



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
MAY 2, 2005**

Committee Members Present:           John Conklin  
  Dennis McGlone  
  Bill Mowery  
  Scott Pelot  
  James Price  
  Brenda Hlas  
  Mike Zita

Administration Members Present       Mayor Joseph Kernan  
  Claude Collins  
  Jeanne Zerga-Excused  
  Jeff Pritchard  
  Mike Lyons

The Committee of the Whole convened for a meeting on Monday, May 2, 2005 at 7:03 PM, in Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Brenda Hlas, President of Council.

**Committee of the Whole General Discussion:**

**Potential Road Program Options:**

Mrs. Hlas stated that we started this discussion at the Saturday Work Session and it was so involved it was decided to continue with this topic at the next Committee Meeting, and opened up the discussions.

Mr. Price inquired of Mr. Pritchard about his experience with assessments. Mr. Pritchard stated that he lives in the City of Akron and they just completed a project that was an 80/20 split. He received his assessment on 40ft. of road frontage totaling \$1,400.00 for new curb, gutter, apron, and complete road replacement. The residents had the option to pay in full or pay on their tax duplicate over 20 years. Mr. Pritchard stated that with any assessment the city must have money available for the costs of the assessment. Mr. Price inquired about grant money or other funding, and if we knew a grant or other funding was forthcoming he felt we should borrow money and do the roads. Mr. Pritchard stated that even with a grant, the city still must come up with the matching fund, and regardless you would still have to make a loan payment. Mr. Pritchard stated that in order to be fiscally responsible you want to have the road program paid for with money coming in to have the seed money available to go out for Issue II, CDBG, etc., and you must have the up front money available. Mr. Price asked what would happen if you sell the property before the 20-year payment is paid off.? Mr. Pritchard indicated that the lien transfers to the new property owner. Mr. Pelot inquired as to how much money is really necessary in order to do a proper road program.

Mr. Pritchard indicated that this figure was not readily available at this point and it would need more research and possibly engineering. Mr. Pelot stated that the first thing we need to know is how much money is needed and how many roads would that money cover each year. Mr. Pritchard stated that if a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) were developed, they would work on crunching the numbers. Mr. Pritchard indicated that ODOT recently did an overall Summit County Road Survey and he suggested that ODOT be involved in our discussions. Mr. Pritchard stated that it would be at least six months in order to have a better feel for the situation. Mr. Pelot stated that no matter what happens the residents need to vote on this. There was discussion as to the conditions of various roads, and the different levels of repair required to fix them properly. For instance, Mr. Pritchard indicated the Greenridge Road alone needs completely replaced and estimated the costs to be near \$600,000.00. Mrs. Hlas stated that we are now into our second year without a dedicated road program, and we need to figure out what we need and want. Mr. Price was concerned that since we are already behind, will the city ever be able to catch up? Mr. Pritchard indicated that it is not impossible, it can be done if it is done correctly. Mr. John Glas, a Norton resident suggested the City of Norton coordinate with other communities and pool our finances and resources together for a discounted rate. Mr. Collins stated that typically each community does their own road program and they do their own bidding. Mr. Pritchard stated that even before you attempt something like this, you must have your own house in order. Mrs. Hlas indicated that she sent emails to Congressman Brown, Sen. Coughlin, & Rep. Williams asking for help in ideas and to see if there is another source of funding for a road program. So far she has no response, but will wait to see what they reply with. Mayor Kernan suggested we form a TAC and let them do the investigating and gathering of information. The TAC would report back to Council with their results and suggestions on how we should proceed. There was discussion on who should serve as a member, the number of members on the committee, etc. There was a suggestion of acquiring residents with backgrounds in Civil Engineering, Planners, construction workers, etc., someone on Council, and possibly Mr. Pritchard. Mr. Price stated he would like to see representation from all four wards. Mrs. Hlas inquired about the status of the Micropaver Program, and Mr. Collins indicated he spoke with Osborn Engineering and they do have an employee who is familiar with this program. Mr. Collins added that even if we used this person, this program needs to be updated, there has been no data entry for approximately two years, and this costs is unknown. There was discussion as to the specific tasks we want the TAC to accomplish. Mayor Kernan suggested that we place an ad in the local papers and run for a couple of weeks, and that he would like the TAC to be established by June 1, 2005. Mr. Pritchard indicated the TAC needs to have a specific agenda so that they know the direction we want them to go. The main focus would be #1. What type of a road program do we want/need? #2. Where is the money going to come from? #3. What are the residents willing to accept/pay for? Mr. Pritchard indicated that regardless of what we end up doing he would pursue AMATS money, CDBG, or Issue II funding to help offset the costs. There was discussion about the tax credit issue, and Mr. Pelot stated that if this was the method of funding a road program, Council could always consider rescinding the \$5.00 license plate tax we just adopted. Mr. Conklin discussed conversations he had recently with Mrs. Zerga about having \$100,000.00 for just fixing the roads on the "no-plow" list for 2006, which is constantly growing. Mr. Conklin inquired if we could get an estimate of the actual number of roads and how much it would take to bring them up to par? Mr. Conklin stated if we can do this, it would at least be a start, and the TAC could focus on their duties and report to Council for a 2007 official road program.

Mr. Pritchard indicated that he would like to secure some type of a match for the proposed \$100,000.00, and was concerned we may have already missed the window to apply for 2006 funding, however he would look into this.

There was more discussion on the formation of the TAC and Mayor Kernan suggested anyone interested to contact him via email at city hall.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

None

**Other Business:**

Mayor Kernan stated that Norton Clean Up day is May 7, 2005 at 9:00 AM at the Columbia Woods Pavilion. Doughnuts will be provided before it begins, and hot dogs afterwards.

**Adjourn:**

There being no other business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

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Brenda K. Hlas-President of Council

*Date approved: May 9, 2005*

**THESE MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM. THE AUDIOTAPE WILL BE  
ARCHIVED IN THE CLERK OF COUNCILS OFFICE.**