

## **Public Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes**

### **March 12, 2026, 6:30 p.m.**

The Public Utilities Committee meeting was called to order on March 12, 2026. Present for the meeting were Councilman Mark Porter (Chair), Councilman Chris Berger, Councilwoman Mary Rensel, Village Engineer Eric Haibach, Street Commissioner Tim Young, and visitors Todd Kruse, John Buda, and representatives from the Chagrin River Watershed Partners (CRWP). The committee met to review ongoing utility infrastructure issues, discuss maintenance and planning projects, and address several operational matters relating to water, sewer, and stormwater systems within the village.

The meeting opened with discussion regarding the status of several utility infrastructure projects and general system maintenance activities. The Village Engineer provided an overview of the current condition of various infrastructure systems and noted that routine inspections and maintenance continue to be performed to ensure the reliability of water and sewer service throughout the village.

The CRWP representatives made a presentation to the Committee regarding the preparation of the Village's annual MS-4 report due to Ohio EPA on or before April 1, 2026. CRWP representatives indicated a willingness to complete the report on the Village's behalf in accordance with the terms of the proposed contract sent to the Village previously. The representatives indicated that having done the Village's MS-4 report in each of the previous two years CRWP could easily complete the report and submit it within the next two weeks. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend to Council that the Village enter into the proposed agreement with CRWP for the purposes of preparing and submitting the 2026 MS-4 report.

The committee then discussed issues related to stormwater drainage and the need for continued monitoring of areas where residents have previously reported drainage concerns. Members acknowledged that several locations within the village experience seasonal drainage challenges, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall or rapid snowmelt. The Village Engineer explained that staff continues to monitor these areas and address issues as they arise through routine maintenance such as clearing culverts, cleaning catch basins, and ensuring that drainage channels remain unobstructed.

The discussion then shifted to water system infrastructure. Committee members reviewed the condition of water lines and related components throughout the village and discussed the importance of long-term planning for maintenance and replacement of aging infrastructure. The Village Engineer explained that maintaining a reliable water system requires periodic inspection and replacement of valves, hydrants, and other components as they reach the end of their useful life.

Committee members emphasized the importance of coordinating utility work with planned roadway improvement projects whenever possible. By performing utility work prior to resurfacing or reconstruction projects, the village can avoid the need to cut into newly paved

roads later. The engineer noted that this coordination is especially important for larger road projects scheduled in the coming years.

The committee also reviewed issues related to sewer system maintenance. Routine maintenance of sewer lines, including cleaning and inspection activities, continues to be performed on a regular schedule. The engineer noted that proactive maintenance helps reduce the likelihood of blockages and system failures and allows the village to identify potential problems before they become more serious.

Members discussed the importance of continuing to maintain accurate mapping and records of the village's utility infrastructure. Updated maps and records are critical for planning future projects and for ensuring that staff can quickly locate underground infrastructure when repairs are needed.

The committee also briefly discussed communication with residents regarding utility issues. Members noted that when residents report concerns about drainage, sewer, or water service, it is important for the village to respond promptly and investigate the issue. Clear communication with residents can help ensure that problems are resolved efficiently and that residents understand the steps being taken by the village.

The meeting concluded with general discussion about the importance of long-term planning for the village's public utilities. Committee members agreed that maintaining and upgrading infrastructure is an ongoing responsibility that requires careful planning and budgeting in order to ensure reliable service for residents.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.