of \$79.20. Yeas All.  
906 Stark St. requesting a sewer credit of \$1,626.24. After a brief discussion/review by Service Director Hastings, approval recommended. \*Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to approve the sewer credit at 906 Stark St. in the amount of \$1,626.24. Yeas All.

**PRESENTATIONS:** None.

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

Service Director Hastings reports I wanted to update on the Day Ditch waterline replacement project. As you know, that was an Ohio EPA directive to replace a line that went through Day Ditch. It dates back 94 years and the line was exposed. We had it drawn up and engineered and went on site only to discover there were more lines crossing Day Ditch. Unfortunately, we didn't have prints of all the relevant data that was out there. We went back to the drawing board and ultimately abandoned at least two water lines through Day Ditch. In doing so, we did bank stabilization. We put in new waterlines going up Brookside Blvd. We eliminated one of the fire hydrants down there and the second one we replaced. That job is scheduled to be cleaned up and out of there tomorrow. The project did increase substantially because of the extra work. However, the water funds were more than capable of handling it. I would also note we met with contractors named Diggers Inc. and they will be starting on the

Forestlawn Ditch rehabilitation. That's going to run from Oster Rd. to Idlewood. They might start as soon as Wednesday. That project came in at about \$62,000. One thing we can do in the future in a second phase, is lower the waterline at Idlewood and move that water quicker. Council had approved an application the city sent out to the Ohio Public Works Commission for West Dr. It has been plagued with watermain breaks and porous storm sewers south of Forestlawn. We submitted for replacement of the storm sewer, waterline, new road and the project is coming in at approximately \$1.4 million. We will seek grants and different fund sources. As far as our streets, we are terribly backed up because of the storm that came through. I still have high hopes of getting everything done that I planned. We are going to go back and hit some of the streets we had done last year with the crack sealer. I should be done with crack sealing this week and back on track for some of the smaller jobs. Member Gee asks everything went fine with that gas line today? Service Director Hastings responds yes. There was a gas line at the 4700 block of Lake Rd. that had a leak in it, so traffic was down to one lane while they made repairs. Chairman Wtulich asks when you talk about the next phase and lowering the waterline and moving more water out of the Forestlawn Ditch, that would add more water to Day Ditch correct? During heavy rain events? Service Director Hastings replies it would bring it there quicker, yes. That is part of the reason why we are doing it in phases. We have a hydraulic study of that Day Ditch and the capacity of it. Cleaning this out, by design is to see how it impacts Day Ditch.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Chairman Wtulich asks have you put anymore thought into planting some trees that were taken out during the Day Ditch renovation? Service Director Hastings replies I did plan on revisiting it and I'll research some trees.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY:** *Sam Matsamas, 769 Oakwood* asks I have a question because I have been here 47 going on 48 years and I have flooded four times. I was very concerned because it's not getting any easier. I have two neighbors; 757 and 753 Oakwood and they have pipes. I don't worry about the ditches anymore. I'm through with it. (Inaudible) As long as the water drains. This is storm sewer we are talking about. There's one drain, because people remove them and it's done half assed. They are full of gravel, they are broken and I asked the neighbor at 757, I said call Pat and he will send somebody over there. He said to me let me see what I can do and it's been about 4 months and I haven't heard. The sump pump is working. The ditch was overflowing because of very slow draining. The whole thing needs to drain into Lake Erie and it's not draining fast enough. I offered to give him half the money, he don't have the money. I want the water to flow into Lake Erie, that's all I need. I've been paying taxes for 47 years. I talked to Pat, his hands are tied, he can't do too much, he has other things to do. *Marcia Matsamas, 769 Oakwood* asks can't someone make them fix their ditches? Mr. Matsamas says yeah, make them responsible to

remove their pipe and do it right so the water will drain. Chairman Wtulich asks so your basement is flooding? Mr. Matsamas replies yeah. Service Director Hastings states I do recall a couple service calls over there. I believe one time they shot it out and we provided to the home owners the process, there is a form and fee associated with that replacement. For the city to go in and do it, the ordinance says that I can override and do it at the taxpayer's cost basically if it's clogged and can not be repaired. If you are describing a pipe that is otherwise not flowing any water through it. Mr. Matsamas says very little and describes how it was done previously by the home owner. Service Director Hastings says I was actually not aware of that until this evening when you told me prior to the meeting. Mr. Matsamas says we came back from Westlake about 3-4 weeks ago and it flooded again, because the water is over the ditch and overflowing in the street. Service Director Hastings states when you say we didn't do anything, what we would have done is advise the homeowner of the programs that we have. Mr. Matsamas replies I'm not saying you didn't do anything. Mrs. Matsamas says they put a bunch of flags and lines, but nothing happened. Service Director Hastings says if you are describing a situation where that water is all but not moving, then the city can step in. Mr. Matsamas replies I would appreciate that.

*Peg Curby, 776 Oakwood* says Mayor Radeff, I appreciate you answering my letter. I have noticed that many streets have had their ditches taken care of. It was my understanding that the city paid for that. Is that true? Service Director Hastings responds yeah, there are some seasons that we use our storm water utility fund and direct it towards filling ditches in the city. We don't just arbitrarily do it based on somebody calling and saying I want my ditch filled in. We do it based on multiple properties needing it done and the impact it would have. We take all of their collective requests and if it will impact an entire block or most of it and improve the ability to pave the street then, because it is draining properly, we do it. Some years and that's what we currently are in, we direct the money into major ditches which is what we are doing now. The Forestlawn Ditch I mentioned earlier is coming in at just under \$70,000 and Shumaker Ditch which we are also proposing will come in at about \$400,000. It is just based on what the city is pursuing. In the interim, if we are not putting in piping in the tree lawn, we still offer the service to residents if they are anxious to do it. Their expense is far less than a contractor, essentially you are paying for the material. Ms. Curby asks if I were to sell my house, do I have to have sidewalks put in? Service Director Hastings replies yes, on a property transfer, there is an ordinance that requires either the seller or the buyer to. Ms. Curby says in my case, I have a ditch, the ditch would have to be filled. Would that be my responsibility or is that considered the tree lawn that the city should be paying for? Service Director Hastings replies so, the right of way of the city is typically much greater than you see the road and it goes all the way to the sidewalk. Ms. Curby says I think I heard 8ft.

Service Director Hastings responds well it's different. Lafayette has 70ft. of right of way whereas Oakwood probably has 50. Without reviewing it, I think there is still room to have a sidewalk as well as an open ditch. Ms. Curby says Jerry Green lives at the corner and his parents got the sidewalk put in and I think for my sidewalk to match up with theirs, my ditch would have to be covered. Service Director Hastings replies right, but it's also possible that sidewalk could be converted. The reality is the right of way is much bigger than what you see and we can capitalize on the full width to put in a sidewalk. If you were to sell and didn't want to deal with a contractor, you would simply escrow the money and the building dept. would help you through that process. I'm pretty confident they would just move that sidewalk over. If you get to that point, call me and I'll be happy to walk you through that process.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee,  
\*Motion by Cizl/Second by DeBottis to adjourn at 7:23 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.

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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. 9, 2024.

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CHAIRMAN  
*William Wtulich Jr.*

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL  
*Richard Rosso*