

**Utilities Committee Minutes  
November 10, 2009**

The Utilities Committee meeting was held on November 10, 2009, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Committee: Chair Gary Petrusky, Don Willey; Council: Vince Gentile, Larry Antoskiewicz; Administration: Mayor Robert Stefanik, Assistant Prosecutor Donna Vozar, City Engineer Mark Schmitzer, Wastewater Superintendent Tim Tigue, Stormwater Foreman Nick Cinquepalmi; Other: Don Harris, Pat Jones, Paul Marnecheck, Melissa Martin, C.J. Cutter.

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mr. Willey to **excuse Mr. Kasaris from the November 10, 2009 meeting.** Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Schmitzer noted a correction to the October 14, 2009 committee minutes. He said under Unfinished Business, Item 9, first paragraph, last sentence, the name of the company who was named as one of the bidders on the home sewage treatment systems is A&P Septic *not* ABC Piping.

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mr. Willey to **approve the Utilities Committee Minutes of October 14, 2009 as changed.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. Pending Gas Wells**

Mr. Cutter said he has two new wells, Callas 3 and Zillich 2. Ms. Vozar said she has the maps that show the location of these two wells. She said both of these wells are directional drillings. She said Mr. Cutter will go in under one of his old wells and directional drill underground. She said her concern is that on the Callas well, it will end at or near a roadway. Mr. Gentile asked Mr. Cutter how deep it will be. Mr. Cutter said it will be 3500-3600 feet down. Mrs. Vozar said nonetheless, this is still under our roadway and at one point the committee had agreed that we would not give away our right of way. Ms. Vozar said the Zillich 2 well, goes underneath our roadway. Mr. Petrusky asked Mr. Cutter about the Callas well and asked how close he will be to the foundations of the homes in that area. Mr. Cutter said he will be about 2,000 feet in the ground.

Ms. Vozar asked that either Mr. Cutter or Mr. Schmitzer look into directional drilling before we move forward with these two wells. She said this type of drilling is different than what has been done in the past. She said it would be nice to know if any other communities have ever had any problems with directional drilling.

Mr. Gentile asked how many homeowners are signed on for the Callas 3 well. Mr. Cutter said between the two wells there are between 85-90 private homeowners.

Mr. Gentile asked Mr. Cutter if he can guarantee that he will be 3,500-3,600 feet below the street when he goes under it. Mr. Cutter said yes because that is where the sand is. He said as far as the Callas well is concerned the sand is 3,410 feet deep so when he goes out, he will go out a little further.

Mr. Antoskiewicz asked how this well being in the city's right of way affects the city. Ms. Vozar said she would like to have time to determine whether or not there have been problems in other communities with this type of drilling. Mr. Schmitzer asked Mr. Cutter if there will be any pipe when he drills.

Mr. Cutter said he will drill then they will set new casing, he will then pump cement through the center then squeeze it out. He said it will then come up on the outside so there is concrete encasement.

Mr. Gentile asked Mr. Cutter if there would ever be a reason for someone to have to go through our street to access these wells. Mr. Cutter said no. He also asked if barring any mishap such as an explosion, would it come up or would it follow the hole. Mr. Cutter said it would go through the pipe back to his well. Mr. Gentile asked if this is a safe industry procedure. Mr. Cutter said he does this all over.

Mr. Willey asked why directional drilling rather than the type of drilling that has been done in the past. Mr. Cutter said it is because they are drilling in an area with obstructions. He suggested calling the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and talking to the Cuyahoga County inspector who will tell us what

other cities permit this type of drilling. Ms. Vozar asked Mr. Cutter how long he has been doing directional drilling in Ohio. Mr. Cutter said about 25-30 years. Mr. Petrusky asked how much noise directional drilling will create. Mr. Cutter said no more than regular drilling. Mr. Schmitzer asked if there will be any issues with vibration during drilling. Mr. Cutter said he is not aware of any vibration issues, but he will check with the state.

Mr. Schmitzer said he will call the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to get their feedback on directional drilling and also the City of Broadview Heights where wells have been dug using directional drilling. He will report back to the committee.

Mr. Gentile asked what the city's percentage of acreage is on both of these wells. Ms. Vozar said the percentage is on the information that Mr. Cutter distributed.

Mayor Stefanik asked if there is an issue with Foxwood Homeowners Association. Ms. Vozar said not where these two wells are concerned. She said there was a question of where Mr. Cutter was going to put the well, which was originally down Mercury Drive, but that is no longer the case. Ms. Vozar said she received a lot of telephone calls from Foxwood Drive residents and Mercury Drive residents.

Ms. Vozar said Mr. Cutter would like to talk to the committee about the Heasley Field well. Mr. Cutter said he is looking at an alternate way to get the gas out of this well since he feels it will not be economical to run a four inch with Dominion. He said he has not worked this out with the residents yet and will report back at the next meeting. Mayor Stefanik told Mr. Cutter that we want the drilling done in the winter. Mr. Nickell said he is concerned that the Heasley Field well has taken so long. He said we need to get this done. Mayor Stefanik said we have to look at the safety of our residents first and foremost and said he does not feel anyone is holding this up. Ms. Vozar said it is not the city that is stopping this. She said Mr. Cutter has to make decisions as to whether or not it is cost effective for him to move forward with getting the gas and oil out. She said once he comes forward with his plan, Council will determine if his plan is acceptable or not acceptable. Ms. Vozar said the problem we have is that there is not a Utilities meeting in December. Mr. Petrusky said we can always hold a special meeting if necessary. Ms. Vozar told Mr. Cutter that he needs to get this worked out soon so the committee can meet in December and get Council's approval so drilling can begin in January. She said otherwise we will be back in soccer season and this will be delayed even longer or possibly altogether and we will begin looking elsewhere.

