

**Special Public Utilities Committee Meeting  
September 9, 2022, 9:00 a.m. Village Hall**

**Members Present:** Chairman Porter, Council Member Berger, Mayor Koons, Street Commissioner Alder, Engineer Haibach, Solicitor Matheney

Porter called the meeting to order and read the roll.

Porter requested an update on the Central Retention Basin and Manor Brook projects. The Engineer explained that Mr. Excavator is the general contractor on both projects and has been working on both simultaneously. Mr. Excavator has ordered the plant materials for the Manor Brook portion of the project. He thought they would be done with the project by October 30<sup>th</sup>, and possibly earlier. Porter stated there was discussion with the Manor Brook Gardens residents at the September 8, 2022, Planning Commission meeting about screening they would like to have done. The culverts running under Chillicothe Rd., which will be a Village project, were also discussed in relation to the screening. There will be a Planning Commission meeting with Manor Brook Gardens residents and possibly some Whitetail residents on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Porter further explained that the Streets Committee discussed the culvert project and would recommend authorization to go out to bid for the four culvert pipes under Chillicothe Rd. This project would follow the completion of the Manor Brook project and occur while the landscaping was in process. He further explained that the Public Utilities Committee had oversight in planning the succession of stormwater projects after the Central Retention Basin and Manor Brook 319 grant projects. Other stormwater projects discussed were stormwater management retention basin north of Bell Rd. and east of Chillicothe Road as a twin to the Central Retention Basin. Porter thought the Village might want to first evaluate how effective the 319 project and the Central Retention Basin. He thought the Central Retention Basin would have a major impact on stormwater control for all of the homeowners west of Chillicothe Rd. It may have a positive impact on the Parkland Dam as well. The Engineer concurred. He added that the projects were moving along on schedule and on budget.

Regarding the Parkland Dam resident, Porter did not think anyone had paid \$3,000. Berger stated that a couple of weeks ago, he and the Mayor had breakfast with Bruce Hendricks and Marc Bloch from the Parkland group. They were informed that the best solution for them going forward is to partner with the Geauga County Erosion Control District (ESID). They were excited for this opportunity and are waiting for the county to provide them with the forms to petition the ESID to start the process. The Mayor was supposed to call the County Auditor to find out the status. From a Village perspective, Parkland Dam has been moved off Council's agenda and is on the county ESID agenda. Porter asked the Mayor if he had follow up and the Mayor said they were waiting on the Auditor who said they were busy and just did all their tax budgets. The Mayor thought it would come soon. Porter stated that according to the Fiscal Officer, communication was received from the county and the matter was in the Village's ballpark. The Fiscal Officer explained that an email was sent to all Village officials on August 19<sup>th</sup> in which the Auditor provided a breakdown of the status. It was her understanding that Bainbridge and Russell were already getting their projects together and it is the responsibility of Parkland Dam residents to get the petition to start the process. The Solicitor asked if the Village

could contact Mike Wise, MacDonald Hopkins, to inquire about the proposed form template petition. Berger said Parkland was waiting for this. The Mayor stated he would contact Wise. He added that he has been disappointed with MacDonald Hopkins with getting going. The committee surmised that they were unaware the Village had a project ready for further exploration. The Solicitor asked the Mayor to let her know if it is something the Village is supposed to prepare. The committee discussed the necessity to make the path smooth for the residents, and Berger assured the committee that 11 residents support the project. Regarding a change of owners among the group, Berger relayed that money was provided through escrow to pay for this project and the new residents supports the project. Porter asked the Mayor to have Wise email the petition to the the Mayor, Solicitor, and the Fiscal Officer so it will be forwarded to the residents. Then the Village steps back.

The Committee discussed not knowing who was on the ESID Board, and the Mayor said the Chagrin River Watershed Partners and Geauga Soil and Water want to be a part of it and had the impression that they did not count. Berger thought each participating community was to have a representative on the board. Porter asked the Mayor to find this out from Wise as well, and suggested the Mayor make the Chair of Public Utilities the South Russell board member. The Solicitor thought this should be done by motion.

Porter addressed the goals requested by the Mayor for the Strategic Plan. He suggested that one goal would be that in the next five years the Village succeed in controlling stormwater through the various projects going on now and, in the future, so no one experiences flooding by a 100-year storm. The committee discussed the verbiage of the goal, in particular specifying 100-year storm. The Engineer explained that a 100-year storm has a 1% recurrence chance statistically every year. The standard the Engineer has taken on for all of the stormwater projects in the Village has been 100-year storm where a 25-year storm is a design standard in Ohio. The Engineer explained that by creating this goal, it would set the standard for his predecessor as well as Council's predecessors.

The Mayor suggested another goal should involve electricity and gas. The Village will install solar panels on every home. He added that a plan to install solar panels on the front of a home in the Village was approved by the Architectural Review Board (ABR). The Mayor realized that the Village does not have any regulation for this, and noted that the neighbors of this house will be looking at solar panels. Porter noted that the Village has the Service Garage that faces east and west and Village Hall with a lot of roof available for solar power panels. He suggested making the Village energy independent electrically. The Street Commissioner questioned the need for battery storage, and the Engineer said this would be necessary because this is how solar panels work. Porter asked the Street Commissioner if he would need a bucket truck to service it. Porter thought there might be NOPEC money available to assist the Village in being energy independent. Porter suggested this occur by 2030. The Mayor wondered if the Bobolinks on East Washington St. could survive under solar panels. Berger suggested investigating the expense related to solar panels. To put them on a house, is \$25,000 to \$30,000 for a private home. A commercial facility could be \$100,000 and maybe that would be a good investment. He suggested analyzing the utility bills to see how much is spent on the Village campus. Porter

suggested envisioning a time when the Village campus does not have a gas bill because it has a gas well on the property that supplies the Village with gas. Berger asked if there was a gas pocket under the Village property. Porter was unsure but said there are gas wells throughout the area. He noted that there was the six acres of the Central Retention Basin. The Mayor proposed the goal should be that the Village will yearly reduce the amount of gas and electricity used by Village facilities. The Engineer clarified that it would be a matter of reducing its energy costs or carbon footprint. He suspected the Village would continue to use the same amount of energy and it was a matter of how it would be generated. Porter suggested changing remaining lights to LEDs to fulfill the Mayor's goal. Porter wanted it to be bigger than that, and the Engineer proposed carbon neutrality. Porter was concerned with costs and felt the investment should be paid for over time with savings. Berger addressed the proposal in terms of the need for equipment to be battery driven instead of gas. The Street Commissioner said the Police Chief was discussing having all electric police cars. Berger suggested using the solar power to collect energy in batteries to use as a charging station for the police cars. The Mayor proposed putting solar panels on the south side of the Police Station.

Berger stated that an expert in solar panels should be located to educate the Village as to the available options. The Engineer explained that what was needed was someone who could conduct an energy audit.

The Mayor stated that Dr. Rosenthal called him and wants to sell the Village his property. The Mayor stated he firmly told him no. The committee discussed the potential for utilizing the property in terms of the energy alternatives.

Porter made a motion to adjourn at 9:37 a.m. the meeting, seconded by Berger.

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Mark Porter, Chairman