



## COMMITTEE WORK SESSION SEPTEMBER 20, 2010

**Committee Members Present:** Todd Bergstrom  
Don Nicolard  
Brenda Hlas  
Bill Mowery  
Ken Braman  
Scott Pelot  
Mike Zita

**Also Present:** Mayor David Koontz-Absent  
Rick Ryland  
John Moss  
Pete Kostoff  
Karla Richards  
Ann Campbell-Excused

The Committee Work Session convened on Monday, September 20, 2010 at 7:01 PM, in the Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Mike Zita, President of Council. Following a salute to the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance, there was a moment of silent prayer.

### **General Topics of Discussion:**

#### **2011 Road Program**

Mr. Nicolard stated that we just received the attached listing today of the potential roads that need to be paved, and we obviously do not have enough money to do all of these roads. Mr. Nicolard stated that we would need to prioritize what is most urgent and asked Mr. Moss about the total amount of funding that is available for next year. Mr. Moss stated a little over \$300,00.00 would be available for 2011. Mr. Zita discussed the various types of repairs because of the different road surfaces such as concrete gutters like in Mr. Vernon. Mr. Moss indicated he would like to start the process earlier and try to bid out all the services. Mr. Ryland noted that on the second page of this list you could remove Eastern Road because this is an AMATS project with an 80/20 split. Mr. Ryland also noted that we would be doing Parkway Blvd. next year so basically you could strike these two (2) roads from this list. Mr. Bergstrom agreed with Mr. Moss to get an early start and that maybe we should look at doing an overall engineering study on all of our roads using a Master Paver process in conjunction with our own in house engineer. Mr. Nicolard stated the idea for discussion tonight was to bring this forward so that we get it set up and ready for every September-October we discuss, have a plan and be ready to go each spring.

2011 Road Program Continued:

Mr. Ryland stated that we do have a Micro Paver program in house, which does need to be updated, and Mr. Bergstrom agreed we could use that however this is different from the Master Paver program. There was discussion about Stonewyck being a newer development (only five (5) years old) and really should be repaved now to keep it properly maintained. Mr. Nicolard stated he felt there would be concerns from residents as to why we would address newer roads when we have older ones that are crumbling apart not getting the attention they deserve, like Alaska and Hawaii. Mr. Zita explained that sometimes a top seal coat is less expensive than a complete full depth replacement, which is probably needed for Alaska and Hawaii. Mr. Pelot stated that a full-blown engineering study is going to be too costly when we do have an in house engineering team that we could utilize and suggested setting up a committee to help. Mr. Nicolard stated our short-term goal here is to see what we can do now with the budget that we have. Our long-term goal is to do a study of our streets and the processes to correct them. Mr. Nicolard agreed with Mr. Pelot's suggestion on establishing a committee for the long-term goals. Mrs. Hlas stated she could add some roads to this list from her ward that are not listed. Some of these roads are concrete and had sunken as much as two (2) or three (3) inches and are crumbling. Mrs. Hlas stated we seem to be putting the cart before the horse here, we need to know exactly how much money we have to work with before we decide which roads to fix. Mr. Ryland stated that with the reconstruction of Parkway Blvd, and the Eastern Road projects, most of your money will be gone for next year. Mr. Bergstrom suggested that in future utility projects the bids should include road paving as part of the contract. Mr. Pelot asked for a list of the "do not plow" roads for the next work session. Mrs. Hlas stated she was confused about what was decided on Parkway Blvd. after the town meeting was held. Mr. Mowery asked what was there to be confused about? Mr. Nicolard stated the general consensus after that meeting was that to leave the road as it is, to regrade it and repave it. Mr. Mowery stated that is the direction from the Administration, as he understood things. Mrs. Hlas stated that petitions from the residents were filed with the city after that town meeting, and questioned where they stood, she thought these residents were expecting a different result. Mr. Mowery stated that petitions are just that, people can file petitions with the city any time they want. Mrs. Hlas stated she felt we needed to make it known to these residents exactly what we are going to do. Mr. Ryland stated that he expects to get the bids for the engineering for Parkway Blvd. by the end of October. Mr. Pelot suggested we discuss this again once that engineering is completed. Mr. Nicolard stated he would like to have the discussion on the "do not plow list" on the next work session agenda. Mr. Nicolard stated he would like to officially form a Road TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) consisting of Mr. Ryland, Ted Weinsheimer, Dave White, and himself. Mr. Kostoff suggested opening this up to any residents that may have professional engineering expertise that may want to serve or to the Mayor to appoint members as well. Mr. Bergstrom stated he knew of one resident he would contact as a potential candidate with an excellent background, Mark Miller, to see if he would be interested in serving.

