

STREETS COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 5, 2007

The Streets Committee meeting was held on March 5, 2007, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Chair Denise Bobulsky, Vince Gentile, Don Willey; Kurt McKee, Larry Antoskiewicz, Lisa Uffman-Kirsch; Mayor Luks, Deputy Engineer Don Ramm; Joanne DuMound, Don Harris, Nick Cinquepalmi, Matt Holzman, David Holzman.

Mrs. Bobulsky noted that there was a typo in the Joint Streets/Finance Special Meeting minutes of December 4, 2006. Under Unfinished Business in the first paragraph, the fund should be the General Bond Retirement Fund and the correction has been made.

Mr. Willey moved to approve the minutes of January 4, 2007, seconded by Mr. Gentile. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

The February 5, 2007 minutes will be approved next month.

Wallings Road rehabilitation will be added to new business.

OPEN RESIDENT DISCUSSION

No discussion

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. State and Wallings intersection widening

The project is still suspended. The final street striping will be done when the project resumes. The signal had some problems that have been corrected.

2. Recycling Program

No information has been received from the Service Department regarding recycling containers on city property.

Comparison figures were requested on reduced revenues and income for co-mingling of recyclables since some residents thought more people would recycle if they did not have to separate their recyclables. Comparison figures might show if more people participate in recycling that it might offset the additional cost of the co-mingling.

Regarding the internal recycling program at City Hall of paper and plastic, it was stated that this is something that could begin as long as a pick-up of the recyclables was scheduled. This will be discussed with the Service Director.

The recycling yard opening on Saturdays is in jeopardy. If the proposed cuts to the budget are adopted the yard will remain closed. Discussion occurred about operating the yard previously with one employee and perhaps community service workers. It was explained that the staffing level proposed in the budget was to perform an array of things including concrete repairs, I&I studies, Saturday operations at the recycling yard. Having the yard open caused other things to not be done and that put some things two years behind. The person who operated the yard was doing so assigned to no overtime and while the proposed addition of five people increases the staffing over 2006 this is only two over the 2005 staffing. The additional persons will be doing concrete work I&I study and other things that were not able to be done. Some of the work that will be done with the additional staff promised as a result of the passing of the income tax will be to try to solve storm water problems and make road repairs. Three replacement personnel have been hired under the temporary budget, the two new have not been hired yet. This brought the level which has been extremely low to what it was before the hiring freeze. Adding two new will not solve the low staffing level as the promise of I&I work, sewer main cleaning and the concrete repairs is additional to what is being done now. It was asked if the persons were not hired at the first of the year and were budgeted as of the first of the year if that savings could be put to the opening of the yard for half a day through the summer. The staffing request was made based on what the need would be to get the work done. It was suggested to subcontract the concrete work and save money and then the staff that would be used for concrete could go to the recycling yard. The people hired will not be just to do concrete work. They will be doing all jobs that need to be done. Jobbing out the concrete work will not save money. The more road

work that can be done in-house the more cost effective it will be since the city is not making a profit and companies that would be hired are. The big jobs will be contracted out, but the smaller repairs in subdivisions can be done in-house economically. It was questioned that the jobs are currently being done now with staffing as it is, and is it necessary to have additional staff to do the same work as in snow plowing. Overall, all functions needed to perform are short handed all year round.

There was debate about prior discussions regarding how the money would be spent and the ongoing need for additional employees. The temporary appropriations budget was approved and the budget before Council was made based on the agreed outline. The proposed changes by adding another program and not increasing staffing had not been planned in the budget. Additional questions were posed regarding man hours to do concrete work in-house, the need for an expeditor, distribution of labor cost, the inefficiency of the city regarding the use of paper instead of computer, anticipation of workers available due to automated rubbish or private rubbish collection.

It was asked that no action be taken on the budget at the Council meeting the next day until more information can be gathered relative to the proposed budget amendment.

3. Automated rubbish system

The Service Director was gathering information from other cities based on discussion from last month. This will be addressed next month since he is not at this meeting.

