

# *Village of Windham, Ohio*

## Minutes of the Special Council Meeting

Held June 30, 2010

At 7:00 PM, the Honorable Mayor Robert W. Donham II called the meeting to order and stated the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Ravenna Arsenal Water and Sewer Project

Roll Call:        Rachel Barrett – present,                    Scott Garrett – not present,  
                      Kelly Meszaros – present,                    Jena Miranda – present,  
                      Linda Rininger – present,                    Phil Snyder – present

Also present were Atty. Tom Reitz Solicitor, C. James Moore, Debbie Blewitt, Mike Iwanyckyj Village Administrator, Bruce Rininger, Russ Hahn, Harold Huff, Jason Lamtman

Mayor Donham said the first item on the agenda is the discussion of the Water and Sewer project and representatives of the County Commissioner, Portage County Water Resource, National Guard and Neighborhood Development are here for any questions or concerns. But I want to update everybody and sort of explain how we got here for those who haven't been part of the whole process. Several years ago the Arsenal began this expansion, or the Ohio National Guard (we use those terms interchangeably) but the Ohio National Guard is in control of the Ravenna Arsenal as we call it started this revitalization project and part of the utilities going in other than obviously natural gas and electric is our water and sewer. Inside the gate will be Portage County Water; that came about based upon our inability to actually fund the project and who could get this project done and through obviously several entities just working through the some of the red tape and the logistics of this, Neighborhood Development became responsible for project management because of the infrastructure improvements outside of the gate. So that enveloped basically all of the entities we have here.

The Mayor interrupted to say hello to Councilman Scott Garrett who just came in at 7:04 PM.

We started on the project several years ago and everyone has been working real diligently on it and Congressman Ryan's office has gotten several earmarks for this. This has been a great revitalization project for our region. And at this point, we have come all the way up to the point where monies have been allocated, design has been done, both of our plants have been studied and the project is ready to move forward. We are ready to start construction on this and the only thing really holding it up is our authorization, the Village's authorization as we spoke about before because we had some concerns, some design issues after I reviewed the plans on the capacity on two water lines, whether those things would hold pressures or not. So after speaking with everyone involved on how do we get that cleared up, the solution that we came up with that I was comfortable with, and I wanted the Guard to really understand this, was we had a situation where those lines if they did have an issue, either the Guard was going to lose water or the Village was going to lose water. Obviously we know which one of those two entities would suffer when push comes to shove and I didn't want the Guard to be under any illusions on the shape of those two lines. They were very helpful, Colonel Zeever, Mead were both real understanding of what's going on and basically what we came up with was looking at instead of the twenty year plan, what's going on in two years, what's going on in five years and then what's going on in twenty years. And can we attack this thing in steps so that we can not kill the project and make sure it goes forward so that we have a big end user which helps the Village financially and so that the Guard can still move forward with their project and get everything done in the timeline that they have. So when everybody came together one thing we

noticed right off the bat was there is only one barracks being serviced immediately so even our short term water usage of fifty thousand gallons, that's a really high-end estimate. The Guard is not going to use in the immediate term anywhere near that. Really we are looking at more like a fifteen thousand gallon a day usage and that's sporadic. So it's not an everyday usage obviously, they ramp up and ramp down. So at fifteen thousand gallons a day, is that something that's detrimental to our lives? That was our first question. And the second one, we know eventually they are going to need fifty thousand gallons, so how do you pay for the \$1.4 Million once we do need the fifty thousand gallons and how long before you need that? So the solution and anybody here who was there can jump in and I'll open it just sort of as an informal discussion after I get done here; the solution we came up with was we as a group I guess on this project on the Arsenal's project have a reoccurring two million dollar earmark that we request from Congressman Ryan's office and generally that goes for whatever upgrades the Guard has in their prioritized list. So step one was fifteen thousand gallons a day, engineering wise I had no issue with. I don't think fifteen thousand gallons a day was going to cause any issues and if we did have any issues, the Guard was ok with flow restrictors, pressure restrictors, whatever needed to be done to maintain it below that so that it didn't affect the rest of the Village. So from a pure engineering standpoint, that's where I said well then I feel comfortable going forward if the Guard understands that we may have to reduce flows or pressures if push comes to shove. After talking with Bruce (Rininger) our water superintendent about our ability to produce another fifteen thousand. That wasn't an issue, right Bruce? Bruce Rininger said fifteen thousand isn't an issue. Fifty thousand like you and I talked you may incur another backwash here and there, but fifty thousand is no big deal. Mayor Donham said so those flows in that range fifteen to fifty thousand, we're ok to move forward with the project. So I felt comfortable saying ok, we can do that if forever we were going to use fifteen to fifty, but obviously we're not going to be in that range forever. So the next step was what do we do from here. So the group kind of came to a consensus that we will all lobby our way behind getting our next earmark that's already in the pot changed from being a Guard earmark to a Village of Windham earmark, so that next year when those appropriations come out or whatever bill it is. I think the next one is an energy bill, so it may not be before this calendar year, that that money would be earmarked as a Village earmark so we can do the water lines under our project. That would cover the one and a half million (dollars) and that would definitely be done within two years. That's kind of our timeframe, the two, five and twenty year plan. As long as that earmark came through within five years, I'd still feel very comfortable because we have a quarter million dollars worth of upgrades that we should be doing this time next year as part of the Ohio Public Works Commission Grants. We haven't received that grant, but we will be a very good candidate; I have no reason to think that we wouldn't. And that will upgrade all of our filtering capacities and our softener capacities, so at a million gallons a day we will be at full capacity. We use about 350 to 450 now, so as far as getting even up to 150,000 gallons a day is not going to be an issue at all. Really it's the pressures on those pipes that were called out in our engineering study that said our pipe on South Main and our pipe on East Center are aging and should be replaced regardless. This is kind of a chicken before the egg, we don't want to ramp up too much before we get those replaced even though we have to replace those with or without the Guard. Step one, I feel we could move forward and go ahead as it look at pressure restrictors or flow restrictors as needed and hopefully it would be in the energy bill. The next earmark we get would be a Village earmark; we would take that and upgrade our lines and then we would be good for the full build-out which is a twenty year build-out. What I had is what Harold (Huff) drafted for you guys to take a look at; the EPA basically needs to sign off on this to get the project started. Just so you guys know what it is, it is pretty simplistic; it just says we are going to meet our demands and then we can actually get this project started. By the end of the year, if we move forward on this project now, we should be able to break ground immediately and have this ready to go by the end of the year. We are looking at a second high-end user who could bring in tens of thousands of dollars to the Village Water Department which

definitely needs it and in the two year plan we don't need any upgrades to do it. At that point, if the lines start deteriorating faster, the Guards flows until we could get that earmark and I guess no offense to you guys it would be more pressure to all of us to push the federal officials to make sure they get that earmark done. At this point, if there are any questions, concerns or comments from Council or anybody in the audience, I'll just open it up to questions.

Mrs. Rininger said have we chosen a secondary plan if the OPWC grant doesn't come through for the upgrade.

Mayor Donham said it is in a tiered system, so we are going to attack it; the filters are the first needed thing so anything that doesn't come through we're going to have to treat it as a normal capital expenditure. We're going to have to upgrade things on a cash basis. Ohio Public Works is our go to for this type of under a quarter of million dollar upgrades. Community Facilities Grants and things like that would be available in the next round, but we should know in August whether this comes through and then look at other funding.

Mr. Huff said I would agree with you Mayor, having served on that Committee for the last sixteen and a half years, the Village is a really strong candidate for funding.

Mrs. Rininger said my main concern is that fund (Water Fund) has been running rather low and we really do not have the necessary capital improvement funds to cover any of the upgrades so if that grant doesn't come through we will have to look at alternatives.

Mayor Donham said at that table we have both the County who would be a stakeholder in this and I'm on the selection Committee also. There definitely would not be a shortage of voices pulling for this project and 14 points of the 80 are subjective points given by the committee. I'd be extremely surprised if we didn't get it.

Mrs. Meszaros said we can earmark that money for the length of this project?

Mr. Donham said, what we would get is an earmark of federal monies that have to be used to construct this project, so it would still follow all of the federal dollar guidelines but just like we did with the East Center Street Sewer Line Project, the same type of project except there would be a large grant to pay for it.

Mrs. Rininger inquired that there would be no additional funding necessary from the Village?

Mayor Donham said yes. In the next two years, this is not something that's on our Capital Improvement plan. It is there in year eight, in years eight and nine that's something that's there, but if we have to upgrade it before that, we simply don't have Village money appropriated to it. To push it through earlier than that, it would have to be a federal earmark to take care of it. Everyone is really committed to that so I don't see any reason why that wouldn't happen. When the uniform guys tell me something, I just write it down and it's good, they have always come through. When the Lieutenant Colonel has promised something, it's happened. I take those guys at their word.

Mrs. Miranda said what about that ten feet you were talking about? Mayor Donham said what ten feet? Mrs. Miranda said the ten feet that you were going to hold off on. Mayor Donham said that was if we didn't get this construction, I told Harold this. We can construct the project all day long, but if we don't address what we are going to do with those lines, you could build it up to about ten feet and then you are just going to have it into nothing. Once we decided that you can move forward and we'll put water in the lines, but I think this is the solution. This is

the ten foot solution. With these requirements satisfied, I think we can hook up and go ahead and let the water flow and sell it to the Arsenal.

Mr. Garrett asked about the start of the construction. Mayor Donham asked is Jeff here? As soon as we can get him a letter. Also Ohio EPA approval would be necessary because of all the Grants.

A representative of the Guard said, the Guard is planning to move forward with it's construction project this year and the goal is to have the timing so that it can dovetail so that when they go online we are online.

Mayor Donham said I think from the beginning, all of Council has been real supportive of the project and everyone has been real supportive of the project. We have always been real supportive of the Guard. Really the holdup has been those two lines that were identified, the Burgess and Niple study, the aging lines and the additional pressures of 150,000 gallons per day, but we are going to be about ten percent of that. That's going to be a negligible effect. What's Harbison Walker run, Bruce? Bruce Rininger said they are anywhere from 750,000 to 1 million gallons per month. When they are running full, they are pushing 1 million gallons per month. Mr. Donham said we already have one user who is drawing well into that 50,000 gallons every day like clockwork. So tacking an extra 15% is like a matter of Harbison Walker gearing up or gearing down just to put it into perspective. Bruce said and that's not including the schools. If Harbison Walker is using 30 the schools are using another 20. Mayor Donham asked Mike (Iwanyckyj) what the Fire Department uses each Monday. Mike said about 8,000 each Monday. Mayor Donham said, except you guys don't pay. To put those kinds of flows in perspective, from an engineering standpoint I don't have any issue with those kinds of flows, given the County authorization to proceed. Just with the knowledge that the Guard knows if they expand faster than we have earmarked, we will just have to restrict the flow until it comes through. I think it was a good solution for everyone. It requires not much except for everybody here to be briefed on it and understand it and be ready to move forward.

Atty Reitz said, it may be that I am not well versed in this, but is there going to be a request that the Council approve this letter this evening?

Mayor Donham said I think I have the authorization to go ahead and sign it but I would like a motion from Council approving the going forward on the project.

Atty Reitz said and that's my reaction also, you could go ahead and sign it but I would like Council to demonstrate that they are in agreement with this proposed course of action. And that's what leads me to my question may simply be a matter that I am not well informed. The second sentence in the letter says that Portage County will ultimately own and maintain the constructed facilities and if that is the case it raises the question where are the facilities located and if Portage County is going to own the facilities, why is it a grant to the Village that is being used to construct them and I guess were I on Council I would simply wonder about this?

Mayor Donham said I can answer that, the constructed facilities are what is going to be constructed under this project. As the plans read for this project, the ones the EPA are going to review. So that is new water line that is going to be installed. That will all be owned by Portage County. It will go from the South Main Street Gate and it will all be theirs where it ties into ours that's where we will pick up.

Mr. Snyder said that is all in the Arsenal. Mayor Donham said and there is some outside. There is a couple hundred feet they will push sewer all the way from East Center down South

Main and in because they are going to construct a whole new line and they will own that line also.

Atty Reitz said some in the Village and some outside of the Village. Mayor Donham said right, all that is new on this project which is a Water line and a Sewer line and I believe a Sewer Pump Station some other stuff going on inside and outside of the gate there. That's Portage County's facilities. Now the earmark for the Village to upgrade, those are still going to be Village lines, that's why it would be a Village earmark. That's something we are talking about completely different. That's not part of this design, it's not part of this project. That's something that will have to happen for us to go to Phase II which is to ramp up the volume.

Atty Reitz said ok, and if it is going to be Portage County facilities then help me understand why it is a Village grant?

Mayor Donham said this grant is not. The earmark that we are looking for in the future would have to be a Village grant to upgrade our facilities. The grants for this are all County grants. This is their project. We are simply the water provider.

Mayor Donham then after determining there were no further questions, said yes I would like a motion to approve the letter. Mrs. Meszaros made the motion which was seconded by Mr. Garrett and by a 6 - 0 zero vote the motion was carried.

Mr. Snyder made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Mrs. Meszaros and by a 6 - 0 vote the motion was carried and Council adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest

Lloyd C. Billman, Clerk of Council

Robert W. Donham II, Mayor