

Village of Moreland Hills
Roads and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2024

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am

Establish Quorum: The following members of the Roads and Safety committee were present: Council Person Rick Vincent, Service Director Ted DeWater, Mayor Ethan Spencer, Village Engineer Jeff Filarski, Police Chief Dietzel, Council Person David Emerman

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

A motion and a second was made to approve the October 31st (for November) meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Resident Concerns:

- AT&T box on a pole at Murwood east entrance onto Chagrin Blvd causing visibility concerns; AT&T will be contacted by Service Dept.

Police Updates:

- 1) Increased visibility & traffic enforcement in Bentleyville Road/Chagrin River Road due to traffic from 2-year long Chagrin Falls Miles and Solon Road project:

Chief Dietzel reported they will continue to provide notifications on social media and increased presence at Bentleyville to enforce speed, no through trucks and stop signs in lieu of putting sign boxes up in winter, which can get damaged in winter.

One resident also commented about excessive noise even from permitted trucks on Bentleyville; Chief will sit down with resident to assess. Mr. Filarski asked if Chief has seen detour plan for Main Street project. It was produced years ago as project was rebid several times. Chief will check but assumes it's similar to the recent Maple Street project and truck traffics (semis) are the main concern right now.

If/when calls come in, forward to the Chief.

- 2) Personnel:

Background Checks: One (1) completely done for new candidate & interviewed with Mayor; Two (2) additional candidates progressing in background process. One from Cincinnati area is travelling in so will do psychological here but will try to allow physical exam back near his home; Second candidate will be doing home visit this week;

- 3) 2024 Budget:

Budgetary discussions w-Mr. Shah and Mayor Spencer over the holidays and have removed some items; However insurance renewal requirements will affect the budget and will be

discussed by Mr. Shah in a presentation at COW tomorrow; Chief provided training records requested by Insurance agent to review against insurance renewal; Lexipol service, if approved in budget, will help to lower those;

4) Vehicles:

One patrol unit (#4936) too expensive to repair will be sold on Govdeals per our mechanic; Another 2015 vehicle (#4931, Ford Explorer) would be moved to support status for the SRO if a new vehicle is approved in the budgeting. Then, probably wouldn't need any other replacements for 1-2 years.

Regarding Insurance training list request: Although it was lengthy, some items didn't apply because the police department had written some items out of their policy and use, e.g., use of baton / impact weapons, 2 years ago. But Chief provided everything that the department had been trained on to satisfy the request.

Village Engineer Updates

1) 2024 Asphalt Program:

Inspected roads with Mayor and Service Director and produced condition maps showing roads from Poor to Very Good. Provided maps with proposed program areas for 2024 and approximate costs for budgetary purposes that will be reviewed by Mr. Shah and Council. Also provided a resurfacing projection through 2028 with a 4% escalation assumed. Highlights included resurfacing of five roads including E-W section of Sterncrest Dr., Ellendale Rd, Park Ln and Glen Rd, and Old Plank Ln; For some of the main roads, e.g. Jackson, Miles, Chagrin River, only spot repairs are needed; Surface treatment is to be performed 1 year and 5 years after they were paved, which helps them to last longer; Chip sealing will be done to provide friction on lower Giles for plowing and to maintain other roads that are still in good shape to fill in cracks that may have formed. Total cost: \$1.14M (See attachments).

The Mayor asked about overlap with the Service Department's work to patch several areas. Those have been coordinated with the Village Engineer's map to avoid redundancy between the in-house efforts. Within reason, some additional crack sealing can be done by the Service Department where they are not proposed on the map. Jackson Road will be requested to be funded by the County.

Mr. Emerman asked if Jeff has asked if Lead Service Line replacements have been considered, as CWD is in the process of taking inventory and replacing those throughout their service areas over the next five years. Mr. Filarski will consider this for future planning of resurfacing to avoid tearing up new roads and to coordinate with any CWD work that may be coming in. Mr. Vincent noted that in his job they are coordinating their projects with CWD as well and that CWD has a GIS layer that may be useful in determining if there are any known lead service lines in the Village.

