

ISSUE 1 MINUTES
May 6, 2009

The Issue 1 Committee meeting was held on May 6, 2009, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:47 p.m.

Present: Committee: Chairman Vince Gentile, Larry Antoskiewicz, Dan Kasaris; Council: Don Willey; Administration: Mayor Robert Stefanik, City Engineer Mark Schmitzer, Economic Development Director Tom Jordan; Other Attendees: Pat Jones.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Antoskiewicz, seconded by Mr. Kasaris to **approve the April 7, 2009 Minutes**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0.
Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Bennett Road Project, Route 82, Valley Parkway, Turnpike Run-off Study

Mr. Schmitzer said he has talked to the County Engineer's office to discuss these projects. He said they are in the process of identifying ways in which we might be able to raise the scores we had last year to a level of 195 or so which will put us in a place where we might be eligible for funding. Mr. Schmitzer said the County Engineer's office will get back to him next week with some suggestions so that Mr. Schmitzer can formally submit a pre-scoring application on these projects. Mr. Gentile asked if the County Engineer's office is aware that it is our city's opinion that the storm water project is imperative to a successful road overlay for the Bennett Road project. Mr. Schmitzer said yes. Mr. Gentile asked Mr. Schmitzer if he feels we have a better chance of getting funding on one project over another project. Mr. Schmitzer said he asked the county for their opinion and he said they thought that we might be able to get some funding on the Route 82 project (W. 130th Street to York Road). He said he is unsure, however, if we will have to match the funds. Mr. Antoskiewicz asked how this will tie into what Betty Sutton is trying to get for us. Mr. Jordan said that will probably qualify as a local match as well. He said there are two separate appropriations for the widening. The cost is 1.6 million and the match is \$403,000. He said as far as the \$5,000,000 in federal appropriations that Betty Sutton has requested, he is unsure what the required local match would be. Mr. Gentile asked Mr. Jordan if he and Mr. Schmitzer could work with Betty Sutton and Bob Klaiber and possibly get everyone together to discuss if this is going to be a reality. Mr. Jordan said the efforts that are currently underway for the Route 82 project, along with the traffic modeling, will help bring Engineering into this project. He said he agrees that getting everyone together for a meeting will be beneficial, but he said the reason for the traffic modeling study is to see how many lanes will be included in this project.

Mr. Jordan said we have a lengthy process that needs to be completed to get us on the official list for the Long Term Plan and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan in order to make us fully eligible for federal funds. He said he is hopeful that we can finish the application by the end of May to be considered at a June meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee. It will then go to the Board of NOACA by fall of this year for placement by the end of the year.

Mr. Willey asked how much money we would be able to bond out from income taxes. Mr. Jordan said he is unsure.

Mr. Gentile said he feels getting NOACA on board would be beneficial and asked Mr. Jordan if he thought we could count on their support for this project. Mr. Jordan said as far as funding is concerned, NOACA receives a large chunk of money for already approved projects. He said our hope is that all of these projects receive funding so the top projects are removed to make room for new projects.

Mr. Gentile said it looks like the first round of stimulus package funding is being taken up by the Innerbelt Bridge, but asked if that funding may have freed up money at other levels. Mr. Schmitzer said he believes the money that ODOT already had allocated for the bridge will be used because they have to rehab the old bridge while the new bridge is being built.

Mr. Kasaris asked Mr. Schmitzer if there is any time limit as to when we have to use Issue 1 money. Mr. Schmitzer said he believes the money has to be spent within the same year it was issued, or the project has to at least be started that year.

Mr. Gentile said if we were able to get money for the Route 82 project there would probably have to be a managing entity overseeing the project. Mr. Schmitzer said that due to the magnitude of this project that idea was discussed with ODOT and the county during his original meeting with them. He said they also discussed how Bowen's contract works with the city and how the use of federal funds could be looked upon if Bowen was managing and designing the project. Mr. Schmitzer said this is something that he is looking into. Mr. Schmitzer said Bowen does have the experience to do this type of project, but it will depend on the timeframe of this project and the availability at Bowen.

Mr. Gentile said of the four projects that may be considered, he feels we should mainly concentrate on trying to increase the score for Bennett Road and Route 82.

Mr. Schmitzer is hopeful that he will have some additional information by the June 2nd meeting. Mr. Gentile said if we need to schedule a meeting in July we can do that. He said he would like to get this in front of Council by July so that we are not scrambling in August or September to get this done.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Antoskiewicz and seconded by Mr. Kasaris to **adjourn the meeting**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried**. Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.