

Street Committee Meeting
July 30, 2021, 7:30 a.m.

Members Present: Chairman Carroll, Councilman Porter, Street Commissioner Alder

Carroll called the meeting to order and read the roll.

The Street Commissioner said that according to the Engineer, Dominion would be out of the way in late August regarding the Lake Louise Bridge project. Additionally, there were options proposed for a temporary road for the residents to use during construction. Carroll asked if there was a fixed start date for the project, and the Street Commissioner said it had not been finalized.

Carroll asked the Street Commissioner about the status of the connector pipe that was suspected to be carrying sewage which had been referred to the Geauga County Health Department. The Street Commissioner said he was waiting to hear from the county about retesting the water. Carroll asked him to follow up with the county and the Engineer.

Regarding the 2021 Road Program, the Street Commissioner stated they were ready to go. The Street Department was finalizing the culvert pipes on East and West Bel Meadow. 24 culvert pipes were done in July, 12 of which were on East and West Bel Meadow. There were eight more to go on these streets for a total of 32. The Street Commissioner estimated this was half of the homes on East and West Bel Meadow. Carroll thought this would be beneficial for stormwater and suggested notifying residents of this service with future repaving projects. The Street Commissioner explained there was other work to do to improve the water flow, but stated this work would result in increased water heading for Chillicothe Rd. Carroll stated that the Village was waiting on the Manor Brook project, which would help with this. He asked the Street Commissioner to consider addressing the swale between West Bel Meadow and Chillicothe Rd once the Manor Brook Dr. and the Chillicothe Rd. culvert projects were done. The Street Commissioner stated that he was going to clear from West Bel Meadow to the backyards of West Bel Meadow, which would mean that the Chillicothe Rd. and West Bel Meadow parts would be done, leaving only the middle section. He thought the Village should wait on this until after the pipes were installed so the water had a place to go other than dumping onto Chillicothe. Carroll asked if the Engineer agreed with clearing the area of West Bel Meadow to the wood line, or whether this should wait until Chillicothe was done. The Street Commissioner said it was necessary to do this to get the pipes clear since they were underwater. Carroll stated that the swale between West Bel Meadow and Chillicothe Rd. had not been done for at least 30 years. He recommended that there be a routine maintenance plan for it. The Street Commissioner suggested five years.

Carroll addressed the sewer tie-in issue with 1113 Bell Rd. The Street Commissioner explained that the resident claimed that when the Village did the road improvement on west Bell Rd., it damaged his sanitary line. The Street Commissioner, Engineer, and Building Inspector met with the resident to explain that the Village was not responsible for the damage. The resident was considering legal action, but the Engineer said the resident would not find a judge to pick up the case. Carroll clarified that there was nothing in the right of way for which the Village would be responsible. The Street Commissioner explained that the Village increased a storm sewer pipe from 12-inches to 27-inch, but the location of the bottom of the pipe stayed the same. It did not

disturb the earth between the storm sewer and the sanitary sewer, which is several feet. The Street Commissioner explained that this issue involved an area that sags and fills up with debris or sanitary matter from the resident's house and then requires jetting every year or two. Porter clarified that the resident is claiming that the sag in the line was caused by the installation of the larger pipe to the storm sewer line, and the Street Commissioner said yes. Porter verified that the Engineer did not believe the replacement of the pipes caused it, and the Street Commissioner concurred. Carroll verified that neither the Street Commissioner or Engineer made any promises to the resident, and the Street Commissioner agreed. The Street Commissioner further explained that the county offered to have the resident reconnect on the north side of Bell Rd at the resident's expense, which would save the resident money. This offer was made after the resident threatened to sue the county.

It was brought to the Street Commissioner's attention that there was an easement between Laurel and Countryside Dr. in the backyards. It flows towards Bell Rd. To his knowledge, it had never been cleaned or maintained by anyone. However, he did not know for a fact that the Village has an easement. Carroll suggested determining this because if it is causing issues, the Village must address it. He reiterated that the first step would be to determine if there is an easement for stormwater and if the Village needed to maintain it. The discussion could continue from there.

Carroll added that perhaps the Village should do a full evaluation of any of the stormwater easements across the Village. He requested the Street Commissioner obtain a list of the easements from the Building Department and perhaps a CT Consultants map showing them and identifying their purposes.

Regarding this possible easement area on Laurel and Countryside Dr., the Street Commissioner recommended contracting the work out since the Village did not have the equipment to work in the backyards. Carroll saw this as potentially being a costly project, and the Village would not want to over promise and under deliver in this situation.

