

CITY OF ROCKY RIVER

December 6, 2024

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee meeting was called to order by Mr. Furry, Chairman of the Finance Committee at 8:15 a.m.

Finance Committee Members Present: Mr. Furry, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Sindelar, Mr. Shipp

Council Members Present: Mrs. Gallagher, Mrs. Morris, Mr. O'Boyle

Administration: Mayor Bobst, Director Thomas, Director Snyder, Director Holub, Director Huff, Chief Lichman, Chief Lenart, Superintendent Barille

Also Present: Judge Hagan, Judge Burke, Clerk Comery

The meeting was opened with a Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor thanked Council President and thanked Council for their willingness to accept the 2025 Budget for the city at this time. The budget is an important communication tool that is evaluated for everything. Everything does not stay the same year after year and just add 3% or 5%. It is looking throughout the year at programming and evaluating it and making sure that the city is providing a service or a program at an efficient and effective cost, but also providing residents with things they need and want. This whole evaluation becomes extremely important. There have been times when the budgeting process challenges the most fiscally disciplined organization. The City of Rocky River is fiscally disciplined starting with City Council, the Directors, and Director Thomas and his leadership in the Finance Department. The city does not have the same pressure as in the years 2008, 2009 and 2010. Many part-time positions were eliminated. Just like then, whatever changes or cuts are made we do not want the residents to notice and the city was successful in doing that. There is this mindset that the city can do things better and more efficient and less expensive. The preparation of the budget looks for flexibility. Different expenses can arise that were not expected as in legal issues, a building or piece of equipment has a catastrophic failure. The focus is on shared civic priorities and that is what this document is. It is the 2025 budget but the administration forecasts and looks in the future. The city has been very effective with that. Income Tax is very strong and believe it will continue to be strong with two large businesses moving into the city with significant payrolls. The Mayor hopes that the Financial Summary and Narrative are helpful to Council. The city has great stability and diversity in the city's employers. Property Tax is good and a projection is expected soon from the County about the new valuation. It will certainly be an increase. The city monitors all the other income and revenue sources. The one issue arising is an increase in the sewer fees. Currently it is \$38.00 mcf which is one of the lowest around. This is used for Capital Investment and Operations and is a 75%/25% split each year. The city has the flexibility to separate that based on needs. The city will have to look at a five-year scheme and start to

build that. The city is making great progress, the EPA is happy with the city, but there is still so much work and it is so expensive.

Thank you to Council for their attentiveness to this process and the budget throughout the year.

President Furry echoed what the Mayor said from someone who was on Council in 2008-2010 of how adjustments were made on the fly in paving streets, equipment purchases etc. It is a work in progress and not cast in stone. Adjustments can be made throughout the year.

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President Furry had sent out the Budget Review Form to Council and had the opportunity to speak with Director Thomas. Mr. Furry completed his budget review sheet and distributed his outline to Council. Mr. Furry asked Director Thomas to give the view from 30,000 feet where the city stands and going forward. Mr. Thomas said that what underlies everything are the Income Tax and Property Tax revenues and those derived from the assets and income of the residents. He wonders what Council thinks when they see the tax base when you are in the city, the businesses, the housing stock and the employment in the city. It is robust. The housing stock looks good and is well maintained. The commercial districts are full. There were times when there were a lot "For Lease" signs and that underlies the 2025 Budget and ongoing. As the Mayor said there are two large enterprises moving into the city. What Director Thomas did for the total Income Tax budget for 2025 is a \$22.8 million projection. The city was at \$22,450,000 last year and the city is over that amount and over the 2024 budget before December. That is the scheme of being conservative on that projection. The Property Tax increase that was communicated to everyone that the projected increase for the city was \$2.8 million. Director Thomas adjusted that increase by taking off a bond levy that the city does not need. He has in the budget a \$2.3 million increase in the Property Tax levies where they belong in the Senior Center and Refuse. At the end of November, he fully redeemed the last issue from 2014 as that was the last payment. The new debt is already on at \$9.9 million for the Police Station. On the agenda, there is an ordinance adding \$4.6 million in bonds for the Senior Center addition. In the 2025 budget he has both the Senior Center and the Fire Station renovation at the full amount on the debt side and the expenditure side. In a few years the city will be about \$25 million in debt potentially, but the police department will be paid down so the city will be in the range of \$20-22 million.

