

Minutes of the Public Works Advisory Committee
10/17/2011 at the Tracey Memorial

Edgar Acevedo brought the meeting to order at 7.09 PM.

Committee Members Present: Marty Schmitt, Rusty Vazac, Jim Simmons (attended end of meeting) and Steve Campbell.

Also in attendance: Village Board Trustee, George Grant.

The minutes of 09/19/2011 were approved. Rusty Vazac making a motion and Steve Campbell seconding the motion.

The proposed agenda was approved, Marty Schmitt making a motion to approve and Rusty Vazac seconding the motion.

Marty Schmitt started an interesting discussion regarding the Village of Chatham's relationship with the Village of Ghent pertaining to providing water to residents in Ghent. Marty showed committee members a section of pipe which was part of a water supply line going to a building he owns in Ghent. It was totally clogged with a buildup of rust and debris. The point being made was that the lines in Ghent are all the same age, and even though the main lines are a bigger diameter, they probably are degrading in a similar fashion. We provide water and service the system, with the bill being divided among the end users. If there is the need for a major project to replace the system, will the residents be able to afford their water bills? George Grant said that the subject has been presented to the Village of Ghent in the past, which was not met with the warranted concern for the problems which may arise. Ideally the village of Ghent should form it's own water district which would enable it to better deal with the oncoming large repair bills. Arising from this discussion: What are the responsibilities of the Village of Chatham? Should there be a written contract between the villages (George does not think there is one.) What are the Village of Chatham's obligations to the Village of Ghent?

There was no report about outsourcing work to the towns or county. A comment was made that if the village dissolved, that the town would have to plow the roads, but otherwise there seems to be no motivation for the town to get involved as they would have to hire more men and perhaps purchase more equipment in order to service the village.

Rusty Vazac reviewed the status of village equipment, with George Grant offering input as to the health of the vehicles. The bottom line was that the 2000 Ford Dump should be replaced, and it was being addressed until village fiscal problems arose. The other equipment is functioning and occasionally needs repair, but is in usable condition at this time. The street sweeper was recently repaired and the leaf picker is in the process of being fixed so it can be used soon.

Foreman Sperl made the comment to Rusty that if the village decides to take more action

in cleaning sidewalks from heavy snows, that a more powerful skid-steer snowblower combo needs to be purchased, preferably one that can blow directly into a dump truck.

George Grant said R.M. Lill thought that the village water tower could probably survive another 20 years being patched in the way it has been in recent months because most of the repair sites are where bubbles in welds had rusted through because at those points the metal is thinner than the plates or proper welds. George also suggested that we need to raise the water rates to the proper amounts in order to be able to project what funds will be available in the future for relining or replacing the tank.

Addressing the future of the reservoir: perhaps relining with blue clay, which has been done in the past, is an option, and or covering the reservoir, or replacing with a tower are choices which will have to be made.

Our next meeting will be 11/21/2011 at 7 PM.

Rusty Vazac made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Steve Campbell. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM.