

STORM WATER COMMITTEE MINUTES JUNE 3, 2014

The Storm Water Committee meeting was held on June 3, 2014 at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Steve Muller, Vice Chair John Nickell, Dan Langshaw; Council: Larry Antoskiewicz, Dan Kasaris, Paul Marnecheck, Gary Petrusky; Administration: Mayor Robert Stefanik, Service Director Nick Cinquepalmi, Wastewater Superintendent Tim Tigue, City Engineer Mark Schmitzer; Service Supervisor John Fielding, Storm Water Supervisor Mike Lung; Other: Mike Laspisa, Kelle Laspisa, Robert Wehagen, Dale Weinschreider, Marilyn Weinschreider, Vivian Maurer, Lindsay Miller, Noreen Withnell, Amanda Dalton, Bruce Berwald, Dan Meges, Darlene Meges, Laura Kemp, Brett Kemp.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mr. Nickell to **approve the May 6, 2014 minutes**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0.
Motion carried.

Mr. Muller stated that Mayor Stefanik wished to make a storm water report to the community.

Mayor Stefanik said the day after the storm we contracted with NEORS and the Cuyahoga County Public Works Division to bring in additional crews to help clean up after the storm, especially in the York Road area. A lot of the rocks and shale that came down from Ridge Road west to York Road and filled in all of the sewers and culverts under the street. He said that we are continuing this cleanup process. The county still has two crews working here and we will be utilizing them until the work is caught up. He said that some private companies came in and gave us a hand as well. We have contracted with a sweeping company to help get the streets back in shape. He said that DiGioia Suburban on Royalton Road also offered equipment and people to help us open up the Industrial Park the morning after the flood. Mayor Stefanik said that in going through the neighborhoods, there is good news and bad news. He said that we found a problem in the Prince Charles area. The storm sewers from the homes were connected to a small clay pipe that dumped into the woods that no one was aware of until we uncovered some buried catch basins. We were able to uncover those and get them back up and running the way they should be. The county was working today in the Elmwood Oval area which effects Cedar Estates. Where a lot of the water comes from the east, it funnels into a large area right at Elmwood Oval and that was completely filled in with silt and debris and the sewer was completely covered up. The county was able to open up the pipes and the debris is continuing to be hauled out. The Mayor said that on Wildwood we discovered another storm basin that goes through the back yards to Abbey Road that has been there since 1993 that no one knew about. We will be in there this week or early next week to clean this out. This should help alleviate the flooding around Applewood and Cedarwood. He said that we have sent letters to the residents in St. Thomas Woods that the Wastewater Department will be out there to smoke and dye test to see if we can finally discover what the issues are with the sanitary sewer back up. Regarding Boston Road, he said that we have applied through FEMA for funding. We received a letter today from Emergency Management stating that a decision has not been made yet because only four communities in Cuyahoga County have applied for assistance so far. We were one of those communities. They are still waiting for three or four other communities to submit their applications for emergency assistance. We hope to hear something on this next week. Mayor Stefanik said that after the residents have had an opportunity to speak here this evening, they are welcome to meet with the Wastewater Supt., the City Engineer, the Service Director, the Storm Water Supervisor or the Service Supervisor in the caucus room to discuss their concerns one on one with these individuals.

Mr. Muller recognized those residents who wished to speak.

Dan Meges, 4617 Oakridge Dr. He said that the efforts made by Mayor Stefanik's administration have made it a lot better than it has been. This last storm was the worst he has seen. Dr. Meges said that he lives in Oakridge at the bottom of four hills where the city dug up the yard and installed a new culvert, which made a difference. It did not plug up and it drained very well; it's just that the rain was so

overwhelming. Dr. Meges thanked Mayor Stefanik for keeping his promise when they put in the culvert and restored his property to the way it was before. He said he wanted the city to keep another promise it made. There are two retention basins back in the Bunker area. Seven years ago, the last time Oakridge flooded, the administration in office at that time worked very hard to get the residents on Bunker to lower the level of one of those retention basins by one foot. He said they keep them half full at all times for scenic purposes when they were really built to take care of storm water. He said he has a potential solution to this problem. Seven years ago, the level was lowered once with the promise that if it works, the city would lower the other basins even more. Dr. Meges said it did help, but the efforts seemed to die over time but the storms are getting worse. He would like the city to consider draining those retention basins and using them for what they were built for in the first place. Mayor Stefanik said that we lowered the first one in Dublin. He does not recall if there was a commitment to lower the other two, but that is something that he will address. He stressed that we are committed to improve this situation going forward. Mr. Petrusky asked if we were at one time discussing this with NEORS and entering into a partnership with them for some of these issues. Mayor Stefanik said that we had an agreement crafted with NEORS for a new storm water plan. They were going to give us \$700,000 towards a retention basin in the Cedar Estates area and they were looking at these three basins as well. Unfortunately the Court of Appeals put a halt to this program and it is now before the Supreme Court for a ruling as to whether this is a utility or a tax. The whole program is in limbo but we are still going forward with the Cedar Estates retention basin even though the NEORS money might not be coming. We have money already set aside for this project.

