

**STREETS, BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2017**

Municipal Council of the City of Vermilion  
Municipal Complex, 685 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio 44089

**In Attendance:** S. Herron, M. Stark, F. Loucka, J. Forthofer, B. Holmes, B. Brady, B. Keller, G. Fisher, Captain Graham, T. Valerius, Mayor Bulan. Absent: L. Miggins, F. Ostrander.

**Call to Order:** Jim Forthofer, Chairman, RESOLVED THAT this Streets, Buildings & Grounds Committee consisting of the Committee of the Whole does now come to order.

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**TOPIC ONE: Review of Rubric Street Selection**

J. Forthofer said at the last committee meeting they reviewed a spreadsheet of the budget dollars pertaining to the available funds for streets. He and the finance director looked at the income and fixed costs. B. Keller addressed the Permissive Use Tax Fund (203) which has an unencumbered balance from the prior year; then adding to that balance are the receipts in that fund. He said fund 200 is the Road Improvement Levy. In the permissive use fund, B. Keller addressed the contractual obligations which were committed to previously, such as the quiet zone maintenance agreement; Edson Road Debt Repayment; Nautical Drive Debt Repayment; Vermilion Lagoons Debt Repayment; Jerusalem Road Resurfacing; Safe Routes to School; and, the Highbridge Road Bridge Replacement Project. Pursuant to the Road Improvement Levy Fund (200) the contractual obligations include: Edgewater Drive Resurfacing, Vermilion Road Resurfacing Phase 1 and 2, 2013/2014 Road Improvement Program Debt Repayment; Highbridge Road Bridge Replacement; and the city-wide upgrade of the Traffic Signal System.

B. Keller noted in the report he has a discretionary wish list of items that council may choose to do or not to do. They can take those expenses out of fund 203 or 200. He addressed another column that is detailed in the report as 'Other Road Improvement Levy Fund Expenses' or Other Permissive Use Tax Fund Expenses'. A lot of these items are engineering expenses that come up throughout the year.

He said the money available for road projects for 2018 is around \$125,000. There is a combined fund balance compared to the \$500,000 cushion they built in. This cushion is flexible and the city dipped into it a little bit in 2017. Therefore, the total permissive use tax and road improvement levy fund balance is \$624,221.44. If the city spends the \$500,000 cushion then the balance will be zero in the funds. J. Forthofer said they will need to choose what they want to do for 2018 whether it's pavement markings, the Main Street Reconstruction, or Street Resurfacing Post Water Main installations. He said it would helpful if the engineer could coach the city on the necessity of things that need to be done now.

B. Brady asked what the \$124,221.44 difference is that's shown at the bottom of the Street Funding Analysis. B. Keller said he is saying they can spend \$125,000 on something and still keep the \$500,000 cushion. B. Brady said she didn't understand the difference of the \$124,221.44 and the \$125,000 as shown. B. Keller said the very bottom number is if you took the \$624,221.44 and taking into account the \$493,526.80 ending fund balance for 200 and the \$130,694.64 from fund 203, and adding them together to get the \$624,221.44. Assuming they want to keep the \$500,000 cushion, they have \$124,221.44. B. Brady said he has \$125,000 highlighted as the money

available for road projects, so how does it relate to the \$624,000. So would this money be in addition to the \$124,221.44, asked Brady. J. Gabriel said the \$125,000 is not included in the \$624,221.44. He understands that if they spend \$125,000 the balance will be \$624,221.44, less anything they might put in the red. So, the \$124,221.44 and \$500,000 cushion equals the \$624,221.44, so potentially they have the \$124,221.44 to spend too if they don't do any of the discretionary items.

M. Stark said this past year they had \$477,517.00 to spend and next year they will have \$380,000, so why is it they only have \$125,000 in 2018? B. Keller said in fund 200 in 2018, the contractual obligations are close to \$1 million.

B. Brady said they are leaving the street maintenance and repair fund out and some of these items are really M&R issues rather than permissive use issues, because permissive use has a lifespan. B. Keller said he can look into reallocating some of those. B. Brady said they are under budget by \$166,000 and B. Keller said they have the rest of November and December, plus anything that comes up that is snow related, so this number will change.

J. Forthofer said they do have some money but it still leaves them with the challenge of doing street striping and the Main Street Reconstruction. Therefore, he suggested they digest the income and get their heads around the expenses, and with the presence of the city engineer at the next work session, they can work out the things they need to do. B. Brady asked if the city engineer could provide council with an estimated cost of Main Street. J. Forthofer said it's on the report.

**TOPIC TWO: Highway Overpass Cost Estimates**

M. Stark said they received a cost estimate from the finance director in the range of \$38,000, so at this point she wouldn't recommend they move forward with this, as there are more important things pertaining to day to day life for the constituents. Mayor Bulan said she spoke with ODOT about the bridges and they are in poor shape and are not scheduled to be painted for a few years. They didn't think those bridges will work. They did suggest that in other communities they have gateway signs which may be good at Sunnyside Road. She said they would need to raise funds and they would have to submit plans to ODOT, and have a maintenance agreement with ODOT, and it has to be a certain distance from the Route 2 exit. J. Forthofer thought they could possibly dedicate something like this to the service organizations to raise the funds necessary with council's approval to relieve the city budget's in any involvement with this project. Mayor Bulan said she didn't think this would be part of the city budget as they would need to raise funds. She thought Vermilion in Bloom or Lake Erie Shores & Islands may be two groups who would be interested. J. Forthofer also thought Rotary, the Lions Club, or the Chamber of Commerce may be another group interested. M. Stark agreed that if a group would want to raise funds then she would certainly support it.

Chairman Jim Forthofer adjourned the meeting after no further discussion came before the committee.

Next meeting: December 11, 2017  
Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk