



**CITY OF AURORA, OHIO**  
**SAFETY, SERVICE, and UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – July 1, 2008**

The Safety, Service and Utilities Committee of the City of Aurora, Ohio, met in Council Chambers of Aurora City Hall on Tuesday, July 1, 2008, at 6:33 pm for the purpose of holding a regular meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Thomas Dreher  
Robert Galaska, Jr., Vice-Chairman  
Kyle Hanson  
George Horvat (Left Meeting at 8:50 pm)  
Fred Knop  
James Vaca, Chairman

Absent: Edward Weber

Also Present: Seth Riewaldt, Police Chief.  
John E. Trew, AICP, Director of Public Service  
Ross Brankatelli, P. E., City Engineer  
Karen Stacko, Secretary

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of June 3, 2008, meeting of the Safety, Utilities, and Service Committee as presented.**

Mr. Galaska moved and Mr. Knop seconded; the motion carried with a voice vote with all eligible members present in favor; Mr. Hanson abstained as he did not attend the June meeting.

**Safety Issues (Police)**

Police Chief Riewaldt explained that about one year ago, the police department installed in-car laptop computers in the cruisers with a trial software from the vendor. These devices allow officers to quickly and efficiently obtain driver license and plate records from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, complete crash and incident reports in the field, and secure data to assist in arrests. Productivity has increased dramatically, improving the efficiency of the department which adds to the safety of the community per the Chief.

The trial period is up and it is time to purchase licenses for the software from TAC Computers which is \$2,000 per car. In addition, Chief Reiwaldt suggested the purchase of two new computers and two replacement computers. He stated that the Department has funds in existing accounts to cover the proposed purchases. He asked that the bid process to obtain the software and laptops be waived; these items must be purchased from TAC Computers due the nature of this specialized equipment.

**MOTION: To recommend the purchase of software from TAC Computers in an amount not to exceed \$22,000 and Panasonic in-car laptop computers (approx. \$3,800 per unit) for the Police Department; funds to be transferred from various existing accounts for these purchases; and, to waive the requirements for the bid process as these items are only available through TAC Computers.**

Mr. Horvat moved and Mr. Galaska seconded; the motion carried with a roll call vote all members in favor, 6-0-0. Yeas: Horvat, Galaska, Hanson, Knop, Dreher, Vaca

The final facts and figures will be presented to Finance Committee at its next meeting.

### **Safety Issues - Fire**

None.

### **Safety Issues – Comments by Members**

- Mr. Dreher thanked Chief Riewaldt for the cover letter that accompanies the Police Department monthly report.
- Mr. Dreher reported that a resident complained that paragliders are using the football field area at the Aurora High School to take-off and land this light aircraft. The complaint consisted of a concern due to the noise this aircraft produces and the danger of a potential crash into homes by the para-gliders. Chief Riewaldt will contact the school to alert them of this situation.
- Mr. Dreher also requested the timing be checked on the right turn traffic light exiting the Aurora Premium Outlets. Mr. Trew will follow-up on this issue.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Request for Appropriation – Sewer Right-of- Way Fee

Director Trew stated that since 1969, the City has paid an annual fee for a sewer easement located at the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant. The easement allows a 24” sanitary sewer encased in a 36” steel pipe to cross under the railroad line. Norfolk Southern Railroad Company requested a one-time fee in order to eliminate future billings.

Mr. Galaska inquired the past fee per year; Mr. Trew will verify before the next Finance Committee meeting.

**MOTION: To recommend to Finance Committee a one-time payment in the amount of \$4,500 to the Norfolk Southern Railroad Company to obtain a permanent sewer easement to accommodate a 24” sanitary sewer located under the railroad property at Central Wastewater Treatment Plant.**

Mr. Horvat moved and Mr. Dreher seconded; the motion carried with a roll call vote with the majority of members present in favor, 5-1-0.

Yeas: Horvat, Dreher, Knop, Vaca, Horvat; Nays: Hanson

Request to Transfer Funds for Liquid Sludge Hauling

Director Trew remarked that the sludge press building will not be constructed until August 2008 and liquid sludge needs to be removed from the plants.

The line item for sludge hauling is depleted. There are funds in another line item that will not be needed as expected. Mr. Trew suggested a transfer of funds for this purpose.

**MOTION: To request from Finance Committee a transfer of \$20,000 from Line Item 7300-7368 (Pipes and Machinery for Digesters) into Line Item 7200-4946 (Sludge Removal) in order to dispose of EPA approved liquid sludge.**

Mr. Horvat moved and Mr. Galaska seconded; the motion carried with a roll call vote all members present in favor, 6-0-0.

Yeas: Horvat, Galaska, Dreher, Knop, Hanson, Vaca

## **OLD OR PENDING BUSINESS**

### **Engineering Work: Studies/Proposals/Design**

SR 43 Road Widening - URS, Consultant

Director Trew advised that the project is on schedule. The Phase III plans are in its final stages of design. It is expected to be bid in 2009.

Sunny Lake Sanitary Pump Station Design – Michael Benza & Associates, Inc., Consultant

City Engineer Brankatelli related that the project is just getting started. Surveying will begin within the next few weeks and the consultant will send out resident notification letters.

SR 43 Sanitary Pump Station Design – DLZ, Consultant

A meeting is set with the staff from the City’s wastewater treatment plants and the consultant on July 3, 2008. One facet of the proposed design is to check the existing force main and 1,800 feet of the trunk sewer to determine if these installations need to be replaced.

