

THE CITY OF STREETSBORO, OHIO
SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 10, 2022

This Service Committee Meeting was called to order on Monday, October 10, 2022 at 7:26 p.m. p.m. by Jon Hannan, Chairman.

PRESENT: Mike Lampa, Justin Ring, Jon Hannan, Jennifer Wagner, Julie Field, Steve Michniak

ABSENT: Anthony Lombardo

ALSO PRESENT: Glenn Broska, Mayor
Frank Beni, Law Director
Patricia Wain, Police Chief
Robert Reinholz, Fire Chief
Matt Miller, Finance Director
Bill Miller, Service Director
Justin Czekaj, Municipal Engineer
John Cieszkowski, Planning Director
Greg Mytinger, Parks and Recreation Director
Patrick O'Malia, Economic Development Director
Shawna Lockhart-Reese, HR Manager
Caroline Kremer, Clerk of Council

MOTION: TO EXCUSE MR. LOMBARDO.

Moved by Mrs. Field, seconded by Mr. Lampa. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Disposition of Minutes

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE SPECIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 27, 2022 AND THE REGULAR SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 AS WRITTEN.

Moved by Mr. Lampa, seconded by Mrs. Field. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Old Business

None.

New Business

T-7309 Purchase Neptune Water Meters, Remotes and Supplies

Bill Miller said usually the Board of Control's authorization to spend up to \$20,000 would be

enough to get through the year, but this year, due to the new homes going into Meadow View subdivision and the new waterline going in the Pleasant Valley Road area with about 40 homes, more meters and supplies would be needed for this year. He said \$50,000 had been budgeted in 2022 in case it was needed, so there was money available for this purchase.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT’S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

Moved by Mrs. Field, seconded by Mr. Lampa. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

T-7310 Purchase Two 2024 Plow Trucks

Bill Miller said he had done an Ordinance earlier in the year for Mack trucks, but the cost on those trucks went up by \$8,000 each, so he cancelled them. He found that Western Star had State pricing for plow trucks and were a little bit cheaper. He hoped to be able to get these new trucks by March 2023, but that was still pending. The money was budgeted and he could do a Purchase Order for these. The Department would not be trading in any trucks, so the Department would have 10 plow trucks and 2 additional for back ups or other needs.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT’S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

Moved by Mrs. Field, seconded by Mr. Lampa. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Discuss Allocation of CDBG Funds

Mr. O’Malia explained that PARTA had come through and given the City a bus route, however he did not expect many people would utilize it because it arrived at Market Square at 6:30 a.m. and departed from Market Square at 7:00 p.m. Therefore Streetsboro no longer needed to put \$25,000 from the grant allocation towards a PARTA bus route. He recommended that the City transfer a majority of the funds into the City-wide demolition program and some of the funds into the senior/disabled mowing/plowing program. He realized some Council Members would like to see more money go toward the senior program, but he was concerned that 1) it was designed to be an assistance program not a replacement program, and 2) he worried about the future sustainability of the program because if the City put a big infusion of cash into it, it might be hard to dial it back later and also he wasn’t sure how much longer the State would keep doing the allocation program in its current format. Right now, the City got money “just because” but it might change in the future where the State would go to a competitive model where the City would have to apply each time; and Streetsboro and Portage County was doing much better in terms of median household income compared to other parts of the State so being awarded the money may be challenging.

Mr. Lampa was one would like more money to go toward the senior program because this year he said the program ran out of money and none of the senior citizens could get their grass cut or leaves raked until the next program was implemented. Mr. Lampa asked what would happen to the senior citizens currently on the program if the State changed the process and the money stopped. Mr. O’Malia said the City would no longer receive this funding from the State, if his fears were realized, and then it would be up to Council to determine if it wanted to fund the program from the City’s reserves or not.

Mr. Lampa asked, if \$30,000 was allocated toward demolition, what would happen if it wasn't used. Mr. O'Malia said if the funds were not used for demolition, they could be reallocated to another activity that benefited low to moderate income people, addressed slum and blight, or a third option he couldn't remember right now. Demolitions could be quite costly, especially if the structure had asbestos. An example of a possible demolition project might be the vacant house across the street from City Hall that was zoned B-Business on about 5 acres on a highway interchange that could probably be put to better use and may have a better chance of attracting development if there wasn't a house on it.

Mr. Lampa asked if the \$30,000 would roll over every year if not used. Mr. O'Malia noted that Mr. Lampa had said the Senior program had run out of funds this year, but actually the program ran out of time. The books closed on the program on August 31, and then from September to when the funding becomes available again in mid-January everyone had to wait until the City could spend the money again. That's why every other year of this 2-year program leaf raking or snow plowing wasn't really available. The next 2-year cycle was guaranteed, but Mr. O'Malia was concerned about the funding availability in 2025.

Mrs. Field commented that she supported the reallocation proposed by Mr. O'Malia. Mr. O'Malia said legislation wasn't needed but he would report to the Regional Planning Commission tomorrow that he had discussed the issue with City Council and gotten a consensus on the reallocation. Mrs. Field commented that there were probably other avenues that could help out the senior residents.

