



## COMMITTEE WORK SESSION SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

Committee Members Present:        Scott Pelot  
   Dennis McGlone  
   Dennis Pierson  
   Paul Tousley  
   Charlotte Whipkey  
   Rick Rodgers

Also Present:                            Mayor Mike Zita  
   Valerie Wax Carr  
   Ron Messner  
   Justin Markey  
   Karla Richards

The Committee Work Session convened on Monday, September 21, 2015 at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Rick Rodgers, 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:

#### Watershed Conservancy District Petition Process

Ms Whipkey stated she wanted this on the agenda because this petition process should be for the property owners only as opposed to residents as the property owners are the ones paying the assessment and should be the ones stating they want it. It was her understanding that it has to be greater than 50% of the property owners that would sign and questioned this affecting the amount of signatures needed? Mr. Markey stated he felt that they only need 500 of the population within a territory unless the population was small; however you could get more than that. You could create a territory of Barberton, Norton and Copley with a total of 500 signatures. Ms. Whipkey asked then what is meant by the law stating or the owners of more than half the property? Mr. Markey agreed the statute is not well written but it means either way would be sufficient. Ms. Whipkey asked if any one entity could control with more signatures and Mr. Markey replied the statute says a total of 500 signatures are required, not so much from each community. One city of the three could file a petition to propose the territory and he believed the statute would permit it with a hearing deciding who was or was not included. Ms. Whipkey clarified her question stating that it is 500 signatures, but she is not convinced on that if going by property owners as State law says more than half of property by acreage or value so if someone had a lot of land that could change those figures as well.

Mr. Markey asked how the Mosquito Abatement District (MAD) was formed and Ms. Whipkey stated it was 500 residents. Ms. Whipkey stated she would like to have a resolution that stipulates property owners only. Ms. Whipkey stated this is a three (3) community district and shouldn't all three (3) of the Law Directors be working on setting this forward. Mrs. Carr stated at the recent town meeting it was discussed by the three (3) entities it was to be done by a petition process to secure signatures to get the people involved. Mrs. Carr stated Mr. Markey and one other Law Director has been working on this and the process is being researched. Mrs. Carr stated that before a petition would be circulated, it would be presented to Council for your review. Mr. Markey stated if Council wants to pass an ordinance and direct the process, you can certainly do that. Ms. Whipkey stressed that when it does get done, it needs to be directed to the property owners rather than the residents. Mrs. Carr noted that with the Yellow Creek issue it's clearly driven by the residents and that technically this can all happen without any of our involvement. Mr. Rodgers asked about the 500 signatures, and if Barberton got all of the signatures they don't have to come to Norton or Copley for more do they? Mr. Markey stated the law states you need to have 500 within the district, it does not state by community. Ms. Whipkey offered we could fight that and Mr. Markey concurred. Mr. Rodgers discussed the County's study for an overall Wolf Creek Watershed District that has been in the works which is a cost to the residents and Mrs. Carr concurred this is an assessment and Mr. White is in the process of providing a full report soon. Mr. Tousley stated the three (3) communities Watershed efforts would affect communities in Medina County and questioned if they are aware. Mr. White stated that Wadsworth is aware of this. Mr. Tousley expressed his concern that the Medina governments should be made aware of their possible inclusion. Mr. Richards Easterling, 2996 Givens Drive, Norton, Ohio, stated he is both a resident and property owner and is strongly against preventing residents from signing the petition, that's just not right. Ms. Whipkey clarified she would rather see property owners that are going to be assessed on their taxes as opposed to just going and getting residents that would not have it added to their taxes if the resident method was used. Mr. Easterling stated both had the right to sign petitions. Mr. Markey stated the statute does state freeholders which if his legal terminology is correct that does mean the property owner. Ms. Whipkey stated if that is the case then none of us should mind being assessed for anything. Mrs. Carr suggested getting a report from all three of the Law Directors as to where they are on this.

#### Sports Teams Leases:

Ms. Whipkey discussed the three (3) agreements the Administration has prepared in detail; Ord. 53-2015 is for the Norton Baseball Association, Inc., and has two (2) Fields at Columbia Woods Park, and one (1) Field at Frashure Park. Ord. 54-2015 is for the Norton Youth Football Association, Inc., and they have one (1) field at Columbia Woods Park. Ord. 55-2015 is for the Norton Soccer Association and they have multiple fields at Loyal Oak Community Park. Ms. Whipkey noted that all of these Ordinances have an Exhibit A which has the following items in common: a lease for \$1/year payable in April for 10 years. Maintain the fields, perform various services like seeding, marking the grass, etc. Parking lots, pavilions, and other City Park grounds are under control of the City and open to the public at all times.