Mr. Cutter said he spoke with Ohio Valley and asked to tie into their meter run. He said he would have to run his own line up the west side of the soccer field on the edge of the parking lot which would be directional drilled. He would then have to drill directionally on the north side of the soccer field to the back of the property. He said he is also working with Royal Valley's Homeowners Association. Mr. Petrusky asked Mr. Cutter if he is going to notify the residents. Mr. Cutter said he will wait to hear back from the Homeowners Association. Mr. Gentile asked Mr. Cutter if he places a pipe across the north end of Heasley's property would he have to dig that up or could that be pushed the whole way. Mr. Cutter said he would directional drill so he would not have to dig anything up. Mr. Petrusky asked how deep that pipe will be. Mr. Cutter said they are usually about 30-36 inches deep with a 2 inch line. Mr. Petrusky asked why he is using a steel pipe rather than PVC. Mr. Cutter said it is because he would need to use a TPO8 which is a high pressure line and he has to run steel. He said it is the same line that Valley Vista and Zillich use. Mr. Schmitzer said he looked at the pipe and researched it. He said it is used by Dominion and approved by the gas carrier and it meets all testing specifications.

Ms. Vozar said the state is working on two pieces of legislation and Mayor Stefanik is keeping the city informed as to any updates as they progress.

## **2. Ridge Road sewer update**

Mr. Tighe said there are no changes since last month.

**3. Wiltshire Road sewer odor status**

Mr. Tigue said ABC Piping has completed their cleaning. He said they used four different styles of cleaning pigs and ran about seven different runs. He said the only time there was an odor was on their first run. Mr. Tigue said they did a nice job. He said the next phase is to put the monitors into the manholes noted by CT Consultants then starting the chemical. Mr. Tigue said the chemical is the key for a long term solution.

**4. Sanitary sewer connection (tap in) request City of Parma and City of Broadview Heights**

Ms. Vozar said Broadview Heights agreed to all requests that Mr. Schmitzer made in his letter. She said as far as Parma is concerned, they act as though North Royalton is impeding this process from happening. Ms. Vozar said in the meantime she sent a letter to their Law Department.

**5. Public Service Code**

Mr. Tigue said he reviewed the Public Service Code and forwarded his edits to Ms. Vozar. Ms. Vozar said she incorporated his edits into the code and forwarded them to Council. Ms. Vozar said she will make the final changes and give to Ms. Haller based on comments from Council. She said she also gave a copy to Mrs. Fegan for her review. She said Mr. Schmitzer also wanted some additional time to review his section. She said if necessary, this can always be amended. Ms. Vozar said Mrs. Fegan suggested removing some of the computations that are used for billing. Ms. Vozar said she does not feel comfortable deleting this item yet.

Mr. Schmitzer said in reviewing his portion of the code, he feels it is just a matter of making sure that the correct people are listed in the code. He said there are a lot of responsibilities given to various people. Mr. Gentile said one of the biggest reasons for reviewing the Public Service Code is to clear up any grey areas that might exist.

Moved by Mr. Gentile, seconded by Mr. Willey to **recommend to Council approval of the Public Service Code**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**6. Sewer problems in Gregory Lane area/Infiltration of storm water**

Mr. Tigue said 83 out of 98 homes are completed in the Gregory Lane area.

**7. Inflow/Infiltration of storm water**

Mr. Tigue said they are winding down their testing due to the weather. He said they are currently finishing up on Albion Road. Mr. Gentile asked Mr. Tigue if the Wastewater Department is monitoring historicals in typical rain events and if they have noticed a diminishing flow at the B Plant after a rain event. Mr. Tigue said yes. He said the average flow in 2006 and 2007 was 600,000 per day. He said it is down now to 450,000.

**8. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit**

Mr. Tigue said the final permit for the A Plant has been finalized by the EPA. Mr. Tigue said the letter he sent to them in response to the draft permit contained five comments. He said the EPA accepted four out of the five comments. He said the comment that was not addressed had to do with compost and fecal sampling after 60 days in storage. He said we have not been moving a lot of compost lately, so he said he may want to challenge this. He said they may have simply missed this comment since there was no response at all. He said this permit will be effective December 1, 2009 and will be in effect for five years.

**9. Home Sewage Treatment Systems**

Mr. Tigue said A&P Septic has broken ground. He said the city met all of the November 1, 2009 deadlines set by the EPA and now we have until spring to do the construction. He said there are two homes involved in this project, one home is on Edgerton Road and the other is on York Road.

**NEW BUSINESS****1. Chesapeake Drive Storm Sewer Extension**

Mr. Schmitzer said there is a resident on Chesapeake Drive that has the outlet for the retention basin for the Chesapeake Subdivision in the back of their property. He said it outlets through a pipe and there is a headwall. He said it does not end at a property line, it ends about two-thirds through their back property. He said this resident has approached the Engineering Department and requested extending that pipe through the natural stream or outlet area to just before the property line. Mr. Schmitzer said there is a lot of erosion in the area. He said the Engineering Department does not have any issues with the plan they submitted. He requested a recommendation from Council in order to do this project.

Mr. Gentile asked if this is like piping a storm channel or piping a creek. Mr. Schmitzer said this is just a low lying area that wanders through the woods.

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mr. Willey to **recommend that the Chesapeake Drive Storm Sewer Extension be placed on the November 17, 2009 Council agenda.** Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Willey, seconded by Mr. Petrusky to **adjourn the meeting.** Yeas: 2. Nays 0. **Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m. Motion carried.**