Townline Road Rehabilitation – Euthenics, Inc., Consultant

The final design is past the 90% mark. The bid opening is July 23, 2008. A recommendation will be forthcoming at the August 5<sup>th</sup>. Committee meeting. Townline Road will be closed down during the months of September and October; the Aurora schools transportation officials have been notified. A signed detour plan is in place and Chamberlain Road will be the designated detour.

Work agreements must be secured from approximately 14 properties for culvert replacements.

#### Cleveland Water Main Installation

As a part of the engineering work for the Cleveland water main installation, a hydraulic diagnostics study is being considered for a certain area of SR 43 affected by the proposed installation. There will be a 24-hour pressure reduction test to examine the effect, if any, the reduction would make without the benefit of a pump station.

#### Geauga Lake Stormwater Improvements

Director Trew advised that the City purchased one property relevant to this project. The construction for the improvements is anticipated for October 2008.

#### Road Safety Concern at Page/Bartlett Roads

Mr. Dreher reviewed the 3 options presented to the respective resident as discussed at the June meeting. The resident shared the following responses:

1. Traveling north on Page Road, Right Turn at Bartlett: Shave off the sharp corner piece of parcel at Bartlett Road. This would alleviate a motorist from crossing the centerline of Bartlett Road when attempting this right turn. This could be an immediate solution.
2. Raise the dip in the road heading south on Page Road just before Bartlett Road.
3. Move the road that intersects Page Road further south.

Mr. Brankatelli suggested that a meeting be set up with the residents in that neighborhood for input. Mr. Dreher will check with the residents if they are interested in such a meeting.

The Committee reviewed an accident report for this intersection which listed very few accidents at this location. Mr. Dreher expressed that this intersection is a safety hazard even though the statistics do not support this view.

Mr. Vaca recalled that a list of dangerous intersections was prepared several years ago. Secretary Stacko will try to locate a copy of that information for the Committee. Mr. Vaca commented that Page and Bartlett Road should be added to the list if it was not already considered in the past.

### **Projects in Progress Update**

SR 82 Waterline Improvements – Fabrizi Trucking and Paving Company, Contractor  
Dominion East Ohio Gas Company will commence relocating its gas line within 2-3 weeks which will take 5-6 weeks of construction. Mr. Brankatelli is reviewing the FirstEnergy proposal for its portion of the project. An ideal situation would be for both utilities to work concurrently. Once the utilities are cleared, Fabrizi Trucking will commence its work.

There are a dozen easements required for the project east of the Chagrin River by August 28, 2008. The contractor agreed to a 4-month period for the City to secure the easements.

*(Note: Mr. Horvat left the meeting at 7:52 pm.)*

## **Old or Pending Business**

### Energy Conservation Discussion

Director Trew is researching the following issues and will report when available:

1. Purchase shares in green energy and power transfer
2. Grants for Rebuilding/construction of energy systems
3. Presentation on Global Warming (Anticipated in September 08)

- Mr. Trew met with Utilities Savings Technologies Solutions that promotes a product that guarantees a 20% electrical savings at the wastewater treatment lift stations. The company will assess each lift station to ascertain a proposed cost. Mr. Trew will keep the Committee posted.

- Mr. Trew advised that a City vehicle will be set aside in which to test the various substitutes for fuel. Mr. Galaska suggested a discussion on what type of fuel would be best for the test. Mr. Dreher stated that conversion to an electric car may be a consideration.

- Chairman Vaca suggested that a City brochure could be prepared with common sense hints/tips on how to save energy. Mr. Dreher asked the fellow members to review his handout and pick out the items that could be listed on such a brochure as a guideline for the residents.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### Committee Member Remarks

- Mr. Vaca inquired about the painting of hydrants. Mr. Trew responded that there are three seasonal employees who are pressure-cleaning and painting the hydrants.
- Mr. Dreher related that a resident (Jim Ross) from Eggleston Road contacted him to discuss his sanitary tie-in options to the City's sanitary system. The Portage County Health Department determined that Mr. Ross must tie into the City's sanitary sewer system as his septic system had failed. Mr. Ross provided a plan for the City's engineering review subject to compliance with the standards and requirements as stipulated by Portage County Health Department. Mr. Dreher asked that the Committee be kept informed on this issue.
- Mr. Galaska inquired if the Service Department laid down #57 gravel on the sides of the roadway on East Homestead Drive. Director Trew confirmed that the Department did not, but that the Developer may have done so.

**Citizens Remarks**

**Request for Stop Sign**

Resident Kristan Liebreth 1030 West Parkway Boulevard suggested that a stop sign be placed on both sides of Cochran Road at West Parkway Boulevard, making this intersection a 4-way stop. Stop signs exist on both sides of West Parkway Boulevard. She is concerned about the safety of children crossing that intersection.

Director Trew stated that this issue will be included in the request for proposal for Cochran Road Improvements to determine if stop signs are warranted at this location. He will look at options such as crosswalks, cutting down brush, and whatever measures may be taken to improve safety at this intersection. Chairman Vaca reiterated that unfortunately stop signs do not necessarily prevent speeding or improve the safety of any area.

Mr. Vaca suggested that Mrs. Liebreth contact Aurora Police Sergeant Don Johnson who heads the Community Enhancement Team (CET) to address this safety concern

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: To adjourn the regular meeting at 8:15 pm.**

Mr. Galaska moved and Mr. Dreher seconded; the motion carried with a voice vote all members present in favor.

Transcribed by:

Approved by:

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Karen A. Stacko, Secretary

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James Vaca, Chairman

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