- The Mayor asked Director Thomas to put that amount in context on how that is viewed. Director Thomas said it is not a big number for Rocky River and it is not coming on top of other debt or outstanding bonds. The Police Station Project was about \$13 million and the debt issued for the building was \$9.9 million. Plenty of local resources and cash flow went into it and then financed a portion of it.

Currently on the agenda is legislation for construction costs of \$4.5 million and he has \$4.6 so that looks a little different of having fully funded the construction costs but the soft costs in front of what the city has paid for out of pocket and that is not being reimbursed. That debt is just for the construction and the contract on the agenda. For the fire station, there are already expenditures that have been made. The point is they are not 100% debt financed as there is some costs coming out of the funding provided from income tax and the capital property tax levy. Director Thomas sees that the residents have put in place a Capital Levy, Property Tax Levy and

an Income Tax Levy and there has not been enthusiasm for a lot of debt for streets, other buildings, equipment so the residents have told Council and the administration to use some cash for the projects, and that is what has happened. That is why the city has a moderate debt level.

- Mr. Sindelar asked if this debt amount is what the city allows itself to carry or does it fluctuate greatly. He also asked about the difference between debt and budget shortfall. Director Thomas said that in the State of Ohio you must have a balanced budget which is what the City of Rocky River has. Every fund must have resources to cover the appropriation. Through the year and on the monthly report the city typically does not spend all the appropriations. The supplemental that was on the agenda was needed to sync up with the debt transaction on paper. The city typically spends 80% the appropriation so there is carry over. There is an obligation when the debt is issued that over the three years or whatever period the city must have cash flow to pay the payment. The Mayor reiterated that the debt is tied to specific projects.
- Mrs. Morris said that in personal finance there is a debt-to-income ratio. Does the city have a ratio to point to that says this is how much debt versus revenue. Director Thomas said that in peer cities they measure nationwide and Ohio and the City of Rocky River is viewed favorably. The words used are nominal level of debt. The Mayor said that a copy of the most recent Moody's Rating Report will be given to Council.

Director Thomas stated that the state law is the legal debt limit and those are percentages of the assessed value. There are different measures. One is 10.5% of the assessed value and 5.5%. It is very straightforward.

WasteWater Treatment Plant

Mr. Barille distributed a copy of his power point presentation. Mrs. Morris said that there are a lot of capital projects in this budget and the WWTP is in a state of constant repair and renewal. They are always chasing one EPA standard or another. What is great about Superintendent Barille is that he exceeds all those standards. The plans he devises are those in which each of those repairs and replacements is an opportunity to make a more sustainable and less dependent WWTP which in turn will save everyone money in the long run and keep the water healthy.

Mr. Barille began his discussion on the budget.

Utility Budget Overview and Operations:

Total Employees:

- Current Staff: 17 of 19 positions filled with one vacant position in the operator role and one vacant position as crew leader of maintenance.
- Three new employees hired to fill vacancies in 2024

Mr. Barille stated that there are 15 union positions, 3 management, 1 Administrative Assistant. In the past year one employee retired and two operators left for better opportunities and one moved to the maintenance role.

Planned Major retirements:

- One employee in March 2025

Personnel Changes:

- All positions expected to stay the same as in 2024, wage increases will follow CBA
- Since 2018 ~74% of our staff is new to the RRWWTP

Mr. Barille said that management has continued to implement training programs, update SOPs, and provide mentoring with experienced staff to continue and develop new staff. The newer staff is hungry and excited about their new roles. This has promoted a positive team mentality and allowed the plant to continue and develop.

Utility Budget Overview:

The 2025 Utility Budget is seeing an 8.9% increase in operating expenses from the proposed 2024 budget. There are 16 accounts listed that make up 96% of the budget that include wages, overtime, comp time, fringe benefits and the major accounts year-to-year changes that are significant based on the economic climate. Under other electric, gas and water are listed. WWTP in general uses a lot of energy, water and gas. The average electric bill monthly is \$30,000. Electric is 5.2% of the WWTP budget. Making changes or savings in those areas can go a long way. Electric and gas rates are long term and locking up rates for extended amounts of time helps the increase year to year. There has not been a need to increase any of utility line items in the last three years.

- Mr. Furry asked about the redundancy on electricity coming in and issues with voltage. Mr. Barille said that it was rectified. WWTP has two separate sources that feed the plant per the EPA requirements. That is done through variable frequency drives that are put in on most of the major equipment to control surges. There are still surges and power flickers but most of that is covered by implementing things in front of the large equipment to protect them. Most of the infrastructure was built in 1982 and is continuously being upgraded.

The Capital Project in 2000 was \$13 million. That is the exact amount as the \$30 million project now when taking into time value of money. When it comes down to compliance and redundancy, it is all built in to lessen abrupt decisions or abrupt stress on those that are paying the rates.

- Of the 8.9% increase ~6% of the increase is in Capital Contribution
- There will be some increased capital spending in 2025
- Projects are just getting more expensive
- This increase will help with local match for future funding opportunities
- Of the total plant assets worth, 2-3% of that should be contributed to capital annually
- Plant assets valued at 86.5 million (2-3% of assets)
- Contributions should, at a minimum, be kept up with inflation
- The remaining 2.9% of the 8.9% increase was due to the increase across all remaining accounts, including wages and benefits
- Chemical Purchase – will remain the same for the first time since 2019
- All vendors renewed except for one public bid which we saw a decrease in chemical price
- The chemical budget saw an annual 40% increase from 2020 to 2024, it seems the market has stabilized. The last two years saw a 30% drop off

of price

- The Building Maintenance, Equipment Maintenance and Contract repair saw increase due to economic climate and cost of materials.
- These accounts are also used for preventive maintenance and many of the assets at WWTP have exceeded their useful life
- There was an increase in insurance also

The Annual Capital Contribution: The way the WWTP operates charges the four communities based on flow and strength and a portion of the utility budget (which is considered the annual operation budget) is contributed to the capital. That is how WWTP gains capital increase. In 2024, \$1.6 million was put into capital that can be used for future capital investments. In 2025 contribution to capital will be the biggest line-item increase. There was an 8.9% increase in the utility budget year-to-year. That seems steep, however 6% is going to that capital contribution setting the WWTP up for the future. It is a good opportunity to save without putting a significant burden on the communities. 6% of the 8.9% increases is towards the capital. The other 2.9% increase was across everything else including wages at 3%. The regular full-time wage is a 4.1% increase. Most of that is due to the potential of someone being able to get into a higher license bracket. It does not mean that everyone received a 4.1% increase. The Mayor said there are four communities that all contribute to capital operating of the plant and you need to plan for the future, for a \$25 million dollar debt service, that is not a huge burden. Communities cannot plan for that one-time large amount. In Nick's wisdom, he said we need to plan and build these coffers so there is not something long term. It is very helpful to the other communities. Kudos to Nick for recognizing that now is the time to plan.

- Mrs. Morris said it also speaks to the philosophy on how the city is run.

The City of Rocky River sewer rates are very fair at \$38 per mcf. Mr. Barille pays \$112.00 per mcf in his community. This rate for Rocky River has been managed phenomenally and the city is in a good situation where we can plan ahead opposed to being reactive. Dye testing is a hard conversation to have with residents but is justified as the city works toward reducing Inflow and Infiltration in the collection system and ultimately to the plant.

Capital Budget Overview and Long-Term Planning

Current Capital Projects impacting 2025 Capital Finances:

Contract Repairs Account

These projects are going to be performed as needed based on maintenance evaluation and in case some of the equipment fails. This account is a budget item with the hopes that most of these repairs are not needed. We will use this account to proactively replace some of the equipment as the year progresses and we have more time to evaluate the equipment. Most of the process in WWTP has redundancy built in so equipment can be down and not immediately impacting compliance. However, we evaluate lead times, asset life expectancy, and pricing when evaluating the proactive preplacement of equipment. Equipment getting evaluated, repaired, or replaced are: Degritting Cyclone, Digester Mixer, Valves, Recycle Pumps, and place holder for emergency repair.

