

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
Minutes of Rossford Committee of the Whole Meeting  
Held July 7, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President of Council Larry Oberdorf and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Richards, Marquette, Hermes, Kovach, and Oberdorf all present. Mr. Michaels and Mrs. Eckel are expected shortly.

Mr. Oberdorf stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss 1) the pros and cons of becoming a member of the Northwestern Water and Sewer District and 2) the proposed curfew. He said audience participation will be at the end of each separate issue.

Jerry Greiner, executive director of the NWWSD introduced himself and two board members, John Ault and Lyle Schulte, Solicitor Rex Huffman, finance director Dave Cook, and district engineer William Barber and then passed out a summary of the NWWSD (attached) and reviewed it with council. \*\*Mr. Michaels and Mrs. Eckel entered the meeting at this time.

Mr. Richards asked for a comparison of the pay scales of the city vs. the district in the event that 1-2 city employees would be merged into district employment. Mr. Greiner explained that their workers are under union contract with AFSCME and the starting range is \$14-18. Any employees merged from the city would start at a higher rate. Mr. Richards asked about the districts ability to handle storm water overflows and Mr. Greiner explained that they handle only water and sanitary sewer but they do check that sanitary sewers are not comingled with storm water. Mr. Ciecka said the storm water is a combined problem. We have storm downspouts connected to the sanitary and that the district would be involved in removing homes that have connections to the sanitary of storm water flow. Mr. Greiner said that they would be working with the public works department for many years to solve this. Mr. Richards asked if once we would join how hard it would be to get out. Mr. Huffman explained that it is kind of like annexations in that there is a procedure to get out but it is difficult and would involve a court order as there is no provision for detachment and Ohio Revised Code prevents the board from changing that.

Mr. Hermes said that at the last meeting he had asked for a proforma invoice of potential rates. Mr. Cook then passed out a quarterly bill comparison (attached) and explained the rates. He said the sewer rates depend on the amount of I & I work and that could impact the O & M charge. Mr. Hermes asked if looking ahead to the future if NWWSD was the right group to take over the Toledo system in a unigovernment system. Mr. Cook said he does not think Toledo will ever agree but that it is within the scope of the districts power. He compared it to the chances of a mosquito swallowing an elephant.

Mr. Michaels asked about rate relief for people who go south for the winter. Mr. Cook responded that the district has a minimum base charge but no volume minimum charge unlike Toledo who charges for 2000 gallons whether used or not. NWWSD uses actual usage numbers. Mr. Michaels asked about handling of overflows and Mr. Barber answered they do not have any combined sewer overflows in the system. They have two sanitary sewer overflows remaining with the goal of those being eliminated by next year. Mr. Michaels asked how many employees are on 24 hour call and was told that one person is on duty at all times with up to 30 employees available for any emergency. Mr. Michaels asked if the city could see the master plan for the city of Rossford and was told the current master plan does not include the city but that is something they could do given some time. Mr. Michaels asked what the debt per customer ratio was and Mr. Cook said it not a calculation he has made but he would get the number to Mr. Ciecka tomorrow.

Mrs. Eckel asked about the proposed 75% surcharge with a master meter and was told by Mr. Cook that is a number Toledo has proposed but they are trying to negotiate lower. Mrs. Eckel asked when they would know the actual number and was told the district is trying to get a contract before year end. Mr. Cook said the district rate is the current Toledo base rate plus a 50% surcharge with that contract expiring in 2014 and that is what they are trying to negotiate into a master meter contract. Mrs. Eckel asked how many crews were working during last Thursday's storm and was told by Mr. Barber about 24 employees were working. Mr. Barber said they watch oncoming storms and build a response in advance. He said all of their pump stations are monitored via telemetry. Mr. Greiner said they could consider some type of staffing to allow for quick

response in Rossford. It will be important to see what the demand has been for service from Toledo's water department and what Rossford's needs may be.

Mr. Ciecka said they need to know if council is interested in joining the NWWSD before spending man-hours on performing due diligence. If not interested the city and NWWSD should just shake hands and go their separate ways.

In response to a question from Mrs. Eckel regarding the handling of joint projects Mr. Greiner said these type of projects are usually planned three years out and the city would be aware of and have adequate time to plan for.

Mr. Marquette asked about the Toledo contract and Mr. Greiner corrected himself and said it expires in 2024. Mr. Marquette asked if the city joined the district would they get the 50% surcharge rate and Mr. Greiner said that is what they are in discussions on. Mr. Marquette asked what is the advantage in being a full member of the district and was told it gives them a 1/9 say in capital improvement projects etc. He also asked if they have their own inspectors for new builds and was told yes.

Mr. Richards asked if it is possible for residents to be members of the district while the city is not a member. Mr. Greiner said that is possible but that the debts and obligations would stay with the city.

Mr. Michaels asked if it is unusual that two of the board members are both from Lake Township. Mr. Greiner said it is unusual but that one was appointed by the county commissioners. Mr. Michaels asked if Toledo city council determines the rate and was told yes, they can change the base rate but not the negotiated agreed upon surcharge.

Mayor Verbosky said whether the city joins the district or not our rates will go up as Toledo is going to a base rate plus a 115% surcharge on all new contracts. He said projects will still need to be done, either on our own with borrowed funds or through the district.

Mr. Oberdorf said we have been talking about this issue for some time and have gathered a lot of information but still need to gather more. He requested that a resolution of intent be placed on the next council agenda formalizing our intent to look at joining the district. He thanked the members of the NWWSD for attending this meeting.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> ITEM**

Mr. Oberdorf then asked Mr. Ciecka to explain how we arrived at the discussion of a curfew ordinance. Mr. Ciecka said the curfew discussion began based on citizen concerns that were brought to the attention of council. Various area curfew ordinances were looked at before a sample ordinance was drafted for council's review. Mr. Ciecka said that acting police chief Kitzler thinks it is important to have this ordinance on the books.

Mr. Richards then summarized the last safety committee meeting. He said a curfew was discussed and that the 25 residents in attendance were unanimous in wanting a curfew. He said the safety committee recommended that the curfew ordinance be placed on the next council meeting agenda. Mr. Heban said the draft ordinance was modeled after the city of Toledo's.

Mark Marek, Highland Drive, asked if Mr. Heban had taken into consideration the state law that allows 17 year olds to drive until 1:00am. Mr. Heban said he had not. Mr. Marek asked how repeat offenders would be dealt with and Mr. Heban said they would be referred to the juvenile prosecutor for processing. Mr. Marek said he is in favor of if it holds parents accountable but that the curfew will not be a fix all for neighborhood problems that increased police manpower is still needed.

Pam Simenski, 171 Maple, asked for an answer to a question she had regarding response time to police calls on the tree streets. She also faulted Mr. Richards for taking so long to act on this problem as chairman of the safety committee. Mr. Richards said when the issue was brought forth by the citizens it was acted on very promptly. She also faulted him for saying it would take 4-6 weeks to pass this ordinance. Mr. Richards explained the normal procedure for passing an ordinance which does take 2-3 regular council meetings. It can be passed as an emergency with the approval of a majority of council. He did not presume that was the case in stating the 4-6 week time period.

Mayor Verbosky, 317 Eagle Point, said this is not an answer to all of the problems. He said overall Rossford is a very safe place to live in with some pockets of concern. A curfew is not unique to Rossford and that over 10 other curfews were looked at. A curfew would give our police officers increased enforcement. He agrees we have manpower issues and that the curfew is just a piece of the puzzle. He also wanted to put to rest a rumor that Rossford would eliminate its police department and contract with the Wood County sheriff.

Dawn Russell, 134 Walnut said she has been more comfortable in the last month with increased police patrols but that a curfew would help even more. It will not solve all the problems but hopefully will solve some things like kids walking behind her at 2:45am when she leaves for work.

Mrs. Eckel asked why 5:00am was the end time and was told by Mr. Heban that follows the Toledo ordinance.

Heather Schaffer, 302 Hillcrest said before she moved to her current address she had experienced problems with profanity and street fights.

Mr. Marquette said he did not know about this problem until the citizens came forward two meetings ago.

Katie Poiry, 507 Beech St., thinks this issue has been swiftly handled by council and has appreciated the increased patrols by police. She asked why school officials were being asked for comment and Mr. Richards said they may suggest some changes based on school activities. Mrs. Poiry also suggested increasing police manpower in a realistic manner.

Mr. Richards moved and Mr. Michaels seconded the motion to adjourn. All ayes. Motion carried.