Mr. O'Malia summarized tonight's discussion. The City used to put all the CDBG money into home repair programs, but there were other sources to help with that, so this money was not going toward that any longer. So, starting in 2023 (for the next 2 year cycle) when the City gets these dollars, the City had allocated \$65,000 to the senior/disabled programming (not age based but low-income based), \$25,000 to creation of a PARTA bus route, and \$37,500 to a city-wide demolition program. Streetsboro did not need to give any money to PARTA since a bus route now existed, so the \$25,000 could be reallocated to the senior/disabled program or the city-wide demolition program. Tonight's discussion was to determine how to divvy up the \$25,000. While it is designated a 2-year program, it really only ran for 20 months because they close the books at the end of August of the second year and the City could not spend any money after that, until the next cycle.

Mayor Broska suggested the City cover the cost for the senior/disabled (low-income) program from September – December every other year when the CDBG funds were not available. Mr. O'Malia thought that might hurt the program because the State funding agency would see that the City could afford to do it for four months, so maybe they would think the City should just do the program on their own.

There was some further discussion amount the Council Members about how to reallocate the \$25,000 among the programs. Mr. O'Malia commented that demolition was a much more expensive endeavor than snow plowing or grass cutting. He also noted that maybe none of the five possible demotion sites he had targeted would be interested in taking advantage of the funds; if so, the money could be reallocated again. Mr. Ring clarified that no one who met the

senior/disabled (low-income) qualifications was turned away for lack of money, the program timeline just ended. Mr. O'Malia added that the snow plowing services weren't even offered the first winter because the City couldn't find a contractor; it was bid about three times, then Mr. Greathouse stepped up to do the job.

Mr. Greathouse, 1298 Edgewood Lane, spoke from the audience. He said he was still owed \$5,000 from the County for work done for the program that had expired. Mr. O'Malia said that money would have been encumbered if Mr. Greathouse had submitted for it before the deadline. Mr. Greathouse said, although the program had expired, he was still cutting grass for some senior citizens either on his own dime or for whatever little money the citizen could pay. He said he had submitted his final invoice well before the deadline, but the \$5,000 he was owed was money that was to be moved over from the home repair program, but had never been moved.

Mr. Lampa asked Mr. Greathouse if he would be able to snow plow for the senior citizens for free until the program began again; would his business be able to sustain that expense. Mr. Greathouse thought he could, if he won the bid as the contractor for the program. Mr. O'Malia emphasized that the books were closed for the previous program and a new program would start in January 2023 and any work done during the interim could not be invoiced to the program.

Mr. Lampa still wondered what would happen for the senior citizens if the State program ended. Mr. Ring said the program would stop, or the City would need to use taxpayer money from the City budget. Mr. O'Malia commented that if the State program were to end, the City elected officials could push back through their State Representatives. It was clarified that it was actually federal money funneled through the states to be distributed to the local communities.

MOTION: TO REALLOCATE THE \$25,000 NOT NEEDED FOR PARTA AND ALLOCATE \$75,000 TOWARD THE SENIORS/DISABLED (LOW-INCOME) PROGRAM (GRASS CUTTING, LEAVES, SNOW) AND \$52,500 TOWARD DEMOLITION OF BLIGHTED PROPERTIES FOR THE 2023-24 PROGRAM.

Moved by Mr. Ring, seconded by Mrs. Field. The money could be reallocated again if necessary. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

T-7311 Authorize ODOT Agreement for SR 303 and Diagonal Road Intersection

T-7312 Authorize ODOT Agreement for Signal at SR 303/SR 14/Ranch Road

Mr. Czekaj explained this was the first piece of ODOT legislation for this project to improve the SR 303 and Diagonal Road intersection. This project had received safety funds up to 90%. This legislation was needed, with the Mayor's signature, to go to ODOT. Mr. Hannan asked about the timeline for these ODOT projects. Mr. Czekaj said they were scheduled for 2026. The SR 303/SR 14/Ranch Road project was more unique because it needed some signal poles, so the construction date might be a little more flexible than the SR 303/Diagonal Road intersection project. Mr. Czekaj commented that 2026 would be a busy year because that was the year the SR 14 and SR 43 intersection was to be redone. He would work with ODOT so all the projects would be staggered and not all done at exactly the same time.

The SR 303 and Diagonal Road intersection project was estimated to be \$623,000. The SR 303/SR 14/Ranch Road intersection project was 80% funded through the CMAC program. The estimated construction costs were \$703,000 with 80% eligible for reimbursement up to \$459,000. The City would pay for engineering, any right-of-way acquisition, and geo-technical services. The Finance Director already was aware of these costs and included them in the five-year plan. Mr. Czekaj said his department was looking at taking on the construction administration and inspection for the SR 303 and Diagonal Road intersection project because it was rather simple, however the SR 303/SR 14/Ranch Road intersection project involved traffic signals which ODOT should probably handle.

MOTION: TO MOVE T-7311 AUTHORIZE ODOT AGREEMENT FOR SR 303 AND DIAGONAL ROAD INTERSECTION TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

Moved by Mr. Lampa, seconded by Mrs. Field. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Mr. Czekaj explained the SR 303/SR 14/Ranch Road intersection project would remove the slip lane and bring the intersection to a T and add a traffic signal for a much safer intersection and easier egress from Ranch Road.

MOTION: TO MOVE T-7312 AUTHORIZE ODOT AGREEMENT FOR SIGNAL AT SR 303/SR 14/RANCH ROAD INTERSECTION TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

Moved by Mrs. Field, seconded by Mr. Lampa. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Citizens' Comments

None.

Announcements

A Special Finance Committee Meeting will immediately follow this meeting.

There being no further business to be addressed by this committee, and upon motion by Mr. Lampa, seconded by Mrs. Field, this meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Caroline L. Kremer, Clerk of Council

Jon Hannan, Chairman