

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2025 – 7:00 P.M.
MAYOR WILLIAM G. KOONS PRESIDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bell, Berger, Canton, Cavanagh, Galicki, and Porter

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Fiscal Officer Romanowski, Police Chief Rizzo, Street Commissioner Young, Engineer Haibach, Solicitor Matheney

VISITORS: Tim Schaaf, Bell Rd., Cammie Fransko, Paw Paw Lake Dr.; John Wahl, Laurelbrook Dr.; Claire Roush, Paw Paw Lake Dr.; Virginia Dix, Paw Paw Lake Dr.; Joe Piannecki, Paw Paw Lake Dr.; Suzanne Moloney, Waverly Ln.; Jennifer Donnellan, Waverly Ln.; John Buda, Leaview Ln.

The Mayor called the Regular Council meeting to order and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. The Fiscal Officer read the roll. **Porter made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2025, Regular Council meeting, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

VISITORS: The Mayor introduced John Wahl, Laurelbrook Dr., as the acting co-chair of the Safe Bicycle and Pedestrian Transport Committee. Wahl has been a resident of South Russell for 12 years and became interested in the path topic because he and his adult son with special needs do a lot of walking and biking along Bell Rd. He found that this can be a scary experience. The committee has been studying the matter and conducted a survey to which 25% of the Village households responded about interest in having paths, locations, etc. The Village has received a grant for up to \$800,000, which is seed money, according to Wahl. It will cover 80% of the construction costs, which the committee is trying to determine. The first phase under consideration is one favored by residents and falls within the budget. It consists of about a mile of multiuse path and will be located along but not on Bell Rd., allowing space for culverts, grass, and a safety barrier. The committee envisions the 5-foot asphalt path starting at Spring Dr. and going past the park to Gurney and Maple Springs. With this section, it will be possible to connect more than half of the households in South Russell to facilities and have a safe place for families and children to be. The committee is excited about the prospect and looks beyond the first phase to consider who else they might be able to connect.

Porter asked if the path would be on the north side of Bell Rd., and Wahl responded that there is already a crosswalk at the park. The main portion would be coming from Gurney to that crosswalk. The committee is proposing a crossing near Gurney to include Maple Springs. All told, it would entail adding two more crosswalks along Bell Rd. It would not be a straight shot, but most of the path would be on the north side. The committee would be conscious about contacting the residents who would be most impacted with the trail going through their yards. There have been public conversations and efforts to go see these residents. Wahl further relayed that the survey response was really positive but the committee will continue to learn more and make sure everyone is aware.

Bell asked about the status of the proposal to extend the path from Chagrin Lakes to Chillicothe Rd. and incorporate a crosswalk there. Wahl said there had not been time to involve the Engineer in this discussion but reiterated that the committee is envisioning this as the starting point that will hopefully extend further.

The Chief clarified that people using the path would have to cross Bell Rd. three times to get from point A to point B. Wahl concurred that this would be necessary to access the full length.

Wahl requested a work session with Council to address the details. The Mayor proposed holding it on August 25th at 7:30 p.m. in Village Hall. The Solicitor advised that it would be a special joint meeting of Council and the Safe Bicycle and Pedestrian Transport Committee. A specific purpose would need to be provided.

Porter asked about the cost for maintenance of the path from year to year. Suzanne Moloney, Waverly Ln., responded that this matter was not explored with the Engineer and would have to be done with the support of the Village. Wahl advised boardwalks would be needed on the path, but the materials would have a 20-year lifespan. He concluded that there would not be an immediate need for maintenance.

Galicki asked Wahl to describe the location of the path in more specific detail. Wahl said it would run on the north side of Bell Rd. from the existing crosswalk at the park to beyond Gurney to a crosswalk at Maple Springs. From the crosswalk at the park, it would continue on the south side of Bell Rd. through the park to a small span right before Spring Drive where there would be another crosswalk.

Canton asked about the potential of having to relocate infrastructure like telephone poles, gas lines, water lines, etc. Wahl was not aware of any and said the path would not be in a straight path in terms of poles and trees. It will be a multiuse path and not a path next to the street. Galicki asked the Engineer if he was aware of any utilities, poles, or interfaces that would have to be removed, and the Engineer said he had not yet seen the site plan on paper with such details. However, with a path like the one being proposed, there is more leeway with it being asphalt. If it crosses a gas line, the Gas Company would not likely care about it being under the path because it would be simple enough to dig through it for an emergency repair. He reiterated that he had not seen the site plan with contours and grading, but his concern would be with storm water. A lot of storm water flows down the Bell corridor, and there is the potential for quite a bit of storm sewer piping and work to facilitate the path. He added that this was speculation, but these are the sorts of factors he would be looking at once he sees the plans. Porter asked about sanitary lines on that side of the road, and the Engineer said there are in some spots, but again if there were an emergency repair needed, it was possible to dig through the asphalt.

