

STORM WATER COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 9, 2008

The Storm Water Committee meeting was held on July 9, 2008, at North Royalton City Hall 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Committee: Chair Larry Antoskiewicz, John Nickell, Vince Gentile; Council: Gary Petrusky, Dan Kasaris, Don Willey, Administration: Mayor Robert Stefanik, Law Director Tom Kelly, City Engineer Mark Schmitzer, Wastewater Superintendent Tim Tigue, Wastewater Foreman Scott Shantery; Other Attendees: Justin Duane, Gary White, Bev White, Ray Novotny, Edy Novotny, John Batsky, Elaine Batsky, Ron Hanek, Ron Dodig, John Baumberger, Tim Zielinski, Linda Zielinski, Frank Lospice, Deb Martin, Gretchen Strauss, Brad Bielak, Jeff Tuma, Andy Eget, Sue Ellen Eget, Pat Jones.

Moved by Mr. Nickell, seconded by Mr. Antoskiewicz to **approve the minutes of June 11, 2008**. Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.** (Mr. Gentile arrived after approval of minutes.)

NEW BUSINESS

1. I&I Discussion

Mr. Kelly introduced Mr. Tigue who explained the Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) problem that exists in the city. Mr. Tigue explained the why, what and where of this problem as well as who will be affected by this. He began by saying that we are regulated by the State of Ohio EPA and we have a permit that we must comply with or we could be fined. Dye testing is being conducted to determine where storm water is entering our sewer system.

Mr. Kelly asked Mr. Tigue to explain what happens when the flow exceeds the capacity during a storm event. Mr. Tigue said that the B Plant is designed for one million gallons per day during dry weather. It can hydraulically take three million gallons a day, however, the quality of the sewage that comes out is less than it would be at its design of one million gallons. Although one option is to upgrade the plant, it would cost tens of millions of dollars and we would still have the same collection system without any repairs. Mr. Kelly asked if there is a contamination problem. Mr. Tigue said there is definitely a contamination problem into the Baldwin Creek.

Mr. Tigue explained that the reason the B District was chosen is because of the bypass. The EPA receives data from us monthly so they are aware of the problem.

Mr. Schmitzer gave an update on the projects the city is currently working on and will continue to work on next year. There are currently five projects being worked on. The first project is Pamela/Parkdale. Construction will begin the middle of July. Project will take approximately 120 days. Maple Lane is the second project where regrading is being done and upsizing pipes so there is not any flow restriction. The third project is Gregory Lane drainage improvements. This project will begin in August and will consist of regrading three yard ditches and redoing all front yard culverts to help establish flow. Two other larger projects are also underway. The first of the large projects is the Chesapeake Regional Retention Basin which when finished should help relieve flow of water in that area. Cedar Estates storm sewer and ditch regrading is the second of the larger projects. The storm sewers will be re-designed so that they are able to handle the storm flow.

Mr. Kelly asked residents to approach with any questions or comments.

Mr. Tom Kryszinski, a Patricia Drive resident, asked about the actual measuring of infiltration. He felt that only a visual check was done. Mr. Kelly said that the ordinance along with the Ohio EPA said there is zero tolerance for infiltration. Mr. Shantery said that when they do the testing, they look for any kind of significant flow. Mr. Kryszinski also asked how he can find an honest contractor to help fix his lateral. Mr. Shantery suggested having a plumber or contractor look at the lateral with a camera. The camera would show what type of damage is done to that pipe. Contractors must pull a permit and file it with the city. The city then inspects the work and these records are kept on file with the city.

Mrs. Kryszinski asked why residents were not informed when city officials were informed. Since residents were told, the cost of food, gas and other items has increased. She felt that there is a discrepancy in the time residents were told and when city officials knew. Mr. Shantery said that he understands the testing was done late last year, but the reason they decided to hold off on informing residents is because of the time table as to when the testing began. The testing was continuous through winter. Most contractors will not work in the winter, therefore, they sent letters at a later date. Mayor Stefanik said that the city is trying to work with residents, not threaten with a timetable of when work needs to be done.

Gary White, a Gardenside Drive resident, felt that the letter that was sent to residents was very intimidating to the elderly and widowed residents. Mr. Kelly said that was certainly not the intent when that letter went out. Mr. White asked what part of the lateral is the city's responsibility. Mr. Shantery said that it is the responsibility of the homeowner up to the main line.

Ron Hanek, a Gardenside Drive resident, asked how long this has been a problem. Mr. Shantery said the last I&I evaluation was done in 1991 and there were some problem areas. Mr. Hanek asked why these problems were not corrected in 1991. Mr. Shantery said that in 1991 they allowed temporary splashing. Mr. Hanek feels that due to all of the new construction in the city, the older homes are requiring more and more maintenance. Mr. Nickell expressed his concern over the devastation caused by some of the flooding in the area.

An unidentified woman expressed her concern over a city contractor by the name of Benjamin Franklin who has been harassing her and her family. She has talked to both Mayor Stefanik and Mr. Shantery about this contractor. She stated she would like it on public record that this harassment is taking place. Mr. Kelly suggested that she make a police report and city officials will take a look at it.

An unidentified Gardenside Drive resident said he has a permit from 1968 stating that the city satisfactorily inspected his property. He asked why he is now finding out that there is a problem. Mr. Kelly said the city is not responsible for past failures; however, if we know about a problem, we are bound to require the homeowner to correct it.

Mayor Stefanik expressed his concern over what the community is enduring due to the flooding issues.

A resident who has property that backs up to the Patrician Nursing Home requested that the city look at her property due to flooding issues which she feels are due to the fact that she is not allowed to have a splash in her back yard, however, the nursing home is allowed to have a splash and when it rains, it floods four to five back yards in that area. She would like to see a tile put in place to stop this from happening. Mr. Kelly assured her that Mr. Schmitzer and Mr. Shantery will make a note to see to it that this is looked at.

Gretchen Strauss, a Gardenside Drive resident, asked if there is any tax money available to help out residents who have to pay for repairs to their homes. Mr. Kelly said that the law does not permit the city to fund private property projects. Mr. Gentile said that the city is under a great amount of pressure from the EPA and Cuyahoga County Board of Health to correct these problems and if they are not corrected, the city will pay a fine that will come out of tax dollars.

Jeff Tuma, a Patricia Drive resident, asked about the sanitary and storm sewer replacement. He asked if the storm sewers will be tested and if it is something he needs to be concerned about. Mr. Shantery said that the main concern right now is the sanitary sewers. The storm sewer system is taken care of by the Service Department.

Mr. Antoskiewicz said that he represents Ward 5 and he has been receiving a lot of calls regarding flooding issues. These calls are being addressed and in some cases after testing has been performed, the

residents have had to correct these problems. Mr. Willey said that he has also been faced with residents in his Ward who have had to pay to correct flooding issues on their property.

An unidentified Bennett Road resident asked if someone from the city would take a look at the pipe on his property. He said the pipe is too small. Mr. Kelly asked if he would come up after the meeting to give him his address so it can be inspected.

An unidentified resident asked if the contractors might be willing to waive the fee to run a camera through their property. Mr. Kelly said the city could ask them; however, the city generally tries not to involve itself in private contracts.

Mr. Pellini asked if he would be able to get a copy of the video showing the flow of water. Mr. Shantery said they would make him a copy.

Mr. Kelly said that the letter that was distributed to residents letting them know of the flooding problems on their property also included a copy of a financing program that is available to qualified residents. He mentioned that there is also a separate financing program for seniors.

Mr. Antoskiewicz said that the current administration has been more pro-active with storm water than any administration in the history of North Royalton. He also mentioned that every storm water basin in the city has been inspected so we now have a record of which basins need to be cleaned and which basins need to be repaired.

2. Rain Barrels

Mr. Tigie said that rain barrels are approved and are good for harvesting water. Mr. Gentile asked if we should offer a free permit to residents to use rain barrels. We will get guidelines from Mr. Schmitzer and Mr. Tigie to put into legislation. Mr. Willey questioned the need for legislating this.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. North Royalton FEMA Mitigation

Mayor Stefanik said that the last house has been burned. We now have to get costs of restoration and take down a few more trees then we will find out where we stand financially. This is removed from the agenda.

2. Storm Water Retention Basin Report

Mr. Antoskiewicz said that this is up to date and all of the letters have gone out. Mayor Stefanik said information will be provided to each councilperson and information will be in a database format for updating. The information will be updated in sections every year resulting in a complete update every three years on a continuous basis. A list of critical basins will be developed that may be inspected more often than others.

3. Citizens Flooding Committee Report Addendum

No report.

4. Turnpike Run-Off Study

Mayor Stefanik said he met with the Turnpike Commission and the Park Board and made some progress on a regional detention basin near the parkway.

5. 2008 Projects

Mr. Schmitzer announced that we are moving ahead on all projects.

6. Edgerton Road 5244/5250

No update

7. Need for Ditching on State Road from Wallings Road North

Mayor Stefanik said this list keeps growing.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Gentile, seconded by Mr. Nickell to **adjourn the meeting**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.