

STORM WATER COMMITTEE MINUTES SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

The Storm Water Committee meeting was held on September 4, 2018 at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chairman Gary Petrusky, Vice Chair Dan Langshaw, Cheryl Hannan; **Council:** Larry Antoskiewicz, John Nickell, Paul Marnecheck, Dan Kasaris; **Administration:** Mayor Robert Stefanik, Law Director Thomas Kelly, City Engineer Mark Schmitzer, Service Director Nick Cinquepalmi, Wastewater Supt. Dave McNeeley; **Other:** Lou Krzepina, John Jencson, Annette Jencson, Bob Sandrick, Pat Dovak, Rich Liwosz, Lydia Geordt, Richard Geordt, Steven Stansbury.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mrs. Hannan to **approve the July 3, 2018 minutes**. Roll Call: Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Storm Water/Infrastructure Maintenance Monthly Report

A copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

2. Maintenance Projects

Mr. Schmitzer provided an update on the Jencson project. He said that he has been in contact with the NEORS D regarding the creek that runs through the Jencson property, the neighboring property and travels to our new Cedar Estates Storm Water Basin. He said that we had a grant a few years ago to do some stabilization along the embankment. The grant restricted us on what we could do, so it wasn't what we had hoped for, but it was something to help out where we were not getting funding before. He said that there is still some erosion happening so he reached out to the sewer district and told them that it is just upstream of the regional system and regional basin and asked if there was anything they could do to add this to their system. He said he received an email from the sewer district that says unfortunately they cannot add this to their system. He said he understands that if everyone started asking to add areas to their system, then their system would double in no time at all. He said that he has been looking at West Creek Conservancy and Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as reaching out to the Ohio EPA to see if there are any grants available. He said that the EPA used to have a grant program called the Stormwater Improvement Fund that was funded every year up to \$150,000 per project. It was a great program to help perform stream relocations and/or improvements which is exactly what we are looking for with this project. He said that they have not funded this program since 2014 and he said that he does not see this happening anytime soon under the current federal administration. He said that he looked at a couple other programs that the EPA has and these programs are loans. One is the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund but he felt that this was a longshot because it must be linked to some type of sanitary component. He said that he will research this a little more but does not know if this is the right program for this project. He said that he is still looking at West Creek Conservancy to see if they have any opportunities. They have helped us in the past with the Bennett and Edgerton creek. We got this creek taken care of under a mitigation for a site in Avon for their schools at no cost to us. That was probably an \$80,000-\$90,000 project. But at this time, he does not have any funding mechanisms to help out. We are still looking at about \$60,000-\$65,000. He said that he will keep looking and doing what he can to locate funding for this project.

John Jencson, 9610 Tilby Road, addressed the committee. He said that this project has been going on for quite some time. He said that the company Set In Stone came on to their property on a rainy September 29, 2016. It will be two long years since his lawn has been torn up and he keeps hearing what is trying to be done. He said that he feels very strongly that the city has a responsibility to make this right. He said that he knows funding is a reality but he is having a wedding party for his son a month from now and his lawn is probably the worst on Tilby Road. He said that he doesn't know what to do anymore. He said that the city cannot come on to his property, turn it into what it is now, and then just walk away. The city should not have started the project if they could not have done it. He said Mr. Schmitzer has told him more than once that the city will leave his property in as good, or better, condition than when we came in. He said it is no

where near what it used to be. He said that he is frustrated beyond words. Mr. Schmitzer said that it is his opinion that they do not have the worst lawn in the area. Mr. Jencson said that it is getting worse; there are bare spots where the grass didn't grow. He said that it is a mess. Mr. Schmitzer said that it is not as bad as what he is hearing it being portrayed. He said that when we came on the property there was a retaining wall that was collapsing in the creek and that is no longer there. Mr. Jencson said that the concrete at the bottom is starting to slide in because of the drain pipe being improperly installed. Mr. Schmitzer said that he wouldn't say that we left things in the same condition. Mr. Jencson said that the creek was 5 feet further from the house than it is now and the edge keeps rolling in. Mr. Schmitzer said that the only reason any work was done was because we received a grant to work on private property; the city can't fund work on private property. That is why he has a funding problem. If he can't get any funding or receive authorization to do the work, there is nothing more he can do other than get the contractor to remedy the bumps in the ground and the plants that are not growing and whatever was in the scope of work. That's all he can do. Mr. Jencson said that this hasn't even happened. Mr. Jencson said that he understands that the city didn't want to do the lawn because of the equipment that was going to be coming in. Mr. Schmitzer said that we agreed to hold off on that. Mr. Jencson agreed but now he is hearing that it probably never going to happen. Mr. Schmitzer said that he can get the lawn repaired. Mr. Jencson said that they want to downsize to a smaller home but they are going to lose thousands and thousands of dollars because the creek is getting closer to the house and kids can't even walk in the back yard.

Mrs. Schmitzer provided an update on the Cedar Estates storm sewer warranty work. He said we had 6 or so trees that have died and have already been replaced once. He said that we will get these replaced again mid to late October. He said that out of the rest of the items on the punch list, there are two driveway aprons that have cracks in them that are going to be routed and filled because there is not need to replace the concrete. He said that the Cedar Estates basin punch list is with the contractor. He said that we are working on how to fix part of the creek that has now drained into the basin and how to get this to stop without causing any violations to the permits that we have the Army Corp and the EPA. He said that it might just come down to a meeting with them saying that this is the reality of what we have and can we live with it so that the contractor can finish up what needs to be done out there.

Turnpike Mitigation

Mr. Schmitzer said that the York Road drainage plans will be finished up and the work will be completed very soon.

NEW BUSINESS

1. None.

MISCELLANEOUS

Rich Liwosz, 12027 Sprague Road addressed the committee. Mr. Liwosz said that he lives at the corner of Abbey and Sprague Roads where the creek crosses Sprague Road. He said that he is having a problem with the creek banking. The creek itself is on city property and over the last few years he has lost 6-8 feet of his property on the top. Everything is settling down and out. He said that they just did work on the bridge on Abbey Road which increased the pipe size. He said that especially at the rear end of his property, the water comes from all existing properties on Sprague Road down to the creek and taking part of his property with it. He said that some of it at the bottom is dropping out into the creek and it takes the trees right down with it. He said that he has spoken with the committee before about installing gabions along the wall. He said that flags have been placed along the creek and he is not sure what these are for. He said that he spoke with the sewer district and the Baldwin Creek people. He said that the Baldwin Creek people said that they were willing to work with the city to do something to help alleviate some of the problem but it was quickly turned down by the committee here to do anything. He said that he knows that the city has put gabions in other locations and thinks that it is time to consider doing something with this part of the creek. He said that this is the mouth of the whole sewer system; everything goes through here. He knows that the city owns the property down there but when we had that storm, the property was completely covered with water and was going in all different directions. He said that there is a big turn in the creek and there are gabions in place there, but no one wants to

go any further and now it is affecting him. Mayor Stefanik asked who he spoke with at the sewer district. Mr. Liwosz said he does not have the name with him tonight. Mayor Stefanik asked Mr. Liwosz to call him tomorrow and we can talk about this further. He said that this is under the complete jurisdiction of the sewer district and 100% their responsibility. He said that he will get the city, the sewer district and Mr. Liwosz all talking together on this. Mr. Liwosz said this would be fine.

Lydia Geordt, 10278 Abbey Road, addressed the committee. Ms. Geordt said that she received a violation dated 8/21/18 stuck to her garage door. Her neighbor got one as well. It was for trimming the growth in the 4-foot ditches along the road. She said that there is no way that she is going to crawl in the ditch. She said that her son came over on the 24th and trimmed the growth in the ditches. She said that he was out there for about 45 minutes and took a break. While he was on this break, an SUV got into the ditch and if her son was still in the ditch he would have been under the car dead. She said that a police officer told her that accidents happen. She said that there is no reason why a ditch has to be 4 feet deep. She said that she called Safety Director Bruce Campbell to come out and she said that he was shocked at how deep the ditch was. She said the city used to come around twice a year to trim the ditches, but no one comes any more and she wants to know why. She said that she has been told that it is her responsibility to trim the ditches. She said that she is not going to trim it. She has knee problems and her husband has bad hips. She said that she won't pay anyone to do it either. She wants to know why the city doesn't cut it like they used to. She said that she wants to know why some people get violations and other don't. She said that she wants answers. Mayor Stefanik asked which questions she wants answered first. Ms. Geordt said that she wants to know why the city stopped trimming the ditches. Mayor Stefanik said that Section 1022.06 of the Codified Ordinances states that "it is the responsibility of the property owner to keep such ditches, culverts, sewers, natural water courses or other water courses free of all debris, vegetation, etc. so as not to impede the drainage of water". Ms. Geordt asked again why the city stopped two years ago. Mayor Stefanik said that we were violating our ordinances. He said that he can have her name put on a list for assistance from the various groups that help residents with this type of work. They do this 4-5 times a year. He said the next one is coming up in a 3-4 weeks. Ms. Geordt said she would like her name and her neighbor's name put on the list. She wanted to know why the ditches are 4 feet deep and why the piping is crumbling and why does she have a sink hole between the light post and the culvert. She said that the city put a cone over the sink hole. Mayor Stefanik said that we are applying for Issue 1 funding to do this intersection. Ms. Geordt said then that she can't cut her grass because of the cone and will get cited again. Mayor Stefanik suggested that she stay after the meeting and he would be more than happy to talk with her about this further.

Richard Geordt, 10278 Abbey Road, addressed the committee. He said that as long as they have lived here the city has come out and dug the ditch deeper and deeper because of complaints from the people who are upstream on Albion Road about water sitting in their yards. He said that the car that crashed went 100 feet into the gully and slammed into the vault at the end of the street where it goes into the sewer damaging it more than it was already damaged. The other side in front of his house has been collapsing for at least 3 years. The brick work is all coming down and it is full of garbage. He said that there is no way humanly possible to clean this out without professional equipment. He said that the ditch should be covered over and piped in just like many of the other yards. He said that if the city is going to enforce the 6-inch rule on just two properties, then he said he is hereby complaining about the whole city and the height of the weeds throughout the city. He said he drives all through the city and said everyone has tall grass and weeds in the gullies and no one is getting cited for this. Mayor Stefanik said that he believes that they are getting cited. He said that there have been dozens and dozens of citations this year for this. He again offered to take their address and have the volunteers take care of this for them. Mr. Geordt asked about the possibility of getting this cemented in so it never overgrows. Mayor Stefanik said that he is more than welcome to talk to the City Engineer about this, but it would be at the homeowner's cost, not the city. Mr. Geordt asked about the reinforced stone work that was put in at the corner of York and Albion Roads across from the fire station. Mayor Stefanik said this work was part of the tax increase that was voted on by the residents. This was specifically done to the Biro Ditch and this was in the Ordinance when the voters approved the tax levy in 2006. Mr. Geordt felt that we need to start universally enforcing the ordinances. Mayor Stefanik said we are. He agrees that they are unattractive and unsafe.

Steven Stansbury, 9962 Abbey Road, addressed the committee. He said that he too was cited and is here for an answer to a question. He said that he moved to the city 20 years ago and understood that the ditch was his responsibility. He said that a man was going door to door with a petition that asked that the city be responsible for the maintenance of the ditches. Mr. Stansbury said that he signed the petition and shortly thereafter the city started cutting the ditches. He said that they did it for years and not just twice a year, but all the time. Then all of a sudden two years ago out of nowhere it stopped. He asked what created the city to stop doing this. Mayor Stefanik said that we are following our ordinances. Mr. Stansbury said then the city did not follow their own ordinance for 16 years. Mayor Stefanik said this is correct. He said that if we cut Mr. Stansbury's ditch, then we would have to cut everyone's tree lawn in the city if we don't follow our ordinance. Mr. Stansbury said that some areas should be designated as danger zones.

Lou Krzepina, 8920 Edgewood Drive, addressed the committee. He said that his street is unique in that for the entire length of the street, there are only two sets of catch basins. The way it was designed, the water on the street flows south, goes into the catch basins, gets into the storm sewer and flows back north towards B Plant. He said that these catch basins are important because they are the only ones on the street. He said that the basin on the west side has bricks underneath the street and they tend to work loose and fall into the catch basin. He said when they did this about 15 years ago, the whole thing fell in. He said right now it is at a point where the curb is cracked and the street is beginning to settle down in. He said that there are quite a few that have fallen into the basin and he is afraid that over winter with the snow plows going through there, it might let go.

