

**STREETS COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**February 5, 2007**

The Streets committee meeting was held on February 5, 2007, at North Royalton City Hall, 13844 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order by Chair Denise Bobulsky at 6:31 p.m.

**Present:** Chair Denise Bobulsky, Vince Gentile, Larry Antoskiewicz, Kurt McKee, Robert Stefanik, Lisa Uffman-Kirsch, Service Director Skip Mayer, Deputy Engineer Don Ramm, Richard Leissa, and Joanne DuMound.

Mrs. Bobulsky moved to excuse Mr. Willey for cause. Seconded by Mr. Gentile. 2 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

Mr. Gentile moved to approve the minutes of November 6, 2006. Seconded by Mrs. Bobulsky. 2 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

Mr. Gentile moved to approve the Joint Streets/Finance Special Meeting minutes of December 4, 2006. Seconded by Mrs. Bobulsky. 2 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried. The January 4, 2006 minutes were yet to be distributed.

**OPEN RESIDENT DISCUSSION**

Resident, Mr. Richard Leissa, addressed the committee about adding sidewalks from Royalton Woods Assisted Living to the Library. This same subject was addressed last month by an Ashley Woods resident. Mr. Leissa was told that as the downtown project moves forward sidewalks in this area could be a possibility.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. State and Wallings intersection widening**

The project is suspended till spring. Mr. Gentile questioned the concrete quality and appearance. Engineering is aware and has forwarded concerns to the contractor.

**2. Recycling Program**

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked if Mr. Mayer had any input on the recycling containers that could be placed on city properties. He didn't at this time but would look into it. He said he was working on a grant through the county to pay for flyers that addressed the city's recycling guidelines.

Mr. McKee began discussion about re-opening the recycling yard on Saturdays. He stated that he continually gets calls from residents about the yard being closed on Saturdays, and thinks that Council needs to look at a line item in the budget to re-establish the Saturday service. He went on to say that no matter what we have to do, we need to get it open. Mrs. Bobulsky reminded him that this topic was discussed last month, and all Council present were in agreement that the yard needed to be re-opened on Saturdays. Mr. Mayer stated that he added this in his budget. Two permanent part-time employees are designated for the yard so it could open on Saturday and have better hours for the public. Mr. McKee went on to say with the income tax passage residents are looking for the yard to re-open. He stated that we have to make the Mayor or force the Mayor to put the money in the budget for the yard, he felt that it needed to get implemented. He said he would do whatever it takes to make it available because the residents deserve it. Mr. Mayer stated that as of this meeting it was still in the budget for two part-time personnel to again re-open the yard on Saturdays. Mr. McKee stated that if it wasn't in the budget he was going to push and make sure that it was. Mrs. Bobulsky stated that all present last month were in agreement and all present this month were as well.

**3. Automated Rubbish System**

Mr. Mayer reported that he would like to supply the committee a hand-out from Mr. Joe Aquilino from Best Equipment summarizing the information he presented last month. He is also contacting the cities of Akron and Columbus to get information on the automated system programs in their cities. He hoped to have this for next month's meeting.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch addressed the hand-out comparing our current system, automation, and privatization pertaining to the workman comp premium. She questioned whether or not the workman comp premium savings were accurately reflected in this comparison. After checking with Karen Fegan the numbers were

not quite accurate, the premium savings to the city would be significantly higher, \$84,000. Mr. Gentile stated that if you are taking guys out of trash and putting them in streets, it is still the same high risk job by BWC, and you still have to pay per capita. So, you're just moving that number from sanitation to streets. Mrs. Bobulsky asked Mr. Mayer the number of claims per streets and rubbish/recycling. He stated that most of the claims were from rubbish and recycling because of getting on and off the truck, streets probably had one. Mrs. Bobulsky was to contact Karen Fegan to ask if she could review the comparison handout of the different trash systems and provide any revisions or input in terms of the workman comp.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch repeated that equipment replacement is not included in our current cost analysis, and we have to get new trucks one way or another. Mr. Mayer expressed his concern. He stated that he has aging rubbish trucks, the mechanics can keep them running, but how much money do we want to put into the junk trucks to keep them running? If \$100,000 is put into three trucks when they aren't worth that, where do you draw the line and make a decision on a rubbish removal system.