Galicki noted that there is a wooded piece of property on the north side of Bell adjacent to the historic home. He thought the foliage went all the way to the street and wondered if the committee had considered that it would be necessary to tear out a lot of those trees. The Engineer clarified that this was across from the Rarick Cemetery and said there was a grade issue there as well which presents concerns beyond tree and foliage removal. Galicki surmised the property was privately owned. He asked if the path had been described by Verdantas, and the Engineer explained he had been working with Rich Washington who was the engineer working with the committee. Cavanagh offered that Washington presented information at the last committee meeting. The Engineer confirmed that the information about the path presented by Wahl was as he understood it. Porter asked if the guardrail would have to be relocated at Farm Creek. The Engineer said it would depend on how the path would get around it. If a boardwalk were built behind it, it would not be necessary to move the guardrail. Bell thought the proposal was to construct a board walk, which would be the same as between Sugar Bush and Chagrin Lakes.

The Street Commissioner asked if use of the trail would be year-round with his concern being that the Village would have to maintain it. Moloney said that it had not been determined. The Mayor said no, he would hope not. Porter questioned whether the path would be asphalt all the way, or gravel. Wahl

said that this was what had been recommended to the committee, other than for the boardwalk surface. Wahl also clarified that the path would be 5-feet and not a full two-lane trail.

The Mayor distributed his proposed timeline (attached) for the paths and stated that the committee had not seen it. In looking at the timeline, the Mayor said he had spoken to the mayors of Chagrin Falls, Orange, Pepper Pike, and will be seeing the mayor of Mayfield Heights tomorrow. The committee had been meeting, and the survey came out in November with a final deadline of February 14th. It indicated 67% support, which beat Pepper Pike's percentage of support. It is not an easy decision. In Pepper Pike, surveys were done, and it was put on the ballot, and all were consistently 65% in support. Letters were sent to the six residents who will have the path in their front yards, requesting that they come to a meeting at the park pavilion. One person showed up. At the end of July, Verdantas provided information to the committee. The price tag is \$676,000 and other things. Last Saturday, August 9th, they knocked on the doors of the six people who will have the path in their front yards to hear what they had to say. From the beginning, the committee said it would be from Gurney to the park. The committee has expanded that, but the Mayor wanted to give Council the version of Gurney to the park to let them know what it would be, \$676,000. The Mayor said that for those watching on YouTube, he would be at Village Hall in the morning to answer questions. He added that flyers were distributed for the upcoming Ice Cream Bike Ride as well as another committee meeting and the August 25th joint work session meeting. Starting on August 30th until the end of the Farmers' Market, there will be a tent and table for people to ask questions. His thought was that on September 22nd, the full phase two plan would be presented from Spring Drive all the way across to the intersection, which is a change from what they originally said they wanted to do. Regarding the Emerald Lakes creek, there is a boardwalk proposed by the Engineer for \$90,000. A crosswalk at Gurney was estimated at \$18,000, but the Mayor thought the Bell Rd. crosswalk was \$32,000, which may mean determining what kind of crosswalk will be installed. Finally, on September 22, the full phase can be discussed which would be from Chagrin Lakes to Chillicothe, which has not been dealt with by the engineers. Also discussed was the crosswalk at Chillicothe and Bell Rd. and a path from Chillicothe all the way to Sun Ridge as well as a path from Spring Drive to Chagrin Falls. These are long range thoughts. The Mayor noted that in his timeline, he would have a ribbon cutting ceremony. On the back of the timeline he distributed was a Verdantas cost estimate. It would be a five-foot asphalt path from Gurney to the park. This estimate from Verdantas has the two boardwalks to which Bell referred. The boardwalk that would go from Sugar Bush to Maple Springs would connect Chagrin Lakes homes to Gurney with a boardwalk and a crosswalk. The Mayor explained he knocked off half a boardwalk since there are two on the original proposal of Gurney to the park, which would be \$90,000 not \$180,000. Two more crosswalks were discussed. However, the original proposal is from Gurney to the park which only needs one more crosswalk at \$32,000. The other thing Verdantas included was a complete crosswalk signalization at Chillicothe Rd. and Bell Rd., which would be \$30,000 and was not a part of the original plan. Taking out a \$90,000 boardwalk, an \$18,000 crosswalk, and a \$30,000 intersection, it is \$138,000. These were things that were not needed for the very basic Gurney to the park plan. Subtracting this from the \$676,000, it is \$538,000 for the total cost for the path from Gurney to the park.

Bell thought some of the asphalt quoted included what was projected to go through the park, so the numbers would be less. The Mayor said he was always going high. The Engineer added that the numbers listed on the sheet were ballpark numbers. The Mayor continued to explain that if the Village were to pay 20% of the \$538,000, it would cost \$107,600 of taxpayer money. Basically, the Village would be buying asphalt, trees, and labor at an 80% discount. However, it must be paid upfront. He concluded that he would leave this information to percolate until the meeting in two weeks.

Bell inquired about funding and the Engineer explained that the Northeast Ohio Area Coordinating Agency (NOACA) money is available now. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Bell Rd. project was pushed back until 2026 not because of the unavailability of funding but because ODOT did not have room in its bidding schedule to get the design approved and bid.

Galicki noticed that in the Verdantas cost proposal, there was a line item for trail excavation and embankment and wondered if that included the grading problems the Engineer spoke of earlier. The Engineer thought this was likely but would clarify it with Washington. Galicki thought it would be helpful to have verification of where the path would be and identification of potential issues to verify the accuracy of the cost estimates. The Engineer said the project is not at that point yet, although it is moving toward that direction. Galicki asked when this would be, and the Engineer did not know. He described the work that needed to be done in advance of bidding and concluded that he had only seen very preliminary plans and the numbers provided were very ballpark. Porter asked about the excavation as relating to storm and sanitary sewer lines, and the Engineer explained that the excavation involved would only consist of a few inches. To that point, however, there are surface level structures for sanitary and sewer systems like manholes and clean-outs which would have to be adjusted if there were a change in grade. Furthermore, these elements might constrain what the Village is able to do with the elevation of the path.

The Mayor recalled that Rich Washington discussed that two of the houses involved will have some landscaping and a natural stepdown wall. The advantage is that they will not see the path, but the disadvantage is that it will come down a little bit. Other than that, from Gurney to the park, on the north side of the road up to the telephone poles, which is the Village's right-of-way, there is plenty of land in there, but it goes downhill.

The Mayor plugged the Ice Cream Ride on August 24th. He added that copies of the survey and comments of 373 people will be available at the Farmers' Market for the rest of the year, so people are well informed.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Bell made a motion to approve John Wahl as an official member of the Safe Bicycle and Pedestrian Transport Committee, seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

The Mayor questioned the effectiveness of the newsletter. He had heard different things from different people, both pros and cons. Coming up is the Ice Cream Bike Ride, the Fall Festival, a meeting with Chagrin Valley Fire Department on August 13th, upcoming path meetings, and he is concerned about the word getting out there. He suggested that everyone check with their friends and neighbors as to whether they are reading it, see it, miss it, or do they care? Cavanagh stated that other than people knowing it is available, she did not know what an alternative would be. The Mayor did not know. Porter offered that the Village used to mail it out, but now it is sent by email and posted on the website, so it is available.

The Mayor stated it was the 10th anniversary of the Cemetery on July 18, 2015, and he is calling together the original Cemetery Committee, the old Street Commissioners, and people who were involved with the Cemetery to talk for about an hour about what they thought was going to happen, what happened, and what the future of the Cemetery looks like. The meeting will take place on August 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

The Mayor said he had the pleasure of following the Engineer and Street Commissioner around, which he does from time to time. He added that he has also followed Pete McDonald, Western Reserve Land

Conservancy (WRLC), and Kim Brewster Sheflton, Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP), and the Building Inspector. He also followed the Fire Prevention Officer around when a restaurant was told it could not open the following day until the grill was cleaned, and they did it at 10:00 p.m. With the Engineer and Street Commissioner, meetings were held with residents on various issues.

FISCAL OFFICER: The Fiscal Officer distributed her report. She sent out a revised Income Tax collection report. For January – May 2025, record collections were received. The Fiscal Officer also reported that she notified the Village's insurance about the addition of mulch on the playground and provided the requested verification that Council has access to ethics law, Employee Handbook, etc. Lastly, she distributed the budget worksheets for the committees to meet with the Department Heads to determine budget numbers by September 8th to start the 2026 Budget process. The Budget Work Session is September 22, at 5:30 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Canton made a motion to approve the Payment Process Responsibility Policy, seconded by Porter. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Canton made a motion to acknowledge receipt and review of the 8/11/2025 Credit Card Report, seconded by Porter. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Canton reported that the committee met August 8th and the minutes were distributed. He advised that the second round of monthly checks were signed and cross checked. The next meeting will be held on September 12th at 3:15 p.m.

Canton stated he would not be able to attend the Budget Commission meeting in Chardon on September 19th, but Porter will be in attendance.

Berger reviewed his past experience with the Budget Commission, specifically pertaining to high cash balances, which the Village currently has. The Fiscal Officer verified this but stated that pending projects include the salt building, \$100,000 in setup for the Bell Rd. east paving, and the Road Program. She concluded that the Village has big expenses coming yet this year. The Tax Budget goes to the county for 2026. With the preliminary numbers she had, all that remained was \$35,000 in the Income Tax fund that would be available for transfer. She did not anticipate any problems and had not received any questions from the Budget Commission. Galicki added that if the Village does the path in 2026, it is a reimbursement, and the Village will have to earmark \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 to fund the project. The Fiscal Officer concurred and said she would put in the revenue and then the expense. Galicki offered that the reimbursement does not occur until after the project is complete, and the Fiscal Officer explained that it depends on the project and how the funding is set up. The Mayor said that the estimate from Verdantas was \$676,000 for an extended path. The Village must pay 20% and gets reimbursed at the end of the year but the Village also gets \$1.2 million back from Bell Rd. The Village is sitting on \$4,600,000, which is a record. We are rich right now because of receiving Real Estate Taxes. The money will go down, but the Village is looking good. Berger explained that his suggestion was simply to look at reserve accounts as a way of encumbering money to the specific projects to avoid being chastised by the Budget Commission. The Fiscal Officer explained that the Village currently has one reserve fund for Special Equipment, which was a five-year reserve fund and next year will be year five. She needs to determine whether all the money must be spent by the end of that year, or whether it should be closed and the money returned to the General Fund. She did not know how much would be spent on large equipment next year. She further explained that reserve funds required a specific purpose and specific period of time.

Porter asked if the \$800,000 grant for the paths was a reimbursement grant, and the Engineer concurred. He wondered if the Village would have to pay out the entire \$800,000 and the Engineer again concurred. The Fiscal Officer wanted to review the grant paperwork again to verify this. The Mayor stated that the Village would not have to pay out \$800,000 if it did not spend \$800,000 and the Engineer concurred and explained that the Village pays for the whole project and gets back 80% as a refund. He further explained that some grant funding streams co-pay, like OPWC, but that is not the NOACA money which is a full reimbursement grant. The Village pays the bill and then asks for reimbursement. Galicki added that the Village does not know what the real cost is for the project. The Engineer agreed. The Fiscal Officer further explained the limitations of government accounting with the requirement to put money aside for a project and the inability to use it for anything else. The Mayor stated that the \$1.2 million grant for Bell Rd. is the same and will all have to be paid before getting reimbursed.

SOLICITOR: The Solicitor requested a motion to approve the Purdue Pharma Bankruptcy Plan for the Opioid Settlement. Purdue Pharma is in bankruptcy and the plan is that the Sackler family will be paying \$5.5 billion over 15 years and Purdue Pharma will be reorganized as a public purpose company used to fight the effects of opioid addiction. The Village will share with the state and other local governments in the settlement. If the Village does not approve the plan, Ohio would likely not get a large settlement. Two-thirds of all local governments must approve the plan, and she is asking for a motion from Council authorizing the Solicitor to vote to approve the plan for settlement. **Porter made a motion that the Solicitor be authorized by the Village to vote in favor of the Amended Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization of Purdue Pharma L.P. and its affiliated debtors for the purpose of expressing our approval of the plan with the ultimate goal of getting at least a percentage back from Purdue even if it is only \$.10 on the dollar as is often the case in bankruptcy, seconded by Cavanagh. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

The Solicitor was asked to provide a refresher on meetings for the purpose of Sunshine Law and notification. As an example, the Safe Bicycle and Pedestrian Transport Committee now has three official members, Carrie Schloss, John Wahl, and Chris Bell. In order for a meeting to actually occur, two of the three members must be physically present for a quorum. Before John Wahl was appointed as a member, there were two members of the committee. If only one came to a meeting, technically, it would not be a meeting under Ohio law. There would be no requirement for minutes although it proceeded as if there were and discussion occurred. Although it was properly noticed, the best practice would be not to have a gathering and discussion. It is not required because it is not a meeting, but she would advise that the best practice is to cancel it and reschedule when there is a quorum. Cavanagh clarified that the meeting could go forward with two members. The Solicitor said that now that there are three members, two of the three is now a quorum. Porter said that his recollection is that the Mayor is a member of all committees. The Solicitor responded that he is ex officio and technically not a voting member. Porter countered that for purposes of a quorum, and the Solicitor stated that he does not count.

Berger asked for a status update for the easement process for Rarick Cemetery. The Solicitor stated she is waiting for contact information for one of the properties.

Lastly, the Solicitor reported that the contract was received from CMG Contracting for the salt storage building, which will be considered under Ordinances and Resolutions.

ENGINEER: The Engineer addressed the CMG salt storage building contract. In speaking to the president of the company, he is projecting groundbreaking by the end of September and easily finishing the project by the end of the year.

Regarding the 2025 Road Program, the Engineer asked Council to consider awarding a contract to Specialized Construction for \$324,748. Additionally, he asked Council to consider a purchase order to Reclamite for \$26,908 for the surface sealing of several roads in the Village as discussed by the Streets Committee.

Bell asked when the Engineer anticipated the paving of Countryside Drive. The Engineer replied that a preconstruction meeting could occur later in the week, and have work start in September. It will probably be a four-to-five-week construction time. This includes a two-week cure-time for the recycling process. The contract completion date is October 31st.

Cavanagh made a motion to pay Reclamite \$26,908 to do the reclamite on Woodside, Maple Springs, Chelsea, Southwyck, and Countryside Drives, seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Bell asked about the timing of the Reclamite application, and the Engineer said his preference would be to do it while it is still warm. Regarding Countryside Dr., depending on when it is paved, it might be prudent to wait until the following year to apply the Reclamite.

The timing of this year's Road Program was discussed.

The Mayor asked when the best time would be to go out to bid for Bell Rd. east. The Engineer thought it would be March-April 2026. He advised that going out to bid too early creates the risk of contractors getting cold feet on pricing and materials.

STREET COMMISSIONER: The Street Commissioner submitted his month-end report and said they had been busy. This past week, the department patched the parking lot to make it functional until it is repaved after the construction of the salt structure. The Engineer complimented the Street Commissioner on the quality of the patch.

Porter noted that the staining of the pavilion looked great, and the broken outlet had been repaired as well.

The Street Commissioner said that the plates will be installed this week.

Cavanagh made a motion to ratify the Mayor's signature for the Verdantas work order for the 2025 Road Program in the amount of \$50,000, seconded by Galicki. Berger asked for an explanation, and the Engineer explained that with the new Verdantas contract, it is more difficult to determine the engineering fee, so the Engineer felt it would be better to provide the amount the Village should reserve for Engineering for each project. **Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.**

STREETS COMMITTEE: Cavanagh reported that the Streets Committee met on August 7, 2025, and the minutes were distributed. Items discussed included the two trucks that are being worked on, crack sealing Village roads, a garage door approved for replacement but that requires an updated cost, and three Village signs that need to be replaced on Chillicothe Rd., Snyder, and Bell Rd. They will look like the existing signs but will be done by a different company. The cost needs to be obtained. The Street Commissioner said it was \$750 to refurbish the existing signs and \$1,100 per new sign. The

three signs mentioned need to be replaced because they were destroyed. The others can be replaced or refurbished.

BUILDING COMMITTEE: Cavanagh stated that the committee met on August 7th, and the minutes were distributed. The Building Inspector is dealing with two non-compliant properties and will work with the prosecutor to resolve the matter. The committee also discussed the issue of residents who drain their pools into their neighbors' yards. Additionally, there are two empty properties on Bell Rd. that have been sold with to build houses. The properties are the result of lot splits.

The Building Department Administrative Assistant has been working to get rid of paper and do as much as possible online. Prior to disposing of plans, she notifies residents to allow them the option to pick them up.

Cavanagh reported that 5116 Chillicothe Rd., the oldest century house standing in the Village, has gone to auction and is now bank owned. It was built by Tabor Warren and is in rough shape. She encouraged Council members to go see it.

The Mayor referenced a new parking lot that was installed. He commented that almost all the issues had been nearly solved.

POLICE CHIEF: The Chief submitted his month end report. With the start of school coming, Canton asked if there would still be a School Safety Officer (SSO). The Chief explained that the SSO will always be present, duty officers will take positions at the school and in the school zone, and speed boxes have been mounted to the school zone flashers. Canton said he understood there was an issue with the Gurney sign not being on Gurney property. The Chief responded that this is a Building Department issue. Canton discussed this with a school administrator and the sign will be moved across the Gurney driveway. Cavanagh commented that currently, the area around the sign has not been mowed and it is a safety issue. It was discussed by the Building Committee.

SAFETY COMMITTEE: Bell reported that the Safety Committee met on July 17th. The committee approved the Chief upgrading the 30-year-old backup radio system in the Police Department. It will cost \$6,500 and is in the budget. There was a special Safety meeting on July 31st and Berger participated since it had to do with the Fire Department contract renewal. Six individuals from the Chagrin Valley Fire Department (CVFD) attended as well as Mike Carroll, former Council member and Lyndhurst Fire Chief. There will be another meeting with CVFD and other participating communities on Wednesday to discuss the contract renewal.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. as well as a Special HR/Safety Committee meeting to interview a candidate.

The Mayor acknowledged the success of the Police Department open house.

HR COMMITTEE: Bell advised that the committee met on July 15th and the minutes were distributed. The committee will be meeting again on August 12, 2025, at 7:30 a.m.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE: Berger stated that the Properties Committee met and the minutes were distributed. The next meeting will be held on August 26th at 10:00 a.m. after the Cemetery meeting.

The Mayor asked for clarification about the discussion about displaying the American Flags on the telephone poles. Berger explained the committee considered whether it made sense to change from flying the American Flags to flying bunting or something appropriate because the flags are not lit at night, which means the Village is not in compliance with Ohio Revised Code and Federal Law. The Mayor encouraged everybody to talk to their friends and neighbors. The Village started the Show Your Colors in 1989. He would appreciate the feedback.

PARKS COMMITTEE: Berger said the Park Committee continues to work on the Fall Festival. A draft layout of the Fall Festival was created which has been emailed to the Parks Committee and distributed to Council. He hoped that it would help to avoid confusion on October 5th and thanked the Street Commissioner for his efforts. Berger explained that three game plans for the Fall Festival are being developed to anticipate the weather. A Parks Committee meeting is planned for August 25th at 6:30 p.m. at the park pavilion to finalize the Fall Festival program and lock down the commitments. The Mayor suggested determining the deadline for each contractor for cancellation in the event of inclement weather.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE: Porter explained that the committee met and the minutes will be forthcoming. Fairview/Hazelwood and ongoing storm water mitigation projects were discussed as well as the Sugar Bush silt pond and lake. It appears that the Village contributed in some form or fashion to the silt that is currently in the silt pond since it silted up in 18 months with the likely source being the Manor Brook phase I project. The Street Commissioner had some quotes for dredging the silt pond of about \$37,000. The committee discussed this but was not ready to make a formal recommendation. However, it would likely be a two-part recommendation. First, Sugar Bush expressed willingness to enter into a licensing agreement with the Village for the purpose of pond monitoring of the silt pond and Hidden Lake. He asked the Solicitor to be prepared should this become a formal recommendation and approved by Council. Secondly, the committee discussed whether the Village should contribute in whole or part the cost of the dredging for the silt pond and potentially a portion of Hidden Lake because the Village in essence created the problem, although it may not occur again now that the Manor Brook project has been completed. Three years ago, the Village split the cost of dredging the silt pond with Sugar Bush. The projection was that it would need to be done again in three to five years. It is the three-year point, and it definitely needs to be done again. Porter added that the residents provided photographs and videos of the situation. Ultimately, the solution may be a retention pond on Fox Run property. When Fox Run was developed, there was a retention pond built for storm water mitigation, but at some point, it went by the wayside. Hidden Lake and the areas downstream will continue to see silt because of this problem. It may eventually go away because of Manor Brook Phase I, but there is no guarantee. The committee will discuss it further at the next meeting and come up with a formal recommendation.

The committee also discussed the Fairview/Hazelwood project, and the Engineer indicated that the flow analysis still needs to be completed for the County Engineer. Once this is complete, the Village will be able to go out to bid. Porter hoped the project would be done this year, adding that the Village received a 50% grant from the State of Ohio and Russell Township indicated it would split the local share with the Village. He hoped to be able to go out to bid in September and that the project would at least partially solve storm water issues in the Fairview area.

Porter proposed September 10th at 3:15 p.m. for the next meeting.

Cavanagh commented that if the Village is going to give a dime to Sugar Bush, she wanted that opened up to every private lake in the Village when there is a problem with silting. Porter did not have a

problem with that. However, he explained that Sugar Bush received silt from a Village project. When the Village removed silt for the Homeowners' Association (HOA) three years ago, it was also silt from a Village project. In their view, it was in the Village right-of-way. Nonetheless, he is fine with having the Village establish a fund for dredging of ponds within the Village whether or not the Village contributed to their silting. Berger spoke earlier about reserve funds, and Porter thought this would be a good thing to bring up in the upcoming budget meetings. Cavanagh asked if the waterflow meter for Sugar Bush is available to all lakes in South Russell. The Engineer explained that the CRWP put the flow monitor on the Bell Rd. culvert for the stream that comes out of Fox Run and is tributary to Sugar Bush. If the Village wished to expand the flow monitoring program, it could. The original flow monitor was part of a grant project by CRWP. Cavanagh asked if it measured the incoming silt as well as the waterflow. The Engineer responded that it measures the flow, the elevation of the water surface compared to the elevation of the location of the flow monitor. He further explained how the monitor functions and indicated that it monitored in gallons per minute. Although the flow and velocity can be determined, it does not provide data on how much silt is in the water.

Virginia Dix, 71 Paw Paw Lake Dr., explained a Paw Paw Lake situation where the gas company conducted a project on Bell Rd., which filled up their recently dredged silt pond. Everything flows from Snyder Rd. and everywhere else into Paw Paw Lake. The HOA had discussions with the Village and the Village was going to take it over but wanted its property. They were willing to give the Village an easement to get in and clean out the silt pond, but the residents wanted to keep Paw Paw as it is. The HOA ended up paying \$50,000 to have it dredged. Paw Paw Lake was here before South Russell. Engineers and other people approved all of these homes and communities, and Paw Paw Lake has suffered for it.

The Mayor suggested that the Paw Paw Lake residents come on September 10th when the Public Utilities Committee will be meeting and when both sides can be prepared.

Regarding the HyFi monitor, the Mayor said that CRWP came to the Village and said they wanted to put 50 of the monitors in Northeast Ohio and they picked the location. Berger indicated that it costs the Village \$1,725 per year. The Mayor said that the first thing that would be done is to get the HyFi in so the Village knows what it is getting in and what it is not.

