

Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
February 1, 2021

The Service Committee met via Zoom on Monday, February 1, 2021 with these members in attendance:

Jeff Rath - Chair
Jeff Harris – Vice Chair
Spencer Barker
Jeremy Blake
Ryan Bubb

1. **We wish to report:** Consider **Resolution No. 21-07** RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR PLACEMENT OF FARMLAND IN AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
Law Director, Mr. Doug Sassen – This is a ministerial function we go through every two years with property that is inside the city limits that's still being used for agricultural purposes and they are asking that it be given a CAUV designation for tax purposes. It then gets passed to the County Commissioners and County Auditor for ultimate approval. We're declaring an emergency because of statutory deadlines imposed on our requirement to act.
Motion to send to full council by Mr. Bubb, second by Mr. Barker, motion passed 5-0
2. Consider **Resolution No. 21-08** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH PARK NATIONAL BANK FOR THE LEASE-PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) VEHICLES
Service Director, Mr. David Rhodes – We're in need of upgrading some trucks, 2 in the Engineer's Office, 1 for Property Maintenance, and 1 for the Parks & Cemetery Department. We would like to enter into a lease purchase agreement with Park National Bank to do this.
Mr. Rath – These are all pickup trucks?
Director Rhodes – Yes
Motion to send to full council by Mr. Barker, second by Mr. Bubb, motion passed 5-0
3. Consider **Resolution No. 21-09** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR ALTERATIONS AND UPGRADES TO THE WATER OFFICE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Water Administrator, Mr. Roger Loomis – This is for work in the front office of our Water Office. We get a lot of public that comes in there. We have some temporary protections in place there but we would like to put more permanent protections in place. We've been working with McAnally on this. We are also hoping to get some of the COVID funds to help with this work. We are right around \$100k. We're trying to get this done as quickly as possible to protect the employees and get the work done properly.
Mr. Rath – Is the desire to protect the employees and the public the reason for the expediency and thus the reason for not accepting competitive bids?
Mr. Loomis – That and trying to get the COVID funds as well. Similar to what they're doing at City Hall.
Mr. Bubb – Just for the record Roger, what is the amount of COVID money that you are looking to spend?
Mr. Loomis – As much as anybody will give me. We're hoping to pay for at least a portion of this, it's going to be over \$100k. We've appropriated money from our own funds, but we are hoping to get some portion of that back. We aren't anticipating the whole amount, but are at least hoping for some of that.
Mr. Rath – If you're spending in excess of \$100k for renovations in the office, can you give us a general rundown of what you plan on doing?

Mr. Loomis – Basically, it will be similar to what they have in the Police Department for the front office, with glass partitions. That's where the cost comes in, when you put up glass with metal beams it gets very expensive very fast. It will kind of elevate our employees too, there will be a platform they will be on. Right now they are sitting down and people are talking down at them and that's a bit of a problem especially with the COVID stuff and also security wise, they need to be above them. We're building a platform up and then putting up some protective glass in there which is not bullet proof, but bullet resistant glass and that's a little more expensive. So this is for safety issues to permanently make that division between employees and the public.

Motion to send to full council by Mr. Bubbs, second by Mr. Barker, motion passed 5-0

4. Consider **Resolution No. 21-10** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE FOR THE CITY OF NEWARK, OHIO, TO EXECUTE A COOPERATIVE CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE OF GRANVILLE, OHIO FOR A NEW BRIDGE ON THORNWOOD CROSSING, WHICH WILL REPLACE THE EXISTING BRIDGE ON CHERRY VALLEY ROAD

City Engineer, Mr. Brian Morehead – Part of the land south of Cherry Valley Rd. where the alignment of where the new Thornwood Crossing bridge will be is actually in the Village of Granville. It's south of Cherry Valley Rd. between Cherry Valley Rd. and the Raccoon Creek. It's vacant land and most of it is flood plain and flood way. We've been working with the Village of Granville to come to an agreement to allow the new roadway and a portion of the bridge to be built on land that's actually within the Village and this is the agreement that we have come up with and Caroline Clippinger, our Assistant Law Director and I have worked with them for about the last year or so trying to get this to fruition. We're to the point in the project that we need to move forward and get the agreement signed so that we can move forward with the rest of the right of way acquisitions. I'll be glad to try to answer any questions.

Mr. Rath – You've said you've worked on this for over a year, what challenges have you incurred?

Mr. Morehead – COVID has been the main thing and just getting together and meeting and so forth. It's been long going issue and hasn't been a pressing issue, but it's to the point where we need to put a finalization on it and move it forward.

Mr. Rath – Should this go through it's normal channels and pass through City Council, do we have an anticipated start of construction time?

Mr. Morehead – Right now the plan for start of construction is in the spring of 2023, assuming we get our funding issues worked out and so forth.

Mr. Barker – I just want to make sure that I'm clear on this. It says in here that the Village of Granville will allow the City of Newark to construct this project within their boundaries in exchange for the City covering the costs of erecting and maintaining the bridge and roadway. So I just want to clarify that Granville will not have any, what I would think, skin in the game of maintaining this, correct? This is all on us?

Mr. Morehead – Correct, it's all on us and we have been driving the project for 100 percent our future needs and so forth. The land that's in the Village, we actually talked about different ways that we could accomplish this. The land is mostly undevelopable because it is in flood plain and flood way and we actually even discussed, I think it's called detachment which would be de-annexing the land from the Granville and annexing it into Newark and the process to do that is just way too cumbersome, so this is where we arrived. The agreement is similar to the agreement we have for the Thornwood Crossing interchange and that agreement has worked out very well to this date.

Mr. Blake – Has the Granville Council already voted on a similar resolution or this agreement?

Mr. Morehead – They have not. We met with their Law Director last week and they're going to be addressing this at virtually the same time as we are. They're going through their process over the next couple of weeks and I think in the end, their council will pass it probably the week before our council would.

Mr. Steven Smith – I just want to make sure I understand. I got the packet and was having trouble reading and understanding the maps fully. My understanding was that there's going to be an extension of the Thornwood Crossing, a spur that would go through that field toward the river and a new bridge would be built and connect at Reddington Rd. with a traffic circle. Is that the basic plan?

Mr. Morehead – Yes.

Mr. Smith – That's right near where I live and that's going to affect us. Will that be in place and open before the bridge on Cherry Valley Rd. is decommissioned?

Mr. Morehead – The old stone arch bridge on Cherry Valley Rd will not be replaced, but we will not close the roadway until the new bridge on Thornwood Crossing is constructed and in operation.

Mr. Smith – I was wondering if there is any plan about the signs that are up Cherry Valley Rd and Thornwood Crossing and Cherry Valley Rd and Reddington Rd.

Mr. Rath – What signs are you referring to Mr. Smith?

Mr. Smith – The large billboard signs. One by Cherry Valley Rd. and Reddington, which I thought was supposed to be replaced.

Mr. Rath – That was the original plan, unfortunately it didn't work out that way. Our understanding is that when the Cherry Valley bridge is closed, the billboard at Reddington and Cherry Valley will be removed.

Mr. Smith – For access to where we live I just wanted to be sure that the plan was that the current bridge on Cherry Valley was not going to be closed until the other path is opened.

Mr. Rath – I can't imagine us denying access to everybody on the west end. That would affect literally thousands of people.

Motion to send to full council by Mr. Bubb, second by Mr. Barker, motion passed 5-0

Service Committee meeting stands adjourned

Jeff Rath - Chair