### Assessment Cost Share

Mr. Bergstrom stated this has been discussed a couple of times already and that we want to set an amount in writing that the city pays and an amount that the residents pay, like 20/80 or 30/70. Mr. Bergstrom stated that we really need a commitment in writing from the city so that the residents know the maximum amount that they would be responsible for in the future. Mr. Bergstrom questioned if the city was in the financial situation to make it more like a 30/70 split? Mr. Moss stated he recalled that total build out costs for city wide utilities was something like \$14,000,000.00 and the real question is how do we make the match for each and every project because they will all be different. Mr. Bergstrom asked if we could afford for the city's share 30% and Mr. Moss replied no because your revenue stream would run out. Mr. Bergstrom stated that the tap in issue and the cost share on assessments really run together because one ultimately affects the other with the revenue stream and overall costs. Mr. Pelot said that we have approximately \$900,000.00 in the utility fund now, and questioned how long has it been since this fund was set up? Mrs. Hlas replied it was established in 2003 or 2004. Mr. Moss explained that you have a more regular revenue stream from collection of the percentages than you get from people paying to tap in. Mr. Nicolard suggested we focus more on waiving the tap in fees and put the assessment costs share on the back burner for now. Mr. Bergstrom agreed to continue this discussion to the next Committee Work Session in order to have more time to address the pros and cons on the assessments.

### Tap In Fees

Mr. Bergstrom stated that if we could waive the tap in fees for the first year, it would promote earlier connections for the residents. Mr. Bergstrom stated that we needed to clarify now if this should apply to both sewer and water connections, since water connections are not mandatory. Mr. Moss urged caution here because you don't want to undercut what is necessary for the system, however some measure of change does make sense. Mr. Bergstrom stated that for now he only wanted to address waiving sewer connections, we could always add water at a later time. Mr. Nicolard stated that the Oak Street residents would really get a great deal here because they could tap in well before it would hit their property taxes, and he agreed with the idea. Mr. Zita agreed, however we need to keep this in discussion and would ask to carry this over to the next Committee Work Session. Mr. Ryland stated this would be fine, and it follows what we discussed during our retreat earlier this year. Mr. Braman stated that we have talked about doing something like this ever since he has been on Council and he supports this, especially since the residents have to also pay Barberton their fees. Mr. Ryland stated he has informed Barberton of our interest in waiving our fees and they are also looking into it. Mr. Lino asked if and when Council does decided to approve waiving these tap in fees, what about all of the residents that have already paid in, are they just pretty much out? Mr. Pelot replied, probably yes.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Mr. Pelot asked Mr. Moss about the status of the Johnson Meadows project and if they paid or will be assessed. Mr. Moss replied the time had passed for the payment and it has been submitted to the county for assessments onto their taxes starting next year.

### **New Business:**

Mr. Bergstrom stated that at his last town hall meeting a question had come up as to whether or not a traffic study was ever done about adding a traffic light at Norton Shopping Center, west entrance. Mr. Ryland indicated that one had been done and the report indicated a light was not warranted there. Mr. Bergstrom commented about the school criteria and with the new sidewalks the ODOT project would be doing if this would change anything. Mr. Ryland stated the study showed the biggest number of students walking were on the north side of that area, not the west side. Mr. Bergstrom stated another question raised at his town hall meeting was regarding the widening of Cleveland-Massillon Road and if that would address the traffic flow. Mr. Ryland commented that once this project was completed, we would have six (6) lanes of traffic, three (3) in each direction, which would help with the congestion in the center of town. Mr. Moss discussed the ball field note for \$25,000.00 and that he would not be renewing the financing for this. Mr. Moss explained his memo in detail (see attached), adding that the carry over balance for this was healthy enough to save on the interest and there is no need to renew this note.

### **Public Comment-Agenda and Non Agenda Items:**

Mr. Joe Danko, a Norton resident, stated that although this was good discussion about the conditions of the roads, don't forget to address the 200 ft. on Ray Drive. Mr. Danko discussed the trash hauler issue and the reports in the Norton Post stated that now there is no opt-out provision. Mr. Danko stated that when you first started discussing this there was supposed to be an opt-out so which is it? Mr. Bergstrom stated that the more we discussed this the more we decided not to go with it and instead we provided a limited bag service for those residents with smaller amounts. Mr. Danko stated that he understands that if you fit into the poverty level the County will pick up your trash for free. Mr. Danko questioned the bid process and when would Council be giving the final approval? Mr. Danko discussed a situation on Shellhart with the ditch along his property. He was clearing some brush recently on his property and someone came along and asked him if he was going to clear the rest of the brush in the ditch since he owned it? Mr. Danko explained that he doesn't own all of that ditch, in fact he had it surveyed a few years back and the marker pins are still there. The city is the responsible party for clearing this ditches not him.

### **Topics for the next Work Session:**

#1-2011 Road Program-Discussions continued. Mr. Pelot asked for "Do Not Plow Listing" to include what is in need of a complete repair and what just needs a topcoat.

#2 Assessment Cost Share- Discussions continued

#3 Tap In Fees-Discussions continued

#4 Mr. Moss asked for discussion regarding the annual legislation to Accept the County Rates & Amounts

**Topics for the next Work Session Continued:**

#5 Mr. Ryland asked for discussion regarding a Multi Jurisdictional Radio Maintenance Agreement.

#6 Mr. Ryland asked for discussion regarding a new 4 Way Stop Sign-Hametown & Greenwich Roads

Mr. Zita announced the annual Polar Express coming up in December (see attached). Mr. Zita reminded everyone about the annual Cider Festival this coming weekend and urged everyone to get out and support the event.

**Adjourn**

There being no other business to come before the Committee Work Session, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

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Mike Zita, President of Council

**\*\*NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM\*\***

**All Committee Meetings will be held at the Norton Safety Administration Building, unless otherwise noted.**