Joe Pianekki, 71 Paw Paw Lake Dr., requested that at the September 10th meeting the committee help the Paw Paw Lake residents understand why the gas line project that filled up their silt pond in 2.5 years was not a Village issue. Doesn't the Village have some responsibility to manage silt, or will it put that on the gas company? They were given no help and are trying to understand the difference between the Sugar Bush and the Paw Paw Lake situations. The Mayor said the committee would have the information from the gas line on September 10th so that there can be an intelligent discussion.

Porter made a motion to ratify the Mayor's signature on the Verdantas work order for the Hemlock Culvert project in the amount of \$25,000, seconded by Canton. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Porter made a motion to approve the Manor Brook Stormwater Retention Project in the amount of \$20,000 and approving the Mayor's signature on the Verdantas work order for this project. Porter asked for clarification. The Engineer explained that the Village was looking at Reserve Trail off of Manor Brook Dr. The main portion of the project passed under the power lines and there is a storm water issue there, which has caused issues for residents on Reserve Trail. Initially, a small version of the Central Retention Basin was considered to mitigate storm water. He had his storm water modeling staff take a comprehensive look at the issue and make a map based on drainage patterns. It was

determined, however, that there is not enough water to cause the problems that are being experienced and building a retention pond there would not fix the problem. He acknowledged he jumped the gun and preemptively looked into the matter and determined it will be much less than the \$20,000 indicated on the work order because there will be no need to develop a plan for storm water retention. Instead, check dams and rock channel protection will be needed to slow the water down because it is not a water quantity issue but a water velocity problem. Most of this work can be done in house. Porter asked if the \$20,000 is needed, and the Engineer said he had spent some of it already but determined a retention pond will not be needed. The project will be closer to \$10,000. **Porter modified his motion to reflect \$10,000, seconded by Bell.** Roll call – ayes, Bell, Cavanagh, Galicki, and Porter. Canton and Berger recused themselves.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Cavanagh introduced an ordinance awarding the bid for the 2025 Pavement Repair Road Program to Specialized Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$324,748.00 subject to an acceptable contract between Specialized Construction, Inc. and the Village of South Russell and declaring an emergency.

Cavanagh made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Cavanagh made a motion to adopt, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2025-41**

Porter introduced an ordinance to approve the current replacement pages to the South Russell Codified Ordinances and declaring an emergency. Porter made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Berger. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Porter made a motion to adopt, seconded by Berger. Roll call - ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2025-42**

Canton introduced a resolution authorizing the sale of personal property not needed by the Village and declaring an emergency. Canton made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes all. Motion carried. Canton made a motion to adopt, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **RES 2025-43**

Berger introduced an ordinance approving the contract between the Ohio Mobile Gaming Corp. and the Village of South Russell for rental equipment consisting of an inflatable, bouncer, and slide for the 2025 Fall Festival in an amount not to exceed \$1,103.57, authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract, and declaring an emergency. Berger made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Berger made a motion to adopt, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2025-44**

Berger introduced an ordinance approving the contract between A-1 MR. LIMO INC. and the Village of South Russell for trolley shuttle services for the 2025 Fall Festival in an amount not to exceed \$928, authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract, and declaring an emergency. Berger made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Berger made a motion to adopt, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. **ORD 2025-45**

Cavanagh introduced an ordinance approving the agreement with CMG Contracting, LLC for the design and construction of the Village of South Russell's Storage Building for road salt, yard materials, and vehicles in an amount not to exceed \$770,704, authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement on behalf of the Village of South Russell and declaring an emergency. Cavanagh made a motion to waive readings, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried. Cavanagh made a motion to adopt, seconded by Galicki. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

BILLS LIST: Canton made a motion to ratify the bills list of 7-30-2025 in the amount of \$32,117.65, seconded by Porter. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.

NEW/OTHER: Bell, Berger, Galicki, and Porter had no new business.

The Fiscal Officer asked which committee will be assigned the cyber security policy which needs to be adopted by the end of September. The Mayor asked for volunteers, but would otherwise assign it to the Chief and Safety Committee.

Canton advised that he planned to attend the August 13th meeting at CVFD. The Fiscal Officer asked if other Council members planned to attend and the Solicitor determined that it should be sunshined as a Safety Committee/Special Council meeting.

Cavanagh and Porter determined the next Building Committee meeting would be on September 4, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.

Cavanagh and Galicki determined the next Streets Committee meeting would be on September 4, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. The Engineer and Street Commissioner confirmed availability.

At 8:42 p.m., Bell made a motion to enter into executive session in compliance with ORC Section 121.22(g)(1) for the employment of a public employee and invited the Mayor, seconded by Porter. Roll call – ayes, all. Motion carried.

Council reconvened at 8:56 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Being that there was no further business before Council Porter made a motion to adjourn at 8:56 p.m., seconded by Galicki. Voice vote – ayes, all. Motion carried.


William G. Koons, Mayor


Danielle Romanowski, Fiscal Officer

Prepared by Leslie Galicki

Proposed SHARED-USE PATH TIMELINE

1990s	first attempt for a path along Bell Road
2020	Chagrin Falls residents on Monticello Drive petition for a sidewalk. Residents agree to pay \$10,000 and maintain the sidewalk.
2021	Orange Village receives 1.6 million from Pinecrest, installs paths, not sidewalks, agrees to maintain the paths at no cost to the homeowners
2022-202?	Pepper Pike receives \$500,000 to install sidewalks, performs two surveys and a citywide vote, 65% approval
2023	South Russell receives a 20% reimbursement grant of \$800,000=\$160,000
2024	Committee for Safe Bicycle and Pedestrian Transport formed. Last Friday of the month meetings begin. Survey opened from November 2024 – February 14, 2025 373 of 1400 households responded with 67% support.
Spring 2025	Survey results presented to council
June 2025	Verdantas Engineering hired to create a master plans for paths. Chagrin Valley Chamber of Commerce event where Chagrin Falls and Orange mayors praise the idea of paths, trails, etc.
May 12, 2025	Path neighbors invited to meet to discuss the path
July 2025	Verdantas master plan delivered to committee with a price of \$676,000.
August 9, 2025	Path neighbors visited by committee members to discuss the path
August 11, 2025	Limited Phase One Master Plan presented to council and community Path from Gurney School to Alderwood Drive crosswalk For the Full Phase One it is estimated as \$676,000
August 12, 9:00	Follow-up meeting with residents
August 24, 6:00	Ice Cream Bike Ride from the Park
August 29, 8:30	Committee meeting, all are welcome
August 30-Sept 20	Tent and Display at Geauga Fresh Farmers' Market
September 8	Full Phase One presented to council and community Path from Fox Run to Spring Drive Boardwalk from Chagrin Lakes to Sugar Bush \$90,000 Crosswalk at Gurney/Sugar Bush intersection \$18,000
September 22	Full Phase Two presented to council and community Path from Chagrin Lakes to Chillicothe Road Crosswalks at Chillicothe and Bell Roads \$30,000 Path from Chillicothe to Sun Ridge Path from Spring Drive to Chagrin Falls
October 13, 2025	RFP Request for Proposal from contractors
Jan-March, 2026	Tree removal
Summer 2026	Boardwalk and Path construction
Fall 2026	Ribbon-cutting ceremony

South Russell Trail Phase 01
Conceptual Design Opinion of Probable Cost

Village of South Russell, OH
33777

verdantas

7/24/2025						
Item No.	Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total	
A	BIKE TRAIL PH 01 (3,860 LF X 5')					
1	Topsoil stockpile and removed	500	CY	\$20	\$10,007	
2	Trail Excavation and Embankment	751	CY	\$30	\$22,517	
3	Asphalt Trail (3")	179	CY	\$275	\$49,144	
4	Asphalt Trail Base (6")	500	CY	\$100	\$50,037	
5	Stone Retaining Wall	80	LF	\$85	\$6,800	
6	Restoration - topsoil, seeding, mulching and netting 3' Each Side of Trail	2,573	SY	\$8	\$20,587	
7	Erosion Control	1	LS	\$8,000	\$8,000	
8	Landscape Replacement (20 Trees)	1	LS	\$15,000	\$15,000	
9	Wooded Area Clearing (.25 Acre)	1	LS	\$15,000	\$15,000	
10	Drainage	1	LS	\$10,000	\$10,000	
11	Boardwalk (180 LF)	450 900	SF	\$200	\$180,000	9000
12	Maintain traffic	1	LS	\$5,000	\$5,000	
13	Crosswalks with beacons	1 2	EA	\$18,000	\$36,000	18 on
14	Crosswalk and signalization (306) Cost being verified	0 3	EA	\$30,000	\$30,000	3000
15	Mobilization, Layout, bonds, permits, inspections	1	LS	\$13,743	\$13,743	
16	Contingency = 20% x SUBTOTAL	1	LS	\$91,618	\$91,618	
				SUBTOTAL	\$563,452	
B	GENERAL REQUIREMENTS					
17	Design, Survey, Engineering, Bidding, Project Mangement				\$112,690	
18	Ecological permitting if needed				TBD	
	TOTAL CONCEPTUAL DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION COST				\$676,143	

90,000
18,000
+ 30,000
\$ 138,000
items not
needed

\$ 676,000
- 138,000
\$ 538,000
total cost
for path
from Hurney
to the Park

\$ 538,000
x .20
\$ 107,600.00

The original plan of a path from Hurney
to the Park will cost \$ 107,600 of
taxpayer funds.