Service Department Updates

1) Equipment/Truck Repairs

Mr. DeWater reported that last year a truck was approved but the service department has not yet taken delivery of it due to UAW strike and some supply chain issues, but he is hoping it will be delivered by end of March.

From budget standpoint, requesting a backhoe replacement and a vehicle.

Salt motors needed replacement but repairs were completed in house.

2005 rear loader garbage truck needs frame repairs; Will try to make it last until 2025 budget.

2) Drainage

The Giles road drainage work is ongoing, added stormwater maintenance around the catch basin. If there's a longer dry spell additional grading will be done. Have been discussing the project progress with homeowner, who mentioned that he is getting some water further away from the Service Department's work area. It was explained to him that it is unrelated to the Service Dept's work, but if he would like to add a yard drain from that area to the new basin, that is his responsibility but would be permissible.

3) Snow Plowing

800 Tons of salt used to date; Backordered 500 tons to fill back up; Committed to 1,800 tons, so 1,300 tons left to buy. Hoping to use it up as last year's storage costs were more than the cost of the salt.

Ice Event in January: Spoke with Orange School bus garage supervisor and every community was having issues that day. The Mayor noted that he heard the same from the Superintendent. Salt trucks average speed is only 10 mph, but when have to drive backwards as they did on this day it drops to 2 mph. Per the Chief, he stated that the 1st call went out at 2:14 am, trucks were on the road by 3 am. Mr. Emerman noted that the response was good and it's understandable if they have to drive backwards up steep hills. He asked about the priority of roads near stop signs on steep hills. Mr. DeWater noted that the priority is first to salt all the mains to keep traffic flowing, then secondary roads with hills that dump onto main roads. They also do Falls Road

4) Road-side pruning

This work will continue over the winter.

5) Service Department Personnel

Village Mechanic resigned, last day effective Feb 14th. Ads for a replacement has been posted and word has been spread to network of fellow agencies and other potential sources of qualified individuals, such as Ohio Technical Automotive School, will be contacted. There is a shortage of qualified mechanics. Mr. Emerman asked if, during budgeting, we should consider rate changes for mechanics to compete with other places also looking for qualified employees, especially

considering that they will save the village costs in the long run to keep vehicles operating longer. It was also pointed out that mechanics are required to bring their own tools. Discussion about that involved the pros and cons of that system due to the specialized nature of those tools and how the Village wouldn't benefit from purchasing them ahead of time without the proper knowledge of what is needed. The Village does own and purchase certain tools and computer equipment that is specific to our vehicles and equipment that the mechanics are not required to purchase. The Mayor asked if we have considered an allowance for tools. Mr. DeWater responded that it has been discussed in the past but he is aware of past policy at orange schools that was discontinued because there was the tendency for it to be used as a slush fund for mechanics tools who would then leave the employer. The Mayor also mentioned that some places have provided the opportunity for mechanics to take out loans to purchase tools that they would pay back over time.

6) Chloride Reduction Grant (OHEPA)

Mr. DeWater and the Mayor applied for a Chloride reduction grant. It was acknowledged and is under review by the OHEPA. Funding for the salt barn roof replacement and articulated snow plow blades were requested. Most communities applied, so it will be tough competition.

Miscellaneous Business and updates

1) Green Initiative

Mayor noted that we continue to work with the solar installer, Yellowlite, who have made several site visits and the project is moving along. They checked the roof structure last week and have collected plans to review them for the installation. The inverters will be placed inside the building in lieu of being mounted outside which will prolong their life.

2) Survey Comments

Mr. Vincent noted that he reviewed the survey comments before the meeting and it seems possible to group them into categories that are common to each other to allow us to address them efficiently. He will put together this grouping and distribute ahead of the next R&S Committee meeting. The Mayor agreed and noted that there will also be a discussion on this topic at COW this week.

He has also been trying to report out progress on items as they occur within the newsletter, such as the recent article about Mr. DeWater's research into the cost of purchasing a leaf vacuum machine at \$277K and in lieu of that expense that wouldn't benefit all residents, provide interested residents with recommendations for a leaf removal service recommended by the Village. Mr. DeWater also noted that there is one less place to take leaves, affecting the market.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned 9:16 am.

Next meeting: March 5, 2024