

**Special Public Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes  
December 2, 2022, 9:00 a.m. Village Hall**

**Members Present:** Chairman Porter, Council Member Berger, Street Commissioner Alder  
Engineer Brian Meluch

Porter addressed that Manor Brook 319 Project. There will be a joint Council and Planning Commission walk through on December 8, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. Everyone will meet at Manor Brook and walk the property. It will include residents south of Manor Brook Dr. According to Porter, the Engineer thought it would be necessary to bring in a landscape architect from CT Consultants to walk the property as well. Porter thought the residents would have questions about landscaping and how screening would be done. Awhile back, a preliminary landscape plan was submitted to the Planning Commission, and he thought there would be a revised plan by spring. The Engineer concurred and said he would be attending the walk through.

Berger recused himself from the project for conflict reasons and would not be attending.

Porter said the hope is that the residents south of Manor Brook Dr. will be satisfied with the project and may be inclined to agree to allow the Village to utilize the south part of Manor Brook Dr. as was originally envisioned. The Village will take the residents' concerns into consideration when doing the landscaping plan.

Regarding the Central Retention Basin, the project is substantially complete with some landscaping that needs to be done in spring. Porter thought there was some interaction with the resident who lives just south of the Central Retention Basin. The Mayor had been in contact with that person. His recollection was that the distance between where the plantings are going to go, and his house is several hundred feet. The Engineer concurred. Berger asked to clarify whether the additional screening was contemplated in the original project or was it something being done in addition to satisfy the resident's concern. Porter's recollection was that when the Central Retention Basin was first discussed in 2006 or 2007, and there was no consideration given for screening for the adjacent homeowner. He thought it was contemplated in the original project that there would need to be some kind of landscaping. The amount of landscaping that is in the plan currently may not be sufficient for the resident to feel like his property is properly screened. This will come out once the plantings are done in the spring. The Village may have to add some. To Berger's point, he thought it would be a Village expense rather than part of the project. Berger responded that trees are not cheap. Porter agreed. Berger stated that it is Village property, and the Village has done nothing improper on that property. If the screening no longer meets the need of the resident, then the resident is more than welcome to put up trees along their property line to screen themselves from the adjacent property. It should not be done at taxpayer expense. Porter said that two things are being balanced with the Village's need for the Central Retention Basin and to do what is right by the resident. Trees are expensive, but it may not be trees that are needed.

In connection with this, Porter envisioned that the culvert replacements that are scheduled for late this year or next year, are an addendum to that project in that stormwater will flow from the Central Retention Basin to the new culverts, across Chillicothe Rd., and there will be no flooding

over Chillicothe Rd. The hope is that the combination of the basin and culverts will do a lot to alleviate flooding within the Village.

Porter verified that Engineer Meluch would be attending the December 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting. He thought Council would want to hear a report from the Engineer about the pending and upcoming projects, including the culverts.

Porter addressed the Erosion Special Improvement District (ESID) encompassing the Village stormwater management, water quality improvement for Parkland and Country Estates. Parkland submitted a petition and Council enacted legislation to forward it to Geauga County to get the project going. The county and Parkland are now essentially taking it over and the Village has done everything it needs to do. Berger concurred. Berger added that they are now in discussions with the county and with Mr. Excavator as the potential vendor. They were soliciting additional engineering firms to verify Mr. Excavator's solution to the problem. Porter said that the committee's role would now be as an over watch of the situation since the project affects not just Parkland or Country Estates, but the Village stormwater management system as a whole. His understanding was that Mr. Excavator's verbal estimate was far below what Parkland's volunteer engineer had quoted earlier in the process. Berger concurred and added that with the most recent rains where there were a couple of inches in the Central Retention Basin, Parkland saw substantially less water overflowing from their swim lake into the Parkland dam area.

Porter said there were issues with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Ohio EPA about the work that was done with the Central Retention Basin relative to the stream restoration project. The Street Commissioner said that the part that was damaged will be replaced if it is not already replaced. They may be waiting for the culvert to be replaced and then have the overflow device put in. Then everything will be taken care of at that time. Porter asked if the contract would do the overflow device or the Village. The Street Commissioner believed it was all in the same contract.

Regarding Country Estates, Porter did not think the Village had received a petition. Berger agreed and said that they are in discussions with Geauga Parks about Modroo Farms. The water in Country Estates flows north into Modroo, turning the park area into a swamp. There is then reverse flow which impacts Country Estates. Country Estates approached the Park District to see what could be resolved on the park side because no matter how well they address the problem in Country Estates, there will continue to have problems if the issues are not addressed in the park as well. The committee discussed different solutions to the problem in the Modroo park. Berger added that the Country Estates Homeowners' Association (HOA) president has been communicating with the Mayor, Berger met with him as well. Porter summarized that the Village is awaiting the petition and would take action when it was received.

Porter said with Fox Run, he has Chris Smith's contact information and would reach out to him because the contractor still wants 8,000 yards of dirt and this may be a place for him to get it. The Street Commissioner said the Village has dirt it can give up too. Porter asked if this was the type of dirt the Village will typically give to residents if they call and are on the list. The Street

Commissioner said that up to today, no one has received any of the dirt once they see what it is. It is not topsoil, but spoils from ditching with stones and grass chunks, etc., and not suitable for filling low spots in the yard. It is suitable for fill. Porter thought he would have an update about Fox Run at the January Public Utilities Committee meeting. Berger said that it was unclear whether a detention basin at Fox Run would be a benefit to the system. Manor Brook Part II would be more beneficial to Fox Run than a detention basin. Porter recalled that the Engineer said that having a detention/retention pond is better than not having one. Berger said if it could be done cost effectively for a few dollars, then perhaps this would move it up on the priority list. Porter agreed that Manor Brook south was a higher area of interest for the Village than Fox Run. Berger concluded that the more water that can be held further upstream, the better for everybody on the other end. Porter concurred and said that the Village needed to see how well the Central Retention Basin and Manor Brook functioned. With the addition of Manor Brook south, maybe Fox Run would not be needed.

Porter said that the Family Life Center project is complete, and the Family Life Center paid the \$3,700 which was their portion of the cost. From a stormwater point of view, Porter said that is a major plus for the people on Sheerbrook. In 2022, the Village had dealt with three major stormwater issues. Porter said that the Street Commissioner reported that the Family Life Center is interested in hearing about the management program to keep the water moving the way it is supposed to in the next several years. Berger noted for the record that the Village received a signed contract with the check. The Village has dotted the i's and crossed the t's if after the fact, but it has been done. Porter said the contractor presented an opportunity to get the job done earlier than expected. He commended the Street Commissioner for bringing it to the Mayor's attention and bringing it to the committee's attention, individually, he might add, and it went from there and proceeded well.

Porter adjourned the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

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Mark Porter, Chairman

Prepared by Leslie Galicki