The first right use of the sport fields by the individual associations is limited to practices, games and tournaments as scheduled in advance with the City during the normal hours of generally weekdays from 5:00pm-9:00pm and weekends during daylight hours. Hold at least one day a week for the City to schedule other non-association teams and events with the City's input and collection for field use. Mr. McGlone questioned if they would provide a yearly schedule and Ms. Whipkey replied yes. Mr. McGlone asked where would this be posted and Mrs. Carr replied that we would most likely plug it into our Park Schedule System just like the shelters are scheduled and routed to Pam Campbell at the front desk. Mr. Pierson asked where the 10 year span came from and Mrs. Carr stated the original documents go back to the 1990s and we tried to set it with a 10 year window and she also noted there is an escape clause and no one requested the 10 year window. Mrs. Carr stated we set the fee at \$1.00 for the legalities and she did asked for the associations to provide her with some costs breakdowns and Norton Baseball has spent the most in maintenance and repairs. Mrs. Carr stated in the past the associations have made most of the capital improvements to the various facilities and not the City. Mr. Tousley asked if all groups are open to the Norton public and Mrs. Carr stated yes and we have asked for full rosters and we would like to see at least 51% of the players from Norton. Mr. Rodgers asked if a parent wanted to use the field with their child they would have that ability without requesting permission and Mrs. Carr concurred as long as there wasn't a game going on. We are looking to address times where someone was to try to capture the field/s for a period of time. Mr. Tousley asked if the language is clear enough that it is the City's sole discretion to schedule the fields. Mr. Pierson asked about the reasonable maintenance in Section #3 and who defines this and Mrs. Carr replied the City does. Mr. Markey stated he feels the language limits the first right is to the City and no one else has those first rights. Mr. Pelot questioned about baseball team having the fields only on Fridays and Mrs. Carr stated that was the date they agreed to. Mrs. Carr stated they approached us about this. Mr. Pelot questioned if there was room for other teams to schedule as well and Mrs. Carr stated there are other hours available on the Friday for others, but could be re-adjusted if needed and Sundays were available as well. Mrs. Carr stated the reason you have only these three (3) is because they are the largest of the groups and we are now looking at the Tennis Team and other teams from the school. Mr. Pelot questioned the majority of the team being Norton residents. Mrs. Carr explained that was due to the Norton tax payers paying for the parks and if the associations fell below 51% it gave the City the ability to not give first right on the grounds. Mr. Messner asked about Section #7 Insurance and Liability and if Mr. Markey felt the City should be named additionally as the insured when they file their certificate of insurance? Mrs. Carr stated she would need to look at how they file that and we do require them to cover insurance in case something happens during a game. Mr. Markey noted that is always a good practice for the City to be named as an additional insurer. Mr. Pierson discussed the limit of liability and that the City should look at banding it all together as this could be cheaper in the long run. Ms. Whipkey asked if this could all be done in time for Monday's meeting and Mr. Markey replied yes. Mr. Pelot suggested posting something on the fields relating to the insurance coverage/carrier and Mr. Markey stated we can discuss that although he was not sure it was necessary. Mrs. Carr stated she did not see any problems with any of the teams accepting these changes discussed here tonight.

Ms. Whipkey moved to place Ord. #53-2015 with the amendments discussed on Councils next agenda, seconded by Mr. Pelot.

Roll Call: Yeas: Whipkey, Pelot, McGlone, Pierson, Tousley  
Nays: None

Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Whipkey moved to place Ord. #54-2015 with amendments on Councils next agenda, seconded by Mr. Pelot.

Roll Call: Yeas: Whipkey, Pelot, McGlone, Pierson, Tousley  
Nays: None

Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Whipkey moved to place Ord. #55-2015 with amendments on Councils next agenda, seconded by Mr. Pelot.

Roll Call: Yeas: Whipkey, Pelot, McGlone, Pierson, Tousley  
Nays: None

Motion passed 6-0.

#### Summit County Animal Control Contract

Mr. Rodgers explained the need for the renewal contract to deliver animal control services to the City and it's mostly a boiler plate issue. Mrs. Carr stated that this was brought forward from the County because they let this lapse the last round and we just need to continue with their service. Although we have not been in an official contract we have been in compliance and paid our bills as they were received. Mr. Messner noted this year we had a bill of \$110.00 that was paid September 1st to euthanize a German Sheppard, however we normally are billed about \$28.00 five or six times a year. Mr. Rodgers moved to place this on Council's next agenda, seconded by Ms. Whipkey.

Roll Call: Yeas: Rodgers, Whipkey, Pelot, McGlone, Pierson, Tousley  
Nays: None

Motion passed 6-0.

#### ODOT Consent-Bridge Repairs SR 21

Mr. Pelot stated ODOT is looking for consent legislation for them to do some bridge repairs and resurfacing on the Rte. 21 bridge and is scheduled for sometime in 2017 and is at no cost to the city whatsoever. Mr. Pelot asked about the total cost of the project and Mr. White replied not yet but he can find the estimated costs.

Mr. White stated that normally the municipality is responsible for maintaining all State Routes and this is a very good thing for Norton to get at no cost adding the consent was needed due to the no cost. Mr. Tousley asked about the location of this bridge, and Mr. White stated he did not have that information with him but would find out. Mr. Pierson asked Mr. White about the requirement for maintenance and Mr. White and stated it is normal repairs and plowing. Mr. Pierson noted that our Service Department Employees were out there along SR 21 on Labor Day weekend cleaning up trash and questioned if this was a good use of our resources. It was decided further investigation was needed on the incident. Mr. Rodgers asked if we did not do a trade off in the past for the mowing and the plowing. Mr. White stated that we have looked into this and found out this would actually cost us more. Mrs. Carr stated she would have Mr. Reynolds pull the contract and look into that. Mr. Pelot moved to add this to Councils next agenda with emergency language, seconded by Ms. Whipkey.

Roll Call: Yeas: Pelot, Whipkey, McGlone, Pierson, Tousley, Rodgers  
Nays: None

Motion passed 6-0.

#### Res. of Appreciation for Larry Chiavaroli

Mr. Tousley stated that Mr. Chiavaroli has already resigned from the Planning Commission. There was discussion if Mr. Chiavaroli would be available for Monday and Mrs. Richards stated she thought he had responded to Mrs. Campbell's inquiry on that. Mr. Tousley moved to add this to the next Council agenda with emergency language and waiving the second and third readings, seconded by Ms. Whipkey.

Roll Call: Yeas: Tousley, Whipkey, Pelot, McGlone, Pierson, Rodgers  
Nays: None

Motion passed 6-0.

#### Nash Heights Sewers

Mr. Pierson stated last week Mr. Rodgers had handed out information on the vacuum systems and the letter received last week from the County and Barberton regarding the MOU which would be discussed in Executive Session. Ms. Whipkey discussed her handouts (see attached) and noted that although some of the issues with Plum Island and Putnam with the freezing stem from 2009, however they had recent issues in 2015. Ms. Whipkey said it was stated some of the pits were actually installed in the driveways, which sounds ludicrous to her as most citizens would see the folly in that to drive over. Mr. Rodgers asked Ms. Whipkey if she had contacted Loyd Lewis that he had referenced on that and Ms. Whipkey stated she had not. Mr. Rodgers stated his point was that she was questioning the statement and the location where they had the problem and he would have talked to Mr. Lewis if he questioned it. Ms. Whipkey responded she was not questioning it was done, but was stating it was ludicrous to have been done.

Ms. Whipkey addressed the comments on her do and do not list from the same source and that she had not made any comments on anything being put down the systems, but had referred to the ground grading around the pits to be sloped away to prevent water infiltration. Ms. Whipkey discussed the issues in Hell, Michigan and Plum Island/Newbury Port that they also had issues in 2009, again, what about 2015. Provincetown, Massachusetts was referred to and did not have any issues in the winter but they had significant problems in July with a large crack in the system affecting the main roads which flooded parts of town due to what was believed to be a piece of construction material entering the system. Ms. Whipkey stated it took them three (3) days to clean up the mess, and many visitors were relocated to hotels outside the City at the City's expense. Ms. Whipkey pointed out that the documents given to Council has the sites for the information and states the environmental agency came down on them requiring more alarms and other various updates to the system. Ms. Whipkey stated that eventually they will be bringing back gravity lines to tie in the existing development. Ms. Whipkey discussed Jeromesville, that was designed and built for an affiliate of Nationwide Insurance as a private development, and the values of homes there start at \$275,000.00 to over one million dollars. Ms. Whipkey discussed the information from the Randolph tours and supplied documentation. They do have surcharges, they just aren't specific to the vacuum and are included with the gravity and that is stated in the Randolph engineer's information. In addition she did not feel she was out of line with her statement on the workers from the Randolph tour. She would have preferred to have had the Engineer there as opposed to the workers and the AirVac salesman. Mr. Rodgers stated he felt Ms. Whipkey was questioning the integrity of the workers by her statement and she had the engineer's letter. Mr. Rodgers stated in Provincetown they did have a problem there; the manufacture has changed the design of the elbows due to that problem and that problem has now been corrected. Mr. Rodgers stated he believed the surcharges in Randolph were based on the grant they received and that system was about a cost of \$3,000.00 total to the residence. Mr. Rodgers stated in Plum Island he spoke with Jamie Toucolo and he was interested in coming to Norton and discuss this at our expense. Mr. Rodgers stated there are other engineers that are willing to share their information. Mr. Rodgers stressed those systems were old and have been around a long time; if they are installed properly and maintained they function properly. Ms. Whipkey stated when this all came about AirVac originally said the pits would be in the resident's yards and now it sounds like they will be in the ditches instead. Mr. Rodgers argued that it's always been stated it would be in the right of ways. Ms. Whipkey asked about salt and brine being an issue with the parts involved with the pits? Mr. Rodgers stated all of the Cities he heard from say they are not problems unless they are lying to us. Mr. Rodgers asked Ms. Whipkey why she keeps questioning and what her problem is with these issues, we keep going over the same items and if she does not like what he is saying then Ms. Whipkey should go to Randolph and Plum Island and check them out for themselves. Ms. Whipkey responded because much of what she hears is hearsay. Mr. Pierson stated as far as the pits being in the roadways, we have a 15ft easement and other than that we would need a variance to enter the property, and for a \$1.7 million in savings on something that is tried and true is worth looking at. Mr. Pierson stated he believed the weather at the locations cited were harsher than we have here.

Ms. Whipkey stated for the first time since she has lived here she experienced water freezing in her home in the past couple of winters so she believes it is a legitimate concern. Mr. Tousley stated at Portage County he spoke with someone named Dave and he indicated how pleased he was and added they do less maintenance than with the gravity stations and there are 10 gravity pump stations that are newer than the vacuum station. We spend far less time doing the maintenance on the vacuum station. Mr. Tousley also recalled one resident named Josh spoke with him and his parents live on RT. 43 have the new vacuum system and were very pleased with it although much of the community had been opposed to it prior to installation as it was a new system. Mr. Toulsey discussed the tour that was held in Barberton at the Snyder Avenue pump station and one gentleman there Mr. Berlin stated that one important thing is the cost of INI so when talking about future costs, he interprets that as meaning we would save a lot of money on that. Ms. Whipkey recalled that from what Mr. Berlin stated she got the impression that he was not all in favor of the vacuum system, adding that they only have gravity and his bosses were all there as well. Mr. Rodgers stated with the INI in Barberton is when we get heavy rains their plant cannot handle the capacity and they treat it with chlorine directly into the Tuscarawas River. Mr. McGlone asked Mr. Rodgers or Mr. Pierson to explain what INI means. (Infiltration and Inflow) Mr. Pierson stated it is infiltration into gravity lines. In a vacuum system it is totally sealed unit which is why they are so popular in coastal regions. With a gravity line over time it will have seepage into the line and the end result it costs the community treating that gray water. Mr. Pierson pointed out that gravity lines do collapse, they need cleaned out when items get in them, and require cameras run through them all at a cost. Mr. Rodgers stated the other part of INI is what people put into it when they run their gutters into it and their sump pumps into it which would be inflow. Mr. Rodgers asked about the cost of homes in Jeromesville and what that has to do with this and Ms. Whipkey stated this is a developer driven expensive home sites and they can afford things like adding extra alarms, re-doing the vacuum pits, adding insulation or a heating unit. Ms. Whipkey discussed having the candy cane pipes being a higher rise to resolve the snow issues. Mr. Pierson stated that past discussions indicated we can dictate where these candy cane pipes possibly closer to the house under the eaves. Ms. Whipkey stated this is a consideration that should be thought about now and needed to have snow drifting considered as opposed to three to four years later. Mr. Rodgers stated we can do this in the design process. Mr. Rodgers stated that in Jeromesville they have (1) person that maintains that entire system, and in addition he does other service department duties. The point is they find it to be very user friendly and is very comparable to the 300+ homes in Nash Heights. Mr. Pierson stated the scary thing is if you put an incredibly expensive system in Nash Heights and the homeowners walk away from their mortgage; the mortgage brokers will get the word out, and he believes the word already is out there; no one will want to come here. The property values could drop all over the City, and developers won't come here either. Ms. Whipkey asked Mrs. Carr if she was able to get the maintenance fees from Mr. Demboski and Mrs. Carr replied yes, but she had printing issues and hopes to get them to Council tomorrow. Ms. Whipkey asked if anything ever came in from Barberton or AirVac and Mrs. Carr replied no. Mr. Rodgers stated there is a huge disagreement on where these figures are and we need to see all of the figures. Mr. Rodgers stated from the figures he had seen, EDG is somewhere in the middle and they are all rather high.

Mr. Pelot stated that over the twenty (20) years it's pretty much a wash, the savings with installing the vacuum would be eaten up over the twenty (20) years. If there is a savings on the maintenance cost for vacuum, now you are going into the red on cost savings. Mrs. Carr clarified that the chart we prepared goes out twenty (20) years. Mr. Rodgers stated you have to understand that with gravity lines it ages. Mr. Rodgers asked if anyone has been following the City of Akron? Mr. Pelot stated that with some of our systems that are 40-50 years old. Mr. Rodgers asked how do we know that they are not leaking now? And how about the package plants that are 40-50 years old? What kind of costs is associated with them now? Had these areas been vacuum would we even be looking at that extra costs to abandon them, he does not think so. Mr. Tousley noted that in the information Mrs. Gibson handed out to us it gave a comparison of the gravity and grinder pumps and it compounded the interest over thirty (30) years and it was around \$30.00 a month more for gravity at the end, so her research says the opposite of that. Mr. Easterling stated it's been about two (2) years since the EPA ordered this and during this time we are still polluting the water and feared some residents are no longer maintaining their good systems and even more will be failing. Mr. Easterling asked how much more information do we need to know and how long will this be before we can see shovels moving dirt? Mr. Rodgers explained that we are waiting for the engineering designs which should be done soon and then we can go out to bid. Mr. Rodgers asked if he had been keeping up with Akron's sewer problems and Mr. Easterling replied yes. Mr. Rodgers stated the latest recommendation was not to build the treatment plant at the end of huge tunnel they are building and rather just release that into the Cuyahoga River about four (4) times a year. Mr. Rodgers stated he had just mentioned about the INI with Barberton and the heavy rains. Norton in no way, shape or form can compete with those two cities when it comes to pollution caused by those two cities. Mr. Easterling responded that Akron has been bad for years and years. Mr. Rodgers agreed, but we are worried about spending about \$8 million dollars here in Nash Heights to take care of maybe 20 systems; Akron is proposing to just dump into the Cuyahoga River four (4) times a year just to save money. Mr. Easterling stated he felt the EPA has been very lenient with the City on this project. Mr. Pierson asked Mr. Easterling if he was aware that the City of Norton allowed a new home to be built in Nash Heights with a sub standard system that is running raw sewage into the end of Easton and Greenwich Roads? The City was fully aware of this before any of this got going and no one acted on that. The City could have taken a forward step a long time ago and not allowed certain things to happen. The County came in and admitted this was a sub standard system and still did nothing about it; perhaps that was done intentionally to precipitate the EPA issue we are faced with now where everyone was going to make a lot of money and that is not conspiracy theory, that's a fact, and I will be happy to share it with somebody if they wanted to see it. Mr. Pierson stated he would rather change his mind now rather than having to go back and re-do it later. Mr. Easterling reiterated we needed to move forward with this and Mr. Pierson responded that no one was stonewalling or not doing it as we were going forward, but maybe not as fast as some people would like. Mr. Rodgers assured Mr. Easterling that the pollution will be addressed, but won't be started before next year. Ms. Whipkey stated that the County gave the okay for the sub par system to be put in and this was not just the City of Norton and Mr. Pierson concurred there was more than one person involved.

Carrie Beegle, 3920 Reimer Road, Norton, Ohio, discussed the Jeromesville comments made by Ms. Whipkey and the cost of their homes. Ms. Beegle asked if these million dollar homes have a different style septic system? Ms. Whipkey stated she was focusing on the fact that this very large company can afford to put out this money more than the residents in Norton can and take chances. Ms. Whipkey stated since Nationwide is the developer here and they are also a major insurer she was confident they would make sure there are no issues here by having all the bells and whistles and could afford to financially offset any problems that may occur. Ms. Whipkey said her point is if we are going to do this we do need to do it correctly so we don't have to come back and deal with problems already seen and wouldn't that raise the rates. Ms. Beegle stated that she, like Mr. Easterling would like to see the City move forward and get this going. Ms. Whipkey stated that is exactly why we need to be looking at this now rather than later and get the true cost.

**Unfinished Business:**

Mrs. Carr stated she had received a text message just now from Mr. Reynolds about the crews out on St. Rt. 21. Mr. Reynolds stated it was a prisoner crew from Summit County and we do have to have some supervision here from the City and it is part of our agreement to pick up the trash. Mr. Pierson argued that it was not Summit County; it was a City of Norton vehicle out there. Mrs. Carr stated there was a Norton vehicle present, but it was prisoners doing the work. Mr. Pierson noted that he had also seen City of Norton crews making repairs on state route. Mr. Pierson noted he did not feel this was a good use of our City resources that could be used elsewhere. Mrs. Carr explained that the Barberton Court and Summit County both have prisoner details and the City of Norton is required to be present and supervise them. Mr. Pelot asked how the Ward 1 Planning Commission vacancy seat is going, and Mayor Zita replied we are still working on getting applicants to respond and if anyone is interested from Ward 1 to submit their letter of intent.

**New Business:**

Ms. Whipkey stated she has been giving a lot of thought to our vacancy and our Charter is lacking in the specifics with time frames. Ms. Whipkey distributed a proposed revision of Section 3.06 Council Vacancy (see attached) to address this and keep us from the dilemma we are in now in the future. Ms. Whipkey noted if Mr. Rodgers seat would become vacant next year, Ward 1 would most likely not have any representation till possibly April of next year. Ms. Whipkey explained that we could do this now and get this Charter amendment for this December and address the Council vacancy for Ward 2 at the same time. We could also ask the Courts for a mandamus action to make that happen. Mr. Markey stated what Ms. Whipkey explained is correct, December could be the 60 days and now this would be City wide and Ward 2 would be added to this and would be harder for the Board to argue that. It could move forward with a two thirds vote of Council. Mr. Pierson stated that he would not spend any of the citizen's money for extra costs for another election. He also recalled Ms. Whipkey was all in favor of reducing the Council members from seven (7) to five (5). Mr. Pierson added that five was adequate representation then and he does not see what problem there is now.

Ms. Whipkey responded because with five (5) you had a tie breaker and with five (5) members it allowed a majority and super majority. Mr. Pierson stated he would support the 19<sup>th</sup> day of January. Mr. Rodgers stated we are doing a Charter Review next year and we should let them address it then. Ms. Whipkey stated that if this vacancy issue were in Ward 3 right now, it would be burning down walls around us. Mr. Rodgers stated that he has been in Ward 2 for the past several weeks and this is not their main concern; they want their roads fixed, they want to be left alone, and don't want sewers down their roads. Ms. Whipkey stated she been contacted on the issue and advised the residents to come forward with Mr. McGlone adding he had also. Mr. Pelot stated he has heard from several residents and asked them to come to Council and address their concerns. Mr. Tousley asked Ms. Whipkey what exactly she is trying to do here and she explained we could fill Ward 2 and change the Charter at the same time and would not need the January Special election. If Mr. Rodgers would be taking the Mayors seat it could be as far out as April of next year before that seat is filled. Mrs. Pat Reese, 4052 Wadsworth Road, Norton, Ohio, stated that should it come to pass that Ward 1 would have a vacancy she cannot understand that she cannot call on the At Large people for help because that is what she is hearing. If she lived in Ward 2 and there is a problem she would be calling on At Large, Ward 1, 2, and 3 for help. When all of you vote on something that only affects here in Ward 1 do you say oh I'm not going to vote on that? Mrs. Reese stated if a resident in Ward 2 calls on any of the Council members and they don't do anything, then maybe we don't need the At Large seats. What are you all doing up there, are you not looking out for and voting for all of the people? You At Large people live somewhere and you should be voting for everyone's best interest. You are all willing to spend money for a special election and we have already been spending money for all of your salaries. Ms. Whipkey stated that you will have a Special Election now and possibly another one soon and you are all going to pay for this. Ms. Whipkey stated we At Large members do consider all of the constituent complaints and yes she does act on them. Ms. Whipkey stated when it comes down to a specific vote the residents in that Ward, they are lacking a voice. Mrs. Reese stated that she disagrees with Ms. Whipkey. Mr. Paul Reese 4052 Wadsworth Road, asked Ms. Whipkey if she was not out there getting signatures to change the Charter to what it is now? Ms. Whipkey stated yes it was her and if she could have seen what we are into now she would have addressed this. Mr. Reese stated so it's fine for you then but now you want to change it? Ms. Whipkey noted that there are numerous times the Charter is revised when we see a need to amend it. Ms. Whipkey moved to add this to the next Council Meeting for September 28, 2015, seconded by Mr. McGlone.

Roll Call: Yeas: Whipkey, McGlone, Pelot  
Nays: Pierson, Tousley, Rodgers

Vote failed 3-3.

Mr. Rodgers stated it was brought to his attention that we have done appreciations recently and noted that we have shut down the Mayors Court and that Officer Jason Sams had been the bailiff for Mayors Court for quite some time.

Mr. Tousley asked if there is anyone else we are missing here? Mrs. Carr and Mayor Zita noted we did prepare something for Mr. Mitchell and honored his request for nothing official. Mr. Rodgers moved to have a Resolution of Appreciation for Officer Jason Sams for the next Council meeting, seconded by Mr. Pelot.

Roll Call: Yeas: Rodgers, Pelot, McGlone, Pierson, Tousley, Rodgers  
Nays:

Motion passed 6-0.

**Topics for the next Work Session:**

Summit County Report Study on Wolf Creek Watershed

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

No one had signed up to speak.

**Public Updates:**

Ms. Whipkey asked for the update from Mrs. Carr about the Frashure Allotment storm drains. Mrs. Carr replied that the county had hoped to start sometime during the first week of September. The latest schedule showed a beginning date of mid-Oct. We addressed this as a concern with the county last week and told them it was not acceptable to wait that long. Summit County has reworked the schedule and it now shows work to begin the week of Sept 28th. Mr. Rodgers expressed his concerns that he was not made aware of this delay as he has been telling residents all along it was to be done this month. Mrs. Carr explained that we had been checking the schedule and recently learned it was not on schedule; however they have corrected that and it will be performed next week, if not sooner. Mr. Rodgers suggested everyone be advised in a Press Release to keep us all informed. Mayor Zita announced the new Norton High School stadium was opened last week with a ribbon ceremony and this past week and on Friday we had a the first football game with a Homecoming at the new stadium.

**Adjourn**

There being no other business to come before the Committee Work Session, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM.

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Rick Rodgers, President of Council

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

**\*\*ORIGINAL SIGNED AND APPROVED MINUTES ARE ON FILE WITH THE CLERK OF COUNCIL.\*\***

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

ARTICLE III  
THE COUNCIL

SECTION 3.06 VACANCIES

Whenever the office of a Councilperson shall become vacant for any reason and the unexpired term of office of the vacant Councilperson shall be greater than or equal to nine calendar months, **then Council shall, at its next occurring regular or special Council meeting, pass an ordinance submitting the question to the electors of the City of filling the vacancy for the unexpired term of such Councilperson. The Council ordinance shall direct the Board of Elections to hold a special municipal election at the date specified by Council for such elections, which election shall occur no earlier than 60 days and no later than 90 days from the date of Council's ordinance.** the vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the term by a special municipal election. ~~The special election required under this section shall be called for by the Council and administered at the nearest available time.~~ The Council seat shall remain vacant until the result of the special election shall be certified by the Summit County Board of Elections. **The special municipal election discussed in this paragraph may occur on the date of a regular municipal election or primary election, if a regular municipal election or primary election should occur within the time aforesaid.**

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# P-Town sewer system meltdown causes chaos over July 4 weekend

by Joe Siegel  
Contributor  
Thursday Jul 9, 2009

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Provincetown's sewer system is fully operational after a massive failure over the July 4 weekend.

An alarm went off at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday that signaled a loss of pressure on the vacuum sewer line. As a result of the problem, raw sewage began backing up into bathrooms, basements and then onto streets and sidewalks along Commercial Street.

A decrease in pressure is crucial because the vacuum suction is what pulls the waste from people's homes through the pipes and to the waste water treatment plant. It was not unusual for this alarm to go off - DPW workers said the alarm is sounded about every five or six weeks - due to a relatively common failure in the sewer controller valves that monitor pressure levels at each property hooked up to the sewer. It is usually easy to find the failed monitor and replace it without any effect on the system line as a whole.

The town's \$30 million sewer system was designed, built, and is operated by AECOM (formerly Metcalf and Eddy.)

The timing for the emergency could not have been worse for public works officials.

The two AECOM subcontractors who responded to the alarm were stymied in their search for the loss of pressure by the July 4 parade, which proceeded down Commercial Street. This kept the engineers from checking manholes along the town's main thoroughfare.