Total Project Cost: \$545,000.00

Professional Engineering Services

Half of this account will be used for consulting engineering and the implementation of an asset management program. The consulting engineering is under a two-year contract expiring next year and is as needed. The asset management will likely be an RFQ to help implement a tracking system and platform to track all the assets at WWTP. The platform will be more catered to our plan than the current platform.

The other half (\$600,000) will be spent creating a Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan. This will bolster up our current capital improvement plan and create a road map to plant improvements with the goal of setting the WWTP up for future changes to the plant. The second phase to the No Feasible Alternative agreement between the WWTP and EPA performed in 2017 stated that in 15 years the WWTP will invest in their infrastructure, reduce the I/I, reduce the amount of flow coming to the WWTP so that when there is a significant rain event the WWTP will not be bypassing. To do the current project of buying the fifteen years while the cities invest in the hope that the WWTP is not receiving as much flow or cut off completely the cost will be less. In 15 years when there is a change in the WWTP by expanding, a change in the process due to the change in regulation, Mr. Barille wants to make sure that the \$30 million that is being invested today does not get leveled due to future changes in regulation. This will provide a roadmap for the Management Committee so they can vote to agree that these are the steps are for the next 15-20 years. The goal is to ensure that if we perform a capital improvement project which is replacing a building, that building will not need to be re-changed in 15 years as a result of the improvements study. This price estimate was acquired after discussion with engineering firms and NEORSD, who have completed a similar study for all three of their plants.

Total Costs: \$1,150,000.00

Debt Service: Mr. Barille said that in 2026 the expansion project falls off and the other loan will be picked up in 2026. Bottom loans on the slide are estimates on future projects. Mr. Barille estimated a million for the next project. He does not think it will be that but more like \$5-6 million.

Computer Hardware:

This is the software side of the asset management program but will still need to be determined and may roll into 2026.

Total Estimated Cost: \$150,000.00

Equipment Replacement:

HVAC replacements and pumping replacements will be evaluated.

Total Project Cost: \$200,000.00

Major Requests—Capital Expenditures & Equipment:

CEPT & Final Clarifier Improvements – Construction

Engineering and Design was completed by Hazen and Sawyer in December 2022. Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment (CEPT) portion of the project was required by EPA following the submittal of the EPA mandated No Feasible Alternative Study (NFA). The second part of the project is addressing final clarifier capital improvements necessary to maintain plant compliance. Project is ~85% complete and substantial completion is in February 2025 with final completion in May 2025. The project is roughly 30% of the way through contingency and is expected to stay under the council allocated amount for the project.

Total Project Estimated Costs: \$24,389,766.35
Estimated \$7,500,000.00 recognized in 2025
Project fully funded by DEFA

Future Horizon (5-10-20 year):

Following the NFA submittal in 2019 and EPA mandates, CEPT will be constructed to improve effluent quality of bypass flow. In addition to CEPT, RRWWTP has completed a calibrated hydraulic model of the collection system which is also being updated following the completion of the 2024 Flow and Strength Study. This model will enable the WWTP and the surrounding cities to work on an integrated approach to preventing bypasses in the future as required by EPA. Cities will be able to see locations of need within their collections system to address Inflow and Infiltration. This will ensure that the cities, in conjunction with the WWTP, will be applying resources effectively and efficiently to work toward a common goal of reducing peak flow to RRWWTP and its surrounding network.

A long-term capital improvement plan to address plant upgrades and improvements was created at the end of 2019 by Hazen and Sawyer. This plan included a Risk Assessment to prioritize Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). A more comprehensive plan will be completed in 2025 which will lay the foundation for the next 15 years of capital improvements. This study will also include a financial evaluation to provide transparency to the communities for future capital costs at WWTP. Each identified project usually requires 2 to 5 years to complete. The projects will be systematically addressed and reassessed following the completion of each project. The Superintendent and consulting engineers continually search for funding sources for each project. These projects are typically funded by low, sometimes 0%, interest loans in combination with grants. WWTP will have paid off the largest loan from OWDA in 2025. At that time CEPT and the Final Clarifier Improvements Project should be completed, and the plant will then begin to pay on that loan recognizing additional debt associated with the capital project. The WWTP and Director of Finance will continue to manage the long-term borrowing to try and reduce significant increases in budget from year to year.

To manage long-term increases in utility budget the WWTP will continue to improve technology and invest in sustainable, diverse practices. These practices will reduce our dependence on products with high market volatility. Since COVID, there have been substantial impacts on the supply chain. These impacts have exposed the importance of operational redundancy and reduced dependency on materials, chemicals, and services that are essential to maintaining compliance. Our upcoming capital projects will be addressing the redundancy weak points to prevent being at the mercy of long lead times. The plant will continue to implement sustainable practices and investments to reduce being dependent on utility prices and chemical supply.

A financial evaluation will be done annually to address the plant's needs while reducing the financial burden placed on contributing cities' long term capital funding.

Revenue 2025 Projected: \$7,843,902.27

Budget 2025: \$7,843,902.27

*Budget and revenue are the same because the 2025 budget determines billing for all four communities

- Mr. O'Boyle asked about the summary page that is asking for an 8.9% increase in the

WWTP budget. 6% of that is earmarked to cover all need capital ventures. That leaves 2.9%. Mr. O'Boyle feels that is lean. Mr. Barille said that the budget itself already has built in buffers. He can be lean because of the buffer built in. At some point he may have to ask for 4.9% but at this point he does not need to. Mr. Barille said that typically you should be 2-3% of the total asset value of WWTP. Based on what he evaluates the assets totaling \$86.5 million worth of assets. The plant itself if it sold that day it would go for \$150,000 but it is insured. The insurance is double that \$86.5 because all the assets are depreciated. This is a general rule of thumb. Every year he wants to contribute to capital and not lose the depreciation on the assets. You want to contribute more than what you are losing on depreciation. The second factor is inflation, so you want to be sure you are succeeding on one of those two thresholds.

- Mr. Furry added that this is all reviewed by the Management Committee, which is the four Mayors, the four Finance Directors and are all sharing the cost based on the strength and flow percentages.
- The Mayor said this is unique. The WWTP Management Committee reviews and approves the WWTP budget which is then recommended to this body because the City of Rocky River has oversight, per the EPA. Mr. Barille is bringing the approved budget from the Management Committee.
- Mr. Sindelar asked if there is also a generator for backup power supply. Mr. Barille said there is a generator solely to allow flow into the plant to prevent backups in basements. It is not for total treatment. The plant has two power separate power feeds, if both fail then the backup generator will not restrict flow. He can only control two buildings, which is everything coming into the plant can be opened with the generator. There is also a substation on site generating 4.8 kilovolts that come in and recharge up to 13-15 kilovolts and use that to power the whole plant. WWTP is not required to have another generator and currently meets EPA's requirements having two sources of power in the plant. He does it solely to prevent backups in basements.

Municipal Court

Mrs. Gallagher said that the Rocky River Municipal Court is one of thirteen courts in Cuyahoga County. They handle traffic violations, OVI, criminal misdemeanors, civil complaints for amounts up to \$15,000, small claims, trusteeships, rent escrows and garnishments. The clerk pays all costs collected to the City of Rocky River. Treasurer of the city provides all construction, capital improvements and utilities. The operating costs, that are not covered by the costs that are collected in a calendar year, are divided among jurisdictions by percentage of total usage during the previous calendar year, not exceeding the fine amounts given them in that previous calendar year. Any deficit amount not covered will be paid by the City of Rocky River. The court jurisdiction consists of the cities of Bay Village, Rocky River, North Olmsted, Westlake and Fairview Park. They also partner with the Cleveland Metroparks, the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department, ODNR, the Division of Wildlife, the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Ohio State Highway Patrol and the RTA Transportation. The court's mission is to impartially administer justice actively, efficiently and professionally. Representing the court is Judge Joseph Burke, Administrative Judge Brian Hagan and Clerk of Court Deb Comery. We all met on November 15th to discuss the key aspects of the court's budget and operations.

Judge Hagan addressed Council and noted that this is his 21st consecutive budget hearing. Seventeen as a judge and four as being a member of this esteemed body. One of the histories

the court has been facing is the financial state of this court. From 1997 until 2020 the court operated without a deficit including after the establishment of the North Olmsted Mayor's Court that was anticipated to cost the city \$500,000 in costs. The court was very progressive at that time as far as changes in PERS and many individuals took advantage of the changes and retired and were never replaced. The court knew how to keep the largest cost of the court, the operations and HR and personnel, down to a limit. What they did not anticipate was that North Olmsted took about a third of the filings in traffic and criminal cases. The court still gets their criminal cases and traffic cases where they cannot pay their fines and costs. They work out a deal in Mayor's Court that they can't pay and suddenly it is vacated and comes to Rocky River Court. The court still has jurisdiction over North Olmsted and the court gets all their theft cases, domestic violence cases, felony cases in which the RR Court does not make any cost on because it is State cost. Then COVID hit and the court did not expect COVID to stop citations from being written. This is the first year the city has been up 25% in crime and traffic over a year ago. The court has declined 25-30% before COVID hit and then when it hit. Judge Hagan is encouraged by the fact that the numbers are up this year. The court will still be running at a deficit of \$400,000. Last year it was \$700,000. That is the half a million a year that the Mayor's Court is killing the Rocky River Court on. The only thing the court can control is their cost. They have been doing everything possible monthly, reviewing budget figures and where they are at and hold back many capital improvements that the court may need. The building is now 25 years old and is paid off. However, many things are being aged out. The court needs a new software program which will be covered by the computer special project fund. It will not use taxpayer dollars. The court has prided itself on keeping taxpayer dollars to a minimum. When the court collects fines for the various cities, the court pays Bay Village about \$60,000 in fines, based upon the usage of their court on filings they have, that percentage is taken from the deficit and they pay back the host city an amount of money of about \$44,000. Whatever the court gives to city in fine money, potentially comes back to pay off the deficit and usage. The only thing increasing is the court offering the employees a 2% raise over the next year. On the clerk's side there may be one or two single merit pays to be competitive with other areas and similar positions. Outside of the computer upgrade there is a security issue. The elevator was down for three months after the tornado came through and the generator blew out the circuits of the elevator. It took a while to get that repaired, but they cannot get to the third floor because the fob system is not working. After the first of the year, they will be looking at a new security system for the courthouse and to access the various offices. Everything is secure. The IT will be looking at some of the systems developed and placed at the schools.

Ms. Comery said that the good news is that traffic is up and is from the production of the police department.

- Mr. Sindelar asked if the qualified immunity issue goes through, do you see police interacting with people more because of that or less. Ms. Comery does not know because it will be how they apply it.

She is thrilled that they are on the downward trend of the deficit. Last year was the worse deficit that they had and she never wants to revisit that again. Since the building is paid off, there is ability to save. She is hoping the court will be between \$200-300,000 deficit this year which compared to over \$700,000, is a bonus.

- Mr. Furry asked what the turf of the Metroparks is that report to the court. There are five cities, Rocky River, Fairview Park, North Olmsted, Bay Village and Westlake that adjoin the Metroparks. Judge Hagan stated that the Metroparks Headquarters is here in the Court's jurisdiction in Fairview Park.

- Mrs. Gallagher asked what can prevent the other cities to start their own Mayor's Court. Ms. Comery said there is no prevention. Chief Justice Moyer from the Supreme Court tried for 25 years to prevent Mayor's Court. The Ohio Municipal League is a very strong lobby group in Columbus. If you take the number of Mayor's Courts in Ohio there is a vast majority that have them and they lobby against any attempt to stop them. Ohio is one of two states that has Mayor's Courts. They are wrong from an ethical standpoint yet it exists.

Judge Hagan said it is what the Mayor said to continue to run an efficient court that the City of Rocky River currently does that will prevent the formation of other Mayor's Courts. Judges Hagan and Burke boast that the court's community control department is the best in the State of Ohio. They are progressive in what they do with individuals that come before them. They see sick people with alcoholism, drug addiction, mental illness, dual diagnostic. They are very progressive. They get them assessed now and into treatment now and then monitor them through the probationary periods. They are very fortunate with the women the court has. They are amazing. Judge Fitzsimmons was able to secure funding for a victim's advocate and had two nonprofits pay money to another nonprofit to give the city a victim's advocate. The victim's advocate we had, the court created that position themselves and hired her. The court is always applying for grants to help the court.

The court ironically collects a quarter of a million dollars that is sent to the Public Defenders in Columbus plus the \$25.00 bond fee. The court submits their bills to the County and the County pays the attorneys off except for the local fees. If there is a case that starts off as state offense and the prosecuting attorney amends it to a city code, Rocky River pays those fees through a RRMC budget line item.

The Mayor said that the cost of the cases that come to the Rocky River Court that were not managed in a Mayors Court and cannot be managed effectively, puts a burden on this court and that is a cost then that all the communities' share. The Mayor thinks that with the State, there may be outlying areas that have good reasons for Mayor's Courts because of geography and accessibility but that is not the case in urban or suburban areas. The Mayor does not understand why they allow this. There is a lot of pressure and the revenue is so strong they don't want to lose it.

Judge Hagan said that a suburban mayor called about the numbers saying the court's expenses are too much. Judge Hagan told the Mayor that North Olmsted has written 7,000 citations that go through their Mayor's Court while your city has written only 1,200. Fairview Park may be thinking of it but does not have the numbers to support a Mayor's Court. The court has a good relationship with Mayor Clough and the Westlake departments and citizens are satisfied with the Rocky River Court. We run an efficient court that no one hears about until the end of the year but they are doing what they must do. They are happy and proud to be a part of this jurisdiction.

Personnel Overview:

The judicial staff consists of 11 full-time employees and 13 part-time employees, increasing from 11 part-time employees the prior year.

The Clerk's Office maintains 14 full-time and 2 part-time employees with 1 – 2 summer interns decreasing from 15 full-time employees the prior year.

No personnel changes or replacements are anticipated for fiscal year 2025.

Financial Overview:

Revenue Projections for 2025 are unknown as this time. Since 2019 The RRMC has operated at a deficit and will expect a deficit in 2025 as well. The loss of fine revenue from North Olmsted Mayor's Court and dramatic shifts in policing are two of the reasons for such deficit.

Year to Date 2024 Revenue through 11/12/24 \$1,615,235.26

Year to date 2024 Expense through 11/12/24 \$2,325,941.24

Deficit of 11/12/24 \$ 710,705.98

Projected Deficit 12/31/24 \$350,000.00-\$400,000.00

2025 Operating Budget Highlight: They are expecting a reduction in operating expenses due to reinstatement of appropriate FUNDS covering some expenses.

2024 Capital Expenditures: \$484,770.63 for a new case management system being paid with a \$150,000.00 grant and the computer funds.

Long Term Capital Needs/Wish List: The Court has no needs at this time.

Recreation Department

Councilman Shipp introduced Director Holub and said the city is very fortunate to have Mr. Holub as Director of the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Holub attends conferences, collaborates with peers and learns about the newest practices and resources in the industry. Mr. Holub has been spacing out the impact of major capital projects. This year there is a major one and Mr. Holub has been researching solutions to get it right. He is very proactive. Unlike other departments, the Rec Department produces revenue from sales that help offset the operating budget. He manages very large and very expensive facilities.

Director Holub thanked Councilman Shipp and all of Council for the opportunity this morning. This gives Director Holub the opportunity to share where they are going and where they have been and to say thank you for the support along the way.

Mr. Holub said that expenses are up across the board and he is trying to mitigate that and moderate that rather than just increase rates which the Rec Department has had to do to some level. He is trying to find ways to reduce expenses rather than just pass that on to residents. Utilities are a large portion of the budget. Some of the things have stayed flat with regard to usage. One of the biggest things he saw was an increase in and he asked for a supplemental for electricity. He appreciates that from City Council. They tried something this year and it worked, but it didn't work to a substantial amount. They kept the ice rink open for several extra months to accommodate a renter. That renter paid the bills and covered the cost but it pulled up the utility costs. Moving into next year, he has pulled that back and will moderate the ice schedule. He did not feel that the impact was great enough to continue to do that. There should be savings with that utility. Otherwise, he is looking at flat for water and general increase for gas. A major thing that Councilman Shipp, the Mayor and multiple of you heard Mr. Holub discuss the credit card fees. This is also part of the extra expense he asked for a couple months ago was part of the credit card fees. He has talked to other communities, talked at the Parks and Rec Commission meetings about how to moderate that. The Rec is at a 2.87% negotiated rate with the credit card processing company and is absorbed by the city and the Recreation Department to the tune of 2% of the operating budget is paid out. That fee is on every swipe,

online and in person.

- Mr. Sindelar asked why the city does not have the residents pay the credit card expense. Mr. Holub said that is one of the things they discussed. Is it time to put that through, is it time to split it. What Mr. Holub has found though is that locally, no one else does that. Rocky River would be one of the first to do that pass through if we were to look at doing it. They had the conversation in the Commission meeting. Joe Roszak, the COO of the MetroParks differ on how it should be handled to some degree and he used the term the “napkin tax”. We don’t do that in the MetroParks because we look at it as the “napkin tax” as part of the cost of doing goods. Mr. Sindelar said that the MetroParks are already subsidized by the voters. Municipalities are a little different. Mr. Shipp added that residents will say we are already paying taxes, why would you charge me to use my credit card.

Mr. Holub said that online is slightly different. They already charge a flat \$3.00 convenience fee no matter what the charge. Roughly \$13,000 a year comes back to department through that transaction fee. In person, there is no fee. It is the cost of doing business and the department absorbs it. The Mayor said they have looked at building it into every fee so that there is some percentage of a fee because most transactions are credit cards.

Mr. Holub explained that the Recreation Department has a software system that ties into a credit card processing system. That credit card processor is who the rec negotiated the 2.87% with. It is a third party that does the transaction on behalf of the city. Mr. Shipp said that it is not just a Rec Department problem, it is a citywide problem. The management software is different for each department and the processes do not integrate with all the departments. Mr. Shipp feels the city should talk to a professional about this. He would ask Council to know this so that the city can try to find the solution to consolidate and get a better rate. The Mayor said that the Rec, Senior Center and maybe Police along with sewer fees will be online next year. Again, the city has been slow to embrace this but consolidating would make some sense. Mr. Holub said that the one thing with consolidation is each department has different providers. Facilities have World Pay, Rec has Global Payments with different rates. Part of that is due to the software that each department uses. If Rec uses the one Facilities uses, there is a third step that goes into data entry and making sure that all the processing manual entry because it does not connect. He has learned so much over the last three years in negotiating this rate that he did not understand entirely. Different software that does not use the same credit card provider without a third step. Mr. Shipp said that the software is industry specific and is different for a reason. Mr. Holub wanted to discuss it this morning because of the requested supplement that was approved by City Council. Mr. Holub thanked City Council for that as well as understanding the purpose of it.

Personnel Overview:

Department Staffing: Full-time: 13 Part-time: ~250 seasonal/regular part-time Personnel
Changes: Promotions of: Jane Reich, Daniel Conway, and George Corrado Anticipated
Replacement Positions None

Financial Overview:

2025 Revenue Projections \$3,985,742.00

2025 Expense Projections \$4,189,743.00

\$694,495.40 Fund Balance as of 09/30/2024 Financial Report

Revised 2024 Budget

2024 Revenue \$3,442,215.00

2024 Expense \$4,045,692.00

Actuals (11/14/2024)

2024 Actual Revenue \$3,269,502.23

2024 Actual Expense \$3,358,415.00

2025 Operating Budget Highlights:

- Revenues projected to increase by 16% with the increase from the transfer as well as overall growth in participation and program offerings.
- Expenses budgeted to increase by 3% from 2024 to 2025.

Impacts on 2025 Budget:

- General expense increases for supplies, products & services.
- Increase in minimum wage, compression, and local competition/market.
- Anticipated increased fees for various program rates.
- Extended operational hours for Civic Center will increase wages, utilities, and supplies.

Areas of Cost Savings/ Increased Revenue in 2025:

- Moderate increases anticipated for 2025/2026 Ice