

## MINUTES OF SEWER FEASIBILITY COMMITTEE

October 11, 2017

The Ad Hoc Sewer Feasibility Committee met on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Terrace Park Community Building. Committee Chair, Mayor Tom Tepe led the meeting. Councilmembers in attendance: John Gaskey, Jeff LeMay, Holly Purcell, and Regina Sharp. In addition, committee members Joe Alter, Amy Roe, and Jane Yancey attended. Village Administrator/Chief of Police Gerald Hayhow also attended. From Hamilton County Public Health Greg Kesterman, Assistant Health Commissioner and Chris Griffith Director, Division of Water Quality. From the Metropolitan Sewer District Billy Wooten, Principal Engineer and Patrick Arnette, Deputy Director of Engineering.

The Mayor introduced himself and asked that everyone go around and introduce themselves. The mayor then introduced the two pieces of correspondence sent to us by the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) earlier in the day (See attachments A and B). Mayor Tepe summarized the sewer vs septic issue facing the Village. Converting to sewers will be a huge undertaking, actually even larger than Tepe originally realized. We now understand that we need to join the MSD first. In order for this to happen, Village Council would pass a resolution which would then go to the Hamilton County Commissioners (HCC) and they would have to agree to include the boundaries of Terrace Park in the District. Patrick Arnette from MSD added that the Board of County Commissioners would look to MSD for their recommendation on whether to add Terrace Park. MSD will look at the business case and cost. For example, there is not the ability for gravity service here so they would need to put in a pump station. The Board will look at the other obligations of MSD as well as capacity and cost. Bill Wooten referred to the letter from the MSD director (Attachment A) for a more in depth description of these steps.

When Terrace Park brings the request to the Board of County Commissioners, they will then authorize MSD to do a planning study. Previously described steps by the Hamilton County Health Commissioner is not correct because Terrace Park is not part of the MSD. This process will be different now because joining MSD needs to happen first. MSD would need to make a business case, basically looking at what costs would go into the project and what revenue would come out. Wooten referred to the line in the letter "Before any action can take place though, MSD must make a management recommendation to the County Commissioners supporting the expansion of the sewer district." This is what they are calling the "business case" (BCE). The other portion comes under "Engineering" in the aforementioned letter. This is what they are calling the "assessment." So this is when home owners pay for part of the sewers coming in. Assessment projects are usually small, thus why the petition process starts door to door. They are currently working toward converting 104 housing units in a Madeira neighborhood, and that is a big project. Terrace Park's conversion would be uncharted territory so we will be creating the process with the Hamilton County Commissioners.

All of this process falls under Ohio Revised Code 6117. We need to read through 6117 to see if we can even make this process work. It is likely that the prosecutors' office would have to be included as well to say what we can and cannot do under 6117. The business case and rates process would take about a year. The BCE is what the MSD needs to make a recommendation. Evaluate options on cost, impact (environment, rate payers, residents) and eliminate what doesn't work.

Options that do work are included in the BCE. If the commissioners approve then MSD will look at how to put the BCE in the capital budget. Then would come design which is about a year process. Have to consider easements and right of way which would take another year. Noted this cannot all be done at once.

Assessment sewers have historically been small resident driven jobs – thus the door to door canvassing. Also in most cases the trunk line hook up is there ready to be connected to, that is not the case here. In our case, signature, petitions or whatever we decided was the method of Village approval would be part of the conversation with the HC Board of Commissioners as the ground rules of the process. We also need to figure how MSD trunk line gets here – our own treatment plant, Clermont County or down Route 50. Case evaluation would include a timeline with different distinct phases defined, which would also phase in the financial obligation and would help define the rate calculation formula.

Seems likely that after the BCE is completed, that it would be then the HCCC Board would want commitment from Terrace Park before designing and bringing a sewer trunk line to the Village. It was suggested that TP may want to have a pre-vote before going to the commissioners to show interest. Think we could come up with the estimated cost of what it would be to hook up to the sewer (including connection and tapping fees) for the average homeowner. Normally they are talking 30 – 50 homes. This is obviously a bigger project. Passing the Resolution to become members of the MSD will spark the conversation with Commissioners. Two representatives from the Commissioner's Office were in attendance and will be giving a recap tomorrow. Wooten reminded the group that at the end of the day not to get bogged down because it's a solvable engineering question. In fact, Indianapolis did a project with 900 homes. We will look at all options.

The question was asked is there any obligation on the Village of Terrace Park if we pass a resolution requesting to become part of the MSD. Commissioners' office will consult with the prosecutor about this question and it was suggested that we and our counsel read ORC 6117.

In closing the committee agreed that Attachments A & B be posted on the Terrace Park website and that we entertain the idea of a special council meeting dedicated to just this topic or plan to dedicate a portion of the next council meeting to this topic. The next council meeting is November 14<sup>th</sup>, the next Sewer Feasibility Committee Meeting is November 15<sup>th</sup>.