Mr. Nickell said that regarding the ditch cutting, maybe we could look at a program where senior citizens who can't cut their ditches could apply for help with the city, at least on the main roads. Mayor Stefanik said that when you start picking and choosing who you are going to cut for and for what reasons, you are heading down a slippery slope. He said that he doesn't want anyone to think he is against senior citizens because he is one himself, but we have a duty to all of our tax payers in the city to represent them. He said that if you stay on top of the ditches, they are not difficult to maintain. But if you let them grow over, this is where you run into issues with conveying storm water in these ditches. The Mayor said that we have two churches and a bank who do these volunteer weekends 4-5 times a year and they are always looking for projects. If anyone knows of someone in need of this type of assistance should get in touch with the city and let them know. There are hundreds and hundreds of volunteers that go out and help. Mrs. Hannan said that the residents who spoke earlier are in her ward and she said that the area is dangerous and they were upset about the accident and the near miss. She said that she hears what the Mayor is saying but where these properties sit it is a hazard. She said that having the volunteers keep these ditches clear may help.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mrs. Hannan to adjourn the September 4, 2018 meeting. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.**

Street Department & Storm Water Monthly Report – August 2018

8/1/18-Wed.

Asphalt-Ridge Rd. project [we will be doing repairs from Wallings to Rt.82].
Storm Water-continue catch basin repairs in Timber Ridge.

8/2/18-Thur.

Asphalt-continue on Ridge Rd.
Storm Water-finish pouring the basins in Timber Ridge. Later in the day we started basin repair in South Hampton.

8/3/18-Fri.

Asphalt-Ridge Rd.
Storm Water-poured two basin repairs, one on Malvern Ln. the other at Ridge & So. Hampton.

8/6/18-Mon.

Asphalt-Ridge Rd. [finished the southbound lane, starting northbound from Rt82 tomorrow].
Storm Water-start catch basin rebuild on Rt82 just west of the police station.

8/7/18-Tue.

Asphalt-Ridge Rd.
Storm Water-Rt82 finished the rebuild, set up for a Wednesday morning pour.

8/8/18-Wed.

Asphalt- Ridge Rd.
Storm Water-poured basin on Rt82 in the morning. In the afternoon we started crack sealing Ridge Rd.

8/9/18-Thur.

Asphalt-Ridge Rd.
Crack Sealing-Ridge Rd.

8/10/18-Fri.

Asphalt- Ridge Rd.
Crack Sealing- Ridge Rd. also sealed on Vista Dr.

8/13/18-Mon.

Asphalt- Finished Ridge Rd. in the morning, in the afternoon started on Yorkview.
Storm Water-6910 Cady Rd. installed culvert pipe.

8/14/18-Tues.

Asphalt- Yorkview East grind and install asphalt strips
Storm Water-Cady Rd. installed asphalt apron.
Mowing.

8/15/18-Wed.

Asphalt-Yorkview Dr.
Storm Water-4107 Akins Rd. installed new culvert pipe and apron. Late afternoon started basin work at the Y.M.C.A.

8/16/18-Thur.

Asphalt-Yorkview Dr.
Storm Water-rebuild catch basin at the Y.M.C.A.

8/17/18-Fri.

Asphalt-Cedarwood Dr.

Storm Water-10701 Akins Rd. culvert pipe replacement.

8/20/18-Mon.

Patching-Cedarwood Dr.

Storm Water-finish pipe replacement and ditching at 10701 Akins Rd.

8/21/18-Tue.

Patching-Cedarwood Dr.

Asphalt-8978 State Rd. repair the street in front of this address.

8/22/18-Wed.

Asphalt- Yorkview Dr.

Storm Water-repair two basins on Andover Ln.

8/23/18-Thur.

Asphalt-Yorkview Dr.

Storm Water-17358 Waterbridge Dr. repair the sidewalk manhole, we will remove & replace two blocks after repairs are completed.

8/24/18-Fri.

Asphalt-Finish Yorkview Dr. in the morning. In the afternoon we did two strips in front of new driveway pours on Tilby.

Crack Sealing-front & back of N.R.F.D. lot. Finish Vista and Eastend Dr.

8/27/18-Mon.

Asphalt-Rt.82 [installing strips from the Broadview line to State Rd. both lanes].

Concrete- pour sidewalk at 17358 Waterbridge Dr.

8/28/18-Tue.

Asphalt-Rt.82

Signs-replace lights, N.R.P.D. had a list of lights to do, also replace old signs with new high intensity signs.

8/29/18-Wed.

Asphalt-Rt. 82

Sealing-Sharon Dr.

8/30/18-Thur.

Asphalt-Rt.82

Storm Water-vac. & jet out storm line on the corner of State & Wiltshire. Also jet out the crossover on Drake Rd.