

Service Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
August 13, 2013

There was a meeting of the Service Committee in Council Chambers following the Finance Committee, on Monday, August 12, 2013. These members were present:

Jeff Rath, Chair	Ed Houdeshell
Shirley Stare	Ryan Bubb
Duke Frost	

We wish to report:

Mr. Rath- announced the order of the items on the agenda was going to change at his discretion to allow Director Rhodes to join his family in celebrating the birth of his new grandbaby. Congratulation Director Rhodes.

1. **Ordinance No. 13-29** authorizing the director of public service of the city of Newark, Ohio to enter into contract for the implementation of an energy conservation plan for various city buildings was considered.

Director Rhodes- what I am asking for is the authorization so I can analyze the city buildings similar to what was done in 2005, what Tim Weisert and Bruce Bain did. A couple months back you'll remember we came in showing a slide show of the savings, we think there might be more opportunities but we want to have the authority to look at those opportunities. Again, this doesn't bind us; it doesn't give me the authority to go and borrow money and do anything without coming back and asking for that permission. At that time we will show the complete program if we should choose to move forward.

Mr. Rath- so you want the authorization to analyze?

Director Rhodes- yes

Motion by Mr. Houdeshell to send to full Council, second by Mr. Frost

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

2. **Resolution No. 13-73** authorizing and directing the Director of Public Service to prepare and submit applications to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvements Program and to execute contracts as required was considered.

Brian Morehead- explained that we apply for the Ohio Public Works Commission Improvement Program every year and this year we will be applying again for a street resurfacing program, I am guessing the grant request will be in the \$500,000.00 to 600,000.00 range with the total project cost being somewhere in the \$750,000.00 to 800,000.00 range. This will be for streets that will be resurfaced in 2014 and they would be the more major streets that I anticipate putting on that list but I don't have the list complete at this point, I will be doing that in the next couple of weeks here.

Motion by Mr. Bubb to send to full Council, second by Mrs. Floyd

Mr. Rath- requested that Mr. Morehead email him a copy of the list of streets even though it isn't complete.

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

3. Joe Ebel, Licking County Health Commissioner to present mid-year report.

Health Commissioner Joe Ebel- explained that last year we didn't have a lot of mosquitoes but had a high percentage that was infected with the West Niles disease. This year we are seeing a lot of mosquitoes but because The Ohio Department of Health is not testing mosquitoes for West Niles virus any more we don't really know what percentage of those are infected. Fortunately we haven't seen any human cases yet so that is a good sign but not really good public health practice to use humans as your guinea pigs to monitor for disease when you could use mosquitoes. It is a lot cheaper than waiting to treat a human. I am on a State Committee that the Ohio Department of Health put together because enough of us complained about that to look at options but as most things do it comes down to money and priorities so whether or not testing for that will remerge is still to be seen. It does help our program to be more efficient if we know that there is a certain part of town that has mosquitoes that are carrying West Nile that we can target that versus just trying to spray randomly or by sheer volume of mosquitoes that is reflected.

He then discussed the high smoking rates in Licking County and Ohio and the effects that had on other health issues. He said that they put together a big goal of trying to cut the smoking rate in half within a two year period. The State for the first time is going to be putting a little bit of money into smoking prevention especially for youth to try to stop them from starting. The telling sign for that is in Licking County by the time you leave high school as a senior the smoking rate is 26% and the smoking rate for adults is 26% so basically once you get started most people don't stop until they have health reasons to stop.

He stated that they were going to ask if patients who come to the clinics for other treatments if they smoked and if they would like to quit and make referrals.

We have a site visit tomorrow for National accreditation that has been a big stress. Right now only 1 Health Department is accredited in the State and 11 in the whole country it is a new process that has just started this year.

Mr. Frost- I think this came up the last time you were here but so they are not testing for West Niles but are they still spraying

Joe Ebel- yes we are

Mr. Frost- so you are just spraying where you know there are high levels of them but you can't tell if they are going to have West Niles

Joe Ebel- if we get a complaint we will set a trap, if there are over 50 mosquitoes I believe in the trap then that is a trigger, we will go spray there.

Mr. Frost- how many people have ever gotten West Nile in Licking County?

Joe Ebel- usually it is only hospitalized cases that show up on the radar. The first year it was I think 4 then maybe two or so

Mr. Frost- is it the young and the elderly affected by it most

Joe Ebel- with West Nile it's different you tend to get more middle aged healthier people for some reason and nobody seems knows why. The deaths that we have had one was very old but we have had other people were in their 50's.

Mr. Frost- what are the symptoms you have to look at for?

Joe Ebel- West Niles starts out with the West Nile fever, 99% of the people who are infected if they are sick at all will just feel kind of fluish. They have a little fever, little achy and maybe a headache but will probably

never go to the doctor and get tested. The ones that end up in the hospital is West Nile encephalitis which is an inflammation of the brain and those cases get very serious, they have high fevers, end up in a coma or dying. If you go to the doctor with those symptoms just advise them that you had been outside at night and got bitten by mosquitoes so they can rule that out.

Mrs. Loomis- Mr. Cost and I are reviewing the communicable disease report; it says influenza seasonal went from 37 cases to 771.

Joe Ebel- this year, technically last year's flu season which usually starts in the fall and usually goes until February, March. This year the bulk of the flu cases started after the end of the year so we will have 700 cases from January through March and depending if the flu season kicks in October or something in the fall we may have a bunch more cases.

Mr. Rath- so what you are saying is that if we compare first half of 2013 with the last half of 2012 the numbers statistically aren't that varied.

Joe Ebel- yeah it is hard to judge, it moves around a lot. As early as the flu shot is available go ahead and get it you are better off getting earlier and being protected instead of waiting until it's circulating in the community and risk being exposed.

Mr. Rath- I also noticed that there was a significant increase in the statistics for Hepatitis C and "Whooping Cough"

Joe Ebel- whooping cough is a real problem for young infants especially from the time that they are born up until 6 months because they can't be vaccinated against it. We encourage anyone who spends a lot of time around young children to get the shot therefore not exposing the young children.

Mary Beth Hanks- the Nursing Director for the Health Department. Hepatitis C is a virus that is transmitted primarily through blood although sometimes it can be transmitted sexually but that is pretty rare. The way our folks seem to get Hepatitis C is through using needles that were infected by someone who already had Hepatitis C and it does mean that it is a recent infection, when Hepatitis C enters the body it lays dormant for like 20 years. We have been seeing for many years now people in their 40's, 50's and 60's who were infected 20 or so years before then. Back in the 60's a lot intravenous drug were used and that has continued so our thought is that we will always be seeing a lot of Hepatitis C that has laid dormant for many, many years.

Jeff Rath, Chair