Mr. Antoskiewicz, again, expressed concern about long driveways, gravel driveways, and the elderly. Mr. Mayer hoped to have information soon on how other communities with automated trash removal address such concerns.

Mr. Stefanik stated that we are making a mistake getting into the rubbish business. He said that the city just passed an income tax and doesn't think the residents passed it so we can have some kind of Star Wars rubbish system. He thinks they want to see roads fixed, they want flooding taken care, they don't want to see the city spending over a million dollars on rubbish. Mrs. Bobulsky reminded him that the city is already spending over a million dollars on rubbish. Mr. Stefanik stated that we are not going to do the automated system because the majority of Council and himself are not going to do it. He said that they are leaning towards outsourcing it, he wants to get all of the information from other communities and what they may want to do with us. Mrs. Bobulsky asked if he had any figures pertaining to the savings to the city. He did not. Mrs. Bobulsky could not understand how the majority of Council could have their minds made up on a system when no hard figures are being presented. Mr. Gentile said that Council gets those figures from the administration and they do the cost accounting, not Council. He went on to say that when the administration delivers true figures on privatization and starts negotiating with other communities to find out what the actual costs are, then Council can do a cost comparison. Mrs. Bobulsky said that she herself called other communities that have the automated system, talked with the service directors, gathered information. She did some homework, and thinks the Council majority should go ahead and do some homework on privatization. Mr. Stefanik asked if there were other assignments and Mr. McKee felt it was the administrations job to provide information. Mrs. Bobulsky thinks that Council needs to get away from the bickering and arrive at a solution now.

#### **4. Privatization of Trash Collection**

Mr. Mayer reported on the meeting coordinated by the County Solid Waste District pertaining to neighboring communities regionalizing trash removal through privatization. One of the big topics was the need for a get-out clause in the contracts. Some of the communities around North Royalton are already in contracts that end at different times, some are six months from now, some are a year or more. He sees this as a stumbling block due to the different time frames. It was also discussed that each city is going to have their own issues as to what they are going to pick up, any kind of limitations if they are going to have separate recycling, commingled recyclables, or commingle at all. There are many different ways the contract can go, and each item that is put in is naturally at a cost. Mr. Mayer said that this was some of the information conveyed at the meeting and that each city was to provide their specific information to Pat Holland of the Solid Waste District. Mr. Holland was going to compile all details and his own research, another meeting will be scheduled. Mr. Mayer will provide the committee with any summary information from Mr. Holland. At this point, the date for the next meeting had not been set, a representative from North Royalton will attend when that date is determined.

#### **5. Rubbish Co-mingling**

No discussion.

**6. Leaf Collection**

Mr. Mayer provided information from different cities, along with their quotes, how much manpower and equipment involved. Mrs. Bobulsky said it would be reviewed and discussed next month.

**7. Oakridge Drive Roadway Improvement**

Mr. Ramm reported that bids were opened and a favorable low bid was received from Barbicas Construction Company. The project is a 60 day calendar project, hopeful to begin in April, weather dependent.

Mr. Gentile made a motion to recommend approval of Barbicas Construction as the lowest and best bid for the Oakridge Drive roadway improvement. Seconded by Mrs. Bobulsky. 2 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS****1. 2007 Fuel Bid Recommendation**

Mr. Mayer presented the bid of BP products for the purchase of fuel for the 2007 season as the lowest and best bid. Mrs. Bobulsky made a motion to recommend approval to accept the bid of BP products for the purchase of fuel for the 2007 season. Mr. Gentile seconded. 2 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

**2. Material/Equipment bid 2007**

Mr. Mayer presented the bids for material and equipment for 2007. The bids for equipment are for those that the city rents. Mr. Gentile made a motion to recommend approval of the bids for material and equipment for 2007. Seconded by Mrs. Bobulsky. 2 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

**3. Road Work 2007**

Mr. Mayer stated crack sealing will be back in the budget this season. As far as concrete work, he said he would know more after the budget meeting. If he is given the money he will be able to accomplish the previously proposed list of concrete work.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked about patching the entrance to the Library. Mr. Mayer stated that driveway entrance is the responsibility of the County Public Library, not the city.

Mr. Ramm distributed the updated pavement index inventory for 2007. A map of all the streets was included.

Mr. Mayer distributed information about the Emerald Ash Borer per a seminar he attended. Information will be posted on the city website.

Mr. Gentile made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mrs. Bobulsky. 2 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 7:53 p.m.