Mike Laspisa, 14767 Bennett Road. He said that the city also put in a culvert that relieved his flooding, but he said the force of the water is still coming down because of the two retention basins in the condos behind him. He wanted it documented that these need to be looked at and that they need to be serviced.

Bob Wehagen, 8456 Hunting Drive. He said he had 5 questions for Council. 1. He wanted to know what test the city performed at his home today. 2. Why would his home have sewer backup when no other houses on his street did. 3. Since we pay sewer fees to the city and NEORS, which department is ultimately responsible for the problems that have occurred with his service and what role does NEORS play in providing our sewer service. 4. What can be done to prevent another occurrence since they have suffered through two in recent years. 5. He asked about the possibility of having a back flow valve in his yard because he is the lowest house on the street and constantly gets water. Mayor Stefanik said that once the Wastewater Department has completed their testing, questions 2, 4 and 5 can hopefully be answered. Regarding question 3, he said that Mr. Wehagen is in C District which means his flow goes to the NEORS, but the city is responsible for the sewer lines.

Lindsay Miller, 9000 Elmwood Oval. She said that she has lived in her house for 2 years and to her knowledge this is the first time the home has flooded. She said that it is the fourth time that it has happened to her neighbor. She asked if this was happening because it can't handle the water, or if the drains are blocked somewhere. Mayor Stefanik said that after the meeting he can show her on a map why this is happening and what we are doing to alleviate this.

Noreen Withnell, 14921 Bennett Road. She said her property is on a slope and she is getting flooding from the condos behind her. She said that it is so bad that her basement has flooded 3 times in the last two years. She said she has done her part by having her house waterproofed, however she still got water in her basement with this last flood. She asked her Councilman Mr. Muller to come out and take a look at the situation. Mr. Muller said he would be more than happy to take a look at her property. Mr. Muller said that he has spoken with Ms. Withnell's daughter and she told him that they think there is a drainage pipe leading off of one of the properties and flowing onto their property. Mayor Stefanik said that he will send the City Engineer and Service Director out to take a look at this as well.

Laura Kemp, 8700 Boston Road. She said that the city is aware of her situation. She said she heard from Mr. Schmitzer yesterday saying that the county EMA probably did not approve her property for the

mitigation. She asked if this was the only application we are waiting on. Mr. Schmitzer said that we applied for 2 pre-disaster mitigation projects. He said the Fire Chief has applied for a number of houses and Ms. Kemp's house was included as one of these. Mayor Stefanik said he just received an email from Emergency Management which says that Cuyahoga County did not meet the minimum requirements for individual assistance for homeowners, but there is still a possibility that homeowners can get grants or low interest loans if the federal government deems it a disaster area. The governor has determined that Lorain County has met the minimum requirements and since North Royalton is connected to Lorain County we could piggy back on this, but we are still waiting for a determination. It may be late next week before we find out if we are going to get any assistance. He said based on past experience, there needs to not only be flooding in the basement, but on the first floor living area as well before they will consider tearing down a home. He said that in the past we have torn down 6 homes in North Royalton based on this criteria. Ms. Kemp asked if anything being done with Medina County due to the location of the property? Mayor Stefanik said that as far as he knows there is no new development off of Boston Road. Mayor Stefanik said that they are very familiar with Ms. Kemp's situation and she is at the top of the list. The city has been trying very hard to shake some federal dollars loose.

Tim Tigue, Wastewater Supt., addressed the audience. He said that most people here tonight are here because of storm water flooding. He asked if storm water is in your house, where does it go? It goes down the floor drains that are connected to the sanitary sewer lines. He said that in his experience the only time sanitary sewer backup occurs is during periods of overland flooding. Overland flooding is when you have major storms in a short period of time and the creeks cannot release the water fast enough resulting in rivers of water running down streets, through yards and into homes. Once it gets into the house or garage it drains into the sanitary sewer drains. He said the sanitary pipes are 8 inch diameter on side streets. The sanitary sewer lateral from the home is only 4, 5 or 6 inches. All it takes is a couple homes flooding in the neighborhood to take up the space in the sewers. If you have a sanitary line that happens to be the lowest in the area, it only takes an inch and the water will then go into your house. He said that they will do their best to dye test areas and try to find leaks and improper connections, but every home that has a sanitary sewer is connected to each other. Once storm water gets in your home, it goes into the sanitary sewer drains and effects everyone. He said during Super Storm Sandy, he did not receive one call regarding sanitary sewer backup because the rain did not cause overland flooding. July 19, 2011 and May 12, 2014 were the last two overland floods. During the 3 years in between, we have had hundreds of storms and not one call related to sanitary back up caused by the main sewers. He said the city plans to dye test every home but it will take years. It takes 3 hours to dye test one home. Mr. Tigue confirmed for Mr. Wehagen that it was the Wastewater Department at his home today performing a dye test.

Marilyn Weinschrieder, 8509 Hunting Drive said she did not understand the logic of having the basement and garage drains empty into the sanitary sewers. Mr. Tigue said it is because these drains handle things such as laundry, cleaning of basements floors, auto repairs, etc. These are all pollutants that you don't want going into the storm sewers.

At this point Service Director Nick Cinquepalmi, Wastewater Superintendent Tim Tigue, City Engineer Mark Schmitzer, Service Supervisor John Fielding, and Storm Water Supervisor Mike Lung left the meeting to meet with residents in the caucus room.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Storm Water/Infrastructure Maintenance Monthly Report

Mr. Muller said that everyone received this report and asked if there were any questions. Mr. Kasaris asked if there were any thoughts on what the problem is on Hardwood Trail since we looked at the line and did not find any issues. Mayor Stefanik said that this has fallen down on the list of priorities at this time.

2. 2014 Projects

Mayor Stefanik reported that Mr. Schmitzer received the plans, specs and bid books from the consulting engineer for the Cedar Estates Project. He said it will take about two weeks to review and then this part of the project will go out to bid. He said that we have not heard back from the Army Corps of Engineers on when we can officially go out to bid Phase 2; it could be a month or two yet.

3. **Hawley/Delsy/Lynn/Beechwood creek erosion and maintenance**

Mayor Stefanik said that they crews have been out working to clean up the debris left over from the storm. Every part of the York Road corridor is a mess. We still have the county on board and the city crews are working double time, weekends, etc. in order to try and stay on top of everything. We are doing the best we can with what we have right now. He said that we will be presenting Council with an amending appropriation ordinance in the near future to pay for all of this. He said we will continue working with the county. Council approved legislation to allow us to contract with the county for this type of work last year, which has saved us weeks or even months of having to now go through the red tape to get this approved. He said the work done on Elmwood Oval has made a big difference and the residents are very happy, but where Elmwood Oval goes under Cedarwood and into the backyards on Applewood, the pipe is completely buried. Mr. Lung is going to go back there and open this up and this should alleviate the problem, as well as all the water that poured down Cedarwood and tore up the streets. Once the retention basin goes in, that will slow it down even more and will in turn let the water drain on Edgewood and Wildwood quicker.

4. **Turnpike Mitigation**

Mayor Stefanik said that the scoring came out this morning. Out of our 4 projects, 3 were knocked off the list right away. He said there is still some consideration for noise mitigation along with some other communities. He said there was only one project in Cuyahoga County funded, and that was in Brecksville. Mr. Kasaris asked if we have the opportunity to reapply next year. Mayor Stefanik said that this year's applications were for 2015-2016, so even if we apply next year, it will be for 2016-2017, but we will keep applying. Mr. Antoskiewicz recommended contacting our State Representative because he sits on the Turnpike Commission. Mr. Marnecheck asked we were given a reason for not receiving funding. Mayor Stefanik said the meeting was this morning and more details will be coming shortly.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Langshaw asked if it would be possible to let residents know through our website and newsletter what they can do with regards to storm water, such as trenching, rain barrels, etc. Mayor Stefanik said the short answer would be no, because each situation is unique and we don't want to give blanket information out that may impact surrounding properties. We really need our experts to go out and physically see the issue before recommending a solution.

Mr. Nickell asked if we have an idea of what the overtime is due to the storm. Mayor Stefanik said that he has those numbers in his office, but the overtime will not be the big ticket item. He said NEORSD sent us a bill for \$18,000. He said he is going to negotiate this amount with them. He said the county sends us a daily bill and for example yesterday their work was \$560.00. He said that we gave the county two small and two large jobs. Once they give us the bill, we are going to look at the price to see if maybe we could pay our crews to work on Saturdays to do it more cost effectively. He said that the county is asking us to pay for the wage, benefits, P.E.R.S., healthcare, and equipment. Once the clean up is finished we will come back to Council to see how Council wishes to proceed. He said there is plenty of money in the Future Capital Improvement Fund to pull \$50,000-\$100,00 for storm clean up. This is something we have to do because if it rains hard again soon, we have to be ready. Mr. Nickell agreed. He knows that there are not unlimited funds, but it would be great if we can put a little more in to help with the progress we are making. Mr. Muller said that as long as we are reviewing the costs overall, he thinks it's a good idea to keep using the county partially because he can't believe that the storm water crews will want to

continuously work overtime. At some point they are going to burn out. Mayor Stefanik said they were burned out after the first week and that is when we got in touch with the county and NEORS. The first week and a half was the emergency clean up and we pulled in every resource we had. Now we are looking at what the county is costing us and if we think that it is not the cost effective way to go, he is going to call the Director of Public Service for the county and let her know that it's great that they are helping us, but we do pay county taxes and he doesn't think they should be making a profit doing this work.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Nickell, seconded by Mr. Langshaw **to adjourn the June 3, 2014 meeting.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0.
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Storm Department Monthly Report

- May 5th – 4430 Sir John – sinkhole, saw cut apron remove concrete televised line located leak started excavation
- May 6th – 4430 Sir John – excavated 12' to 18" concrete storm main, repaired 2 leaking pipe joints with a concrete patch, backfilled trench in lifts with premium stone
17409 Bennett Rd – poured concrete trough
- May 7th – 4430 Sir John – formed driveway apron, brought stone to grade and tamped
State Rd & Valley Parkway – added #1 and #2 stone to the end of pipe
10130 Hardwood Trl – flooded sinkhole televised storm line found no structural damage water traveling under street and leaking into catch basin
- May 8th – 4430 Sir John – poured 6 yards of concrete in apron and finished
12770 Abbey Rd – hand dug around culvert pipe repaired brick collar
- May 9th – 8800 Stephanie Dr – flooded sinkhole and televised line found 2 leaks
8950 Abbey Rd – graded and landscaped
- May 10th – 4430 Sir John – landscaped
8700 Boston Rd – cleaned creek
- May 12th – 8700 Boston Rd – cleaned creek
- May 13th – Storm Clean Up
- May 14th – Storm Clean Up
- May 15th – Storm Clean Up – clean culvert North on Abbey Rd
8778 Wallings Rd – cleaned and removed silt and rocks from inlet of pipe and hauled away
- May 16th – 9749 Albion Rd – Biro Ditch cleaned out
Vac Truck
- May 19th – 14471 Hillside Dr – cleaned mud from inlet of pipe
Vac Truck
- May 20th – 14471 Hillside Dr – cleaned mud from inlet of pipe
Cleaned grate and Cartwrights
- May 21st – Vac Truck – list of catch basins and jetting storm lines
Creeks – various locations, removing logs from obstructing inlet pipes
- May 22nd – Vac Truck – list of catch basins and jetting storm lines
- May 23rd – 11043 Chelsea Ct – excavated and removed debris from inlet grade

- May 27th – 3911 Wiltshire – sinkhole – excavated 4' to storm line repaired joint on clay pipe with concrete collar backfilled with stone and dirt
- May 28th – 10180 Delsy Dr – remove debris by hand from inlet of headwall
- May 29th – 10180 Delsy Dr – remove debris by hand in swale by headwall
Kingston Way – adjust concrete slabs in creek
13961 Prince Charles – televised storm line found silt buildup 39' into storm line
- May 30th – Kingston Way – clean creek
13921 Prince Charles – located and uncovered buried manhole excavated and brought manhole 2' to grade
- June 2nd – Kingston Way – remove piles of silt and shale
13921 Prince Charles – jetted storm line of silt – line clean