The Finance Director addressed the Workmen's Compensation questions in a memo. It was stated that the way to address the premium issues and guarantee no claims would be to go to private collection and remove people from the payroll to guarantee savings. There were no figures regarding the privatization. Workmen's Compensation was discussed and how particular occupations were charged. Our premiums are based on and established by our claims history. It is not based on the line of work. There are more claims with higher dollar values and more long-term impact from rubbish collection in our city. If privatizing is considered, the companies would also be dealing with the Workmen's Compensation claims and that would be passed along to the city plus their margin for their profit. The city does not have a profit margin. A question was posed for the multiplier number that is based on per capita in the job description. What is that multiplier based on the taxable wage of somebody that works on the garbage truck compared to somebody in the Streets Department. The point trying to be made was that there will be no less in premiums based on the per capita. It was offered to have a representative from the third party administrator of the city or Mrs. Vozar, who oversees our Workmen's Compensation benefits and programs, come in and explain. Questions can be answered after hearing how it works for our city. It was agreed to ask Mrs. Vozar to the next Streets Committee meeting.

4. Privatization of trash collection

Information will be made available regarding the next meeting with the Solid Waste District. The Mayor will provide a copy of the summary of the last meeting to Council.

5. Rubbish co-mingling

No discussion

6. Leaf collection

Discussion occurred over the information Mr. Mayer distributed last month. Regarding the number of men on crews and the number of crews used in other cities for example: Brecksville of 15 men whose size is smaller in area than our city, Broadview Heights has 12 people and they are also smaller in area than our city, Parma also has a sizeable amount of manpower. The unsolicited comment from Parma was that this could cause blockage or drainage problems in some areas. This is a concern being discussed with the administration that when residents are instructed to rake leaves to the front of their property those leaves are often placed in the ditches, catch basins and culverts. It is not convincing that leaf collection is a preventive measure. What is being heard from other cities is that it may be the opposite. Evidence pointing to it being a preventive measure was requested. Strongsville uses approximately 40 people for approximately six weeks. The current manpower of the city will not be able to provide for this service without other things suffering.

Another meeting may be necessary to review facts and figures that the administration will provide on how the city can operate such a program and what might not be done in order to provide the service. What will be required in man hours, manpower and where manpower will come from to operate the program will be provided so Council can say what can be cut to provide the service. Any information will be provided that Council feels necessary and accurate to make the decision. In order to prepare the information before the meeting, it was asked what information the committee wanted before moving forward on the introduction of a new service when trying to catch up on services that have not been able to be provided in years.

Other than the \$35,000 from the General Fund, money to add this service and allocate to the purchase of the equipment for leaf collection is coming directly from the increased income tax. This is being justified as a preventative maintenance service to help prevent flooding. It was uncertain if this could be legitimized. A critical point to this is the need for some technical information by a qualified person that demonstrates that it is in fact preventative to storm water flooding. It is not certain that it can be legitimized given the ballot language on the income tax increase without something more scientific or something to back up that it is proven to be preventative maintenance for flooding. This information was requested from those proposing the service and the administration will also look to find this information.

Not all flooding problems will be resolved with the leaf collection. Projects were discussed that will be funded. House flooding was among the issues as a priority to be funded and not all projects are completely funded. When the income tax increase was sold, people were told that the projects prioritized in the Citizens Oversight Committee Report would be the order that would be used as could be afforded. Leaf collection was not on there. Also there will be additions to the project list.

The Finance Director, Law Director, and Service Director will be assisting the Mayor in providing information from the administration to Council.

7. Oakridge Drive Roadway Improvement

Contracts were signed by the contractor and are being circulated within the city for necessary signature. A preconstruction meeting will be set and the notice to proceed will be issued soon after. Weather will be a factor.

Regarding the underground culvert in the area, it was said that the roadway improvement project will help the drainage of the road in the sag or area of the dip in the road. However, there is nothing in the budget with regard to the main culvert. The area is low and has floods and will continue to do that. It was thought that perhaps the Bunker project might help. Storm water improvement is not part of the roadway project.

There will be access to the drives for the residents for the most part. It may require some street parking, there may be some temporary road closing or limited access to drives at some points. Residents will be notified of the project start.

8. Road work 2007

This is dependant on the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ordinance 07-25 dedication of Bentley

They are not ready. No action.

2. Wallings Road rehabilitation

The asphalt will be recycled similar to the West 130th rehabilitation project. It is anticipated that roadway drainage will be somewhat improved with this project. The bid information was reviewed. It was asked about the projected life of the road project since money will be borrowed on a 20-year loan. It is anticipated that the road will last that long. Bids will be advertised March 15th and 22nd with opening bids on April 5th.

Mrs. Bobulsky moved to recommend approval to Council to authorize the Mayor and City Engineer to advertise for bids for the Wallings Road Improvement project, seconded by Mr. Gentile. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

Mr. Gentile made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Willey. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 8:09 p.m.