The swelling crowds in town for the fireworks display, along with the increased traffic, further complicated the engineers' search for the cause of the pressure loss. All of the visitors and tourists spending the weekend at local hotels, bed and breakfasts, and guesthouses used the bathrooms with more frequency than on a regular weekend. This increased usage flooded the system with waste water that poured into a sewer line now unable to carry the flow to the treatment plant.

The four-inch hole that caused the failure - likely the result of debris in the system slamming into a vulnerable sewer connection - was found Monday evening in a sewer main running under Dyer Street in the town's East End. That section of pipe was cut out and replaced and the East End vacuum main, which runs along Commercial Street from Anthony Street to Snows Lane, was repaired.

"It was very unfortunate that it occurred because the capacity of the sewer is not the issue, it was timing and the way in which information was distributed that created more of a problem than this should've been."

The costs of this calamity are likely to add up quickly. In addition to hiring sewer pumping companies to remove and clean sewage from basements and bathrooms, some guesthouses reported guests checking out when informed they couldn't take showers or flush the toilet. Other landlords renting their properties to summer visitors had to pay for new accommodations for tenants displaced by the system failure.

Then there will be the cost to clean and disinfect town streets and sidewalks.

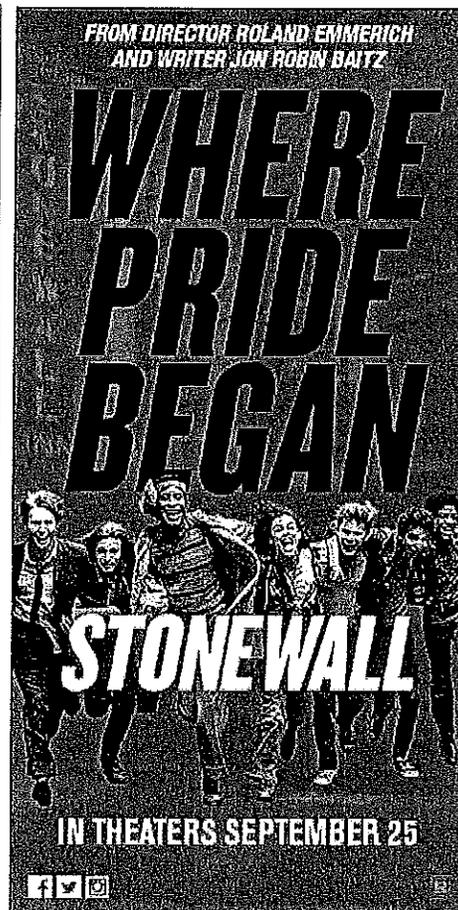
Meanwhile, town officials are trying to figure out a way to prevent the situation from happening again.

An emergency meeting of the boards of selectmen and health was held Monday night. The board of selectmen said there had been a communications breakdown between AECOM and the town that resulted in local officials not being informed of the failure of the system until almost 10 hours after the first alarm. Town manager Sharon Lynn said she was unaware of the problem until the sewer backed up into her own home around 7 p.m. on Saturday.

"I think that we've taken major steps to make sure that kind of breakdown in communication doesn't ever happen again," Selectman Elaine Anderson said.

In the meantime, DPW director David Guertin has been assigned to investigate what went wrong and to recommend any changes in response protocol he believes are needed. Guertin expects that report to be done within a month.

Anderson told EDGE that AECOM will install additional alarms so that any future problems can be detected more quickly.



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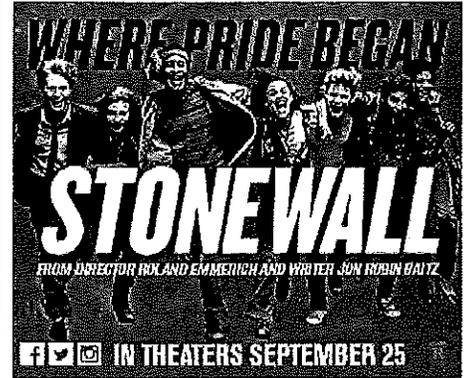


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"It was very unfortunate that it occurred because the capacity of the sewer is not the issue, it was timing and the way in which information was distributed that created more of a problem than this should've been," Anderson noted.

If there was a silver lining to the crisis, it was the demonstration of the fortitude of the town's employees and residents, according to Anderson.

"I think we show our best side when we have these emergencies," she said.



Joe Siegel has written for a number of other GLBT publications, including In newswiki and Options.

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sewer system valves to freeze, which in turn prevents the main line sewer from functioning.

It is imperative that all customers in the affected areas RESTRICT water use to essential daily functions only (drinking, cooking and toilet use) until we can repair the system, which may take several days. The Authority will issue another press release when the system operations are returned to normal.

Affected areas in Patterson Lake area include all customers on Patterson Lake Drive, Parkdale, Channel, Alberta, Weiss Road, Hillside Drive, Wesley Drive, Elsie, Chalkers, Crawford, Island Drive and Helpner. Note that some customers in the Patterson Lake area are served by grinder pumps. While these pumps are still functional, they have no working sewer to discharge to. Please respect your neighbors and the environment by honoring the restricted water use request. Crews have been working around the clock to return the system the system to normal operation. We are also receiving operational support from our contractors and the sewer system designer. For questions about the sewer system failure or the status of repairs, please contact the Multi Lake Water and Sewer Authority a the 877.806.3741.

Also

To: Affected Residents  
Date: February 28, 2015  
From: Putnam Township Fire Department

Due to the issues with sewer system in your area.

Putnam Township Fire Department would like to inform you that the Fire Department at 3250 West M-36 will be open and staffed around the clock. This will provide residents of the affected area the opportunity to use the showers and restrooms to lessen the burden on the sewer system during the situation.

Please feel free to come in at any time.

Sincerely,

Greg Amburgey  
Fire Chief

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Teresa Richards, Ed Stebbins, Karen Miller Dalgleish and 6 others like this.

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**Christy Balusik** Way to open your home Greg. What a great fire department  
February 28 at 11:10am

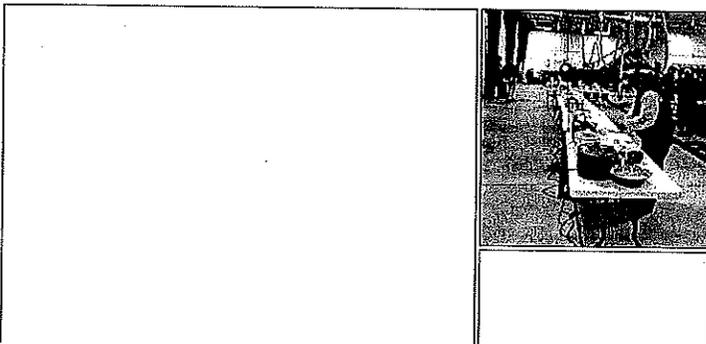


**Teresa Richards** Thank you for the shower you guys rock!!!!  
March 6 at 5:33am · Edited



**Putnam Township Fire Department** added 4 new photos.  
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Some more pictures from the Chili Cook Off and Tasting







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# \$20 million sewer question for Provincetown

PROVINCETOWN — Within a month, the town will likely hear what changes, and possible penalties, the state Department of Environmental Protection will require as a result of what it termed a "catastrophic failure" of Provincetown's new vacuum sewer system July 4.

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By DOUG FRASER

Posted Oct. 15, 2009 at 2:00 AM

PROVINCETOWN — Within a month, the town will likely hear what changes, and possible penalties, the state Department of Environmental Protection will require as a result of what it termed a "catastrophic failure" of Provincetown's new vacuum sewer system July 4.

On Tuesday night, DEP environmental engineer Brian Dudley briefed selectmen on his agency's investigation into the sewer system failure. Those findings offer a glimpse into any possible future enforcement action.

The \$20 million vacuum system, which is six years old, pulls waste out of more than 500 homes and businesses along the densely populated and low-lying lots bordering Commercial Street. On July 4, alarms alerted wastewater treatment plant operators that the vacuum system had lost pressure. Officials now believe that construction debris, propelled at high speed by the vacuum, may have punched a hole in the pipe on Dyer Street, which, in turn, caused a drop in pressure. Pumps in the East End of town added to the problem by pushing sewage into the vacuum lines, which no longer had the pressure to get it to the treatment plant.

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According to the DEP investigation report, the system had too few monitoring devices, which would have helped to quickly isolate the leak. The agency also said it took too long for the plant operators, who are private contractors working under a long-term contract with the town, to communicate the problem to town officials. Also, town officials who were aware of sewage backups failed to notify the appropriate town staff or the wastewater treatment plant operators.

Criticism was also directed at the town's cleanup and disinfection efforts, which didn't begin until three days after the first sewage overflows.

The DEP report required that the town develop a comprehensive emergency response plan and do a complete evaluation of the system to determine where to install more monitors and valves to more quickly find and isolate leaks.

The DEP also required the town to establish a licensing program for private contractors who are installing sewer connections.

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The agency questioned the strength of pipe used in the system and whether it is sufficient to withstand impact by foreign objects that may be flushed or otherwise propelled into the pipes. The report suggested replacing joints or encasing them in cement.

The state required that the town continue with its \$3.3 million plan to create a separate sewer line for the East End that will isolate it from the vacuum system and prevent the overloading that happened July 4. Selectmen Monday night authorized spending \$450,000 on engineering plans for that new system.

"I'm not happy that there weren't more bells and whistles built into the system," Selectmen chairwoman Michele Couture said. "It was not my expectation that the whole system should be crippled by one leak."

Public works director David Guertin said he believed the DEP was leaning toward a less punitive measure that would spare the town a fine but would require changes to prevent another catastrophic failure.

Still undecided is who will pay for those changes, the town or AECOM, the company that installed the system.

"It's the obvious question on everybody's mind," Guertin said.

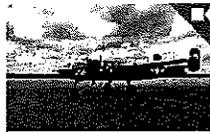
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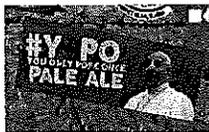
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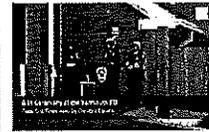
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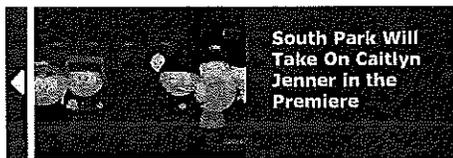


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