Porter added that anything the Village could do to help stormwater flow on the west side of the Village was something that needed to be done because of the increase of water that would be seen on the east side as ditches are cleaned. The Street Commissioner stated that there were no residents being affected yet, but it was getting to that point based on how the issue was explained to the Street Commissioner.

Carroll addressed a recent rain event and noted that while one retention pond at the Lantern was full, the other was nearly dry. It seemed it was not capturing any water and wondered how to determine whether it was working correctly. The water was going over the road, and it almost seemed like a pipe was blocked or an overflow was not working properly into that retention area. Carroll thought this should be mentioned to the Engineer and explored to ensure it was functioning properly to help with the water hitting Chillicothe Rd, etc.

Regarding the 2022 Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Salt Price, the Street Commissioner stated that it is down \$9.50 from the previous year. He said the Village put in for 1,000 since the Village is currently over full.

Carroll discussed projecting Village expenses over the next five years, and mapping out which roads would be included in the Road Program while keeping each program to about \$300,000. He explained that committing to the Parkland Dam project, for example, could have an impact on projects the Village would be able to address. Additionally, if the Road Levy were to fail, choices would need to be made between roads and stormwater. Carroll felt that given that the Village had not dealt with stormwater, this was necessary. He felt the Village was on the cusp of addressing the stormwater issues, and he would hate to see it become necessary to withdraw because of failed levies, or if a big road project were to develop, etc. The Committee reviewed the PCI's for Village streets and discussed which streets to consider for Road Programs for 2022 through 2026. Carroll added that the committee should consider the repaving of Bell Road East possibly in 2026.

Carroll stated that from a Finance standpoint, it was known that the Village would have a big hit with \$1.5 million in stormwater projects and Bell Road East in the next five years. There had been huge talk about the Village's big reserves, but in the next five years, it was known that the Village had the responsibility to the community to take care of stormwater issues Village wide. Carroll added that it would be his position to maintain and not cut back the Road Program with a minimum of \$300,000 - \$500,000 per year. He wanted to provide the Engineer with the committee's thoughts on the roads it would suggest for the Road Programs for each year through 2026 and to ask the Engineer to provide an estimate in today's dollars of the cost of having these roads done. Then, the committee could identify the funds that would be required knowing that Bell Road East and stormwater mitigation would be outliers. These by themselves could be over \$2 million dollars. Porter agreed. He added that there could be grants for the roadwork, but it could not be guaranteed. In considering a five-year look-out, until Bell Road East is done, Carroll thought Council should be cautious about taking on any larger unforeseen projects such as a Parkland Dam loan or the Paw Paw Lake Road. The Village also did not know what its fiscal responsibilities might be between Alderwood and The Preserve if anything. From a fiscal standpoint, there was reason to be cautious, at least in the next five years with how funds are expended. While the Village has reserves, it must have a minimum reserve. The \$1.5 million in stormwater projects and Bell Road East alone could eat it all up.

The Street Commissioner read portions of an email discussing the Bell Road repaving and widening. It stated that South Russell Village would like to extend the Bell Road bike and pedestrian path that runs from Chagrin Falls Village to the middle of South Russell to the Newbury Line, 2023, \$1,000,000. Porter and Carroll were unclear as to what the Street Commissioner was reading to them and asked him to forward it. The Street Commissioner clarified it was the 97-page Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency (NOACA) email.

Porter addressed the displeasure resident Ralph Richards expressed at the previous Council meeting with how things were going with stormwater relative to his front yard. Porter asked if Richards' ditch could be dug down a foot or two deeper. The Street Commissioner said this already had been done over the summer. He explained that they ditched from Richards' yard, the yard previous, to the inlet that goes across the road. This was done prior to the last Council meeting, and the Street Commissioner stated that it worked. What happened with the heavy rain event could not have been prevented due to the volume of water. Carroll stated that Richards'

point had to do with the culvert replacement. Porter stated that this would not be done until Chillicothe Rd. was done, which made sense from the Village's point of view. Meanwhile, Richards and his neighbors were getting whacked every time there was a big storm. The Street commissioner stated that this situation was not unusual due to the low ground. Furthermore, he explained that digging the ditch a foot deeper would not help. He reiterated that the work that had been done handled the water from the last two rains where seven inches of rain fell in two days. However, with the rain prior to that, it flooded. Carroll clarified that by creating more retention in the ditch by digging it deeper would then result in the water just sitting there because it had nowhere to go. The standing water would then present a problem.

Carroll asked the Street Commissioner if he could come through Lakeview Ln. and Leaview Ln. to assess the status of the ditches. He reiterated that ditches Village wide should be evaluated when possible.

Carroll adjourned the meeting at 8:24 a.m.

Michael Carroll, Chairman

Prepared by Leslie Galicki