



**SERVICE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2015**

COMMITTEE MEETING:

**PLACE: COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7232 E. MAIN ST, REYNOLDBURG, OH 43068**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes

1. Minutes from 2/2/2015

Minutes Stand as Approved

4. Discussion

1. Authorize the Mayor to Accept Proposal with EMH&T for CCTV & Manhole Inspections

RESULT:	REFERRED TO COUNCIL [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/23/2015 7:30 PM
MOVER:	Mel Clemens, Ward IV	
SECONDER:	Dan Skinner, At Large	
AYES:	Barrett, Clemens, Cotner, Long, Skinner	
ABSENT:	Kelly, McGrady III	

2. Authorization to Purchase Street Sweeper for Stormwater/Street Department

Mr. Burd: I just wanted to put a couple things out that I think you may already know, I just want to make sure they're part of the public record regarding this item. The first thing I want to point out is that a street sweeper can be used year-round. There was a comment last week that you can only use it 4 months a year, that is not the case. The only time you really can't use it is if there is accumulated snow on the ground, so if you take this winter as an example, we could have used it all of December because it didn't snow, we could have used it all of January and we could have used it most of February with this week being an obvious exception. That was one thing I wanted to point out and I also wanted to make sure everyone was clear about this item not being bid. There are 2 companies that make the type of sweeper that we want to purchase. We received pricing in writing from both. You have that. We also received pricing

from a third company that offers a slightly less equipped sweeper, you also have that. We have the opportunity to buy this sweeper that is on a contract with the National Joint Powers Alliance, that takes a little over \$5,000 off the price. That makes our preferred sweeper, the least expensive of the 2 options so I wanted to be clear that we didn't just go out willy-nilly and find the one we want. We've done our homework for quite a long time on this and we've shown all the pricing relevant to this purchase. The last thing I want to talk about is just a little bit more specific on how this is funded because I've heard there is some confusion about that. I want to talk specifically about our stormwater fund. Every property owner in this city pays a stormwater fee. For most properties its \$2.00 a month, \$6.00 a quarter on the water bills. The money we collect in that fee can only be used on stormwater expenses. We can't use it on anything else. So half of this purchase is being purchased from the stormwater fund because a street sweeper is a permitted use because it cleans out our stormwater inlets and helps maintain our stormwater infrastructure. We really can't use these funds for much else and so if someone were to say why don't we take this money and do blank with it instead, unless your filling in the blank with something that's directly related to stormwater, we can't do it. So we can't use this money for other departments, we can't use this money for equipment that's not related to our stormwater system and we can't use this money on projects that aren't related to our stormwater system. The remaining 50% of the purchase is also being divided up among 2 funds that are limited in what we can legally spend the money on and a street sweeper qualifies. I hope I didn't say anything incorrect, Mr. Auditor?

Mr. Harris: You passed.

Mr. Burd: Ok, just making sure. And so, I just wanted to be clear that we're not taking General Fund money for this, we're not taking income tax revenue for this, we're not taking from a certain department to buy a piece of equipment that isn't needed, we think this is needed and we think that we've structured this purchase in a way that makes sense. So I wanted to point those out and answer any remaining questions that you have.

Mr. Cotner: In your talking, just out of curiosity, not that I'm questioning this particular purchase, but you mentioned there are limited options of what we could purchase. What are some examples of what can be purchased that might be on a wish list or something like that?

Mr. Harris: There's 2 main things that the stormwater fund pays for. One thing is the operation of the department. We do have employees and the equipment for those employees to clean out inlets and the ponds and that kind of stuff. The second thing that we use it for and Nathan is going to talk later about a street program. The money to replace curb in that street program can be used with money from that fund because curb and the gutter is part of the storm water system. The city Attorney and I have worked on this years and years ago and it was proved that that's a legitimate use for that particular money. So that's the main 2 things that it's used for. There has over the years been other projects that have been done out of the stormwater fund where we've had pipes broken and other things underground. Mel had one that they did over on Bartlett road the stormwater in there blew manhole covers off and that's not really safe and it flooded over there so, there have been.. that was over a million dollars and we borrowed money to do that. So those are the other uses that the stormwater utility has. One of the things we're going to be looking at this years is the water department gets the Clean River Fund, we're going to be switching that to the stormwater from the sanitary sewer department because that's where it belongs to be paid out of. So it doesn't have a lot of things you can see but they have to go underground just like the sewer department does to clean stormwater, drains that sort of thing.

Mr. Burd: Just to follow up on that, this machine will clear out our inlets so the water will get where it needs to go. But if an inlet were to collapse, this machine won't be able to fix that so that would be another project we would pay for with these funds. But whatever it is, it has to be related to stormwater.

Mr. Clemens: Nathan, what would be left in the stormwater fund? Also, would you mention the other 2 funds?

Mr. Burd: Street fund and State Highway Fund. State Highway fund we can only use on a certain number of streets, but we will be sweeping those streets and the street fund generates revenue from the gasoline tax that the city receives.

Mr. Harris: Right now there is \$1,374,000 in the stormwater utility unencumbered.

Mr. Barrett: Can this fund be used for the sidewalk project?

Mr. Burd: No.

Mr. Barrett: Can it be re-appropriated to anywhere?

Mr. Burd: No. It's an enterprise fund so when you collect money from residents and this is a stormwater fee you're collecting it for, it has to be related to stormwater so sidewalks wouldn't apply but curbing would but the actual sidewalk itself would not.

Mr. Barrett: As usual you've done a really good job putting the pieces together and answering the questions. My problem is the price tag and the public opinion. Everyone in this room I think understands it crystal clear now and people don't really understand where we're at when they see us buying stuff like that. Is the current one we have running right now?

Mr. Burd: No.

Mr. Barrett: So, you're telling me there's like 2 different people that operate it, what do they do now that they don't have...

Mr. Burd: Well we use existing staff to run our street sweeper so we don't have staff members who only do street sweepers and so the same people that operate street sweepers fix our streetlights, fill our potholes, salt and plow the roads and do all the other duties related to the street department. So we don't have anyone who's only job is to sweep the street. We have a couple different employees that know how to use this machine and they would just be using it on top of their other duties that they do daily.

Mr. Clemens: Nathan, would you do me one favor, when you speak to the press pertaining to this, bring out what the money, where the funds come from and what they can't be used for. I think that's the important thing.

Mr. Burd: I think it's very important, the budget's complicated and there are certain things you can and can't do with it and the reason I wanted to say that is so it's part of the conversation I don't want people thinking that this is coming out of some other fund. There are very few things that we can do with these dollars.

Mr. Joseph: Do we still have the old sweeper?

Mr. Burd: Yes, It is parked behind the salt barn I believe.

Mr. Joseph: Is there any way we can either sell it or trade it in?

Mr. Burd: It will be traded in, the trade in value is reflected in the pricing. \$4,000 we can't get a lot out of it but it is factored into the final price, the one that we want to buy.

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SECONDER:	Chris Long, At Large	
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ABSENT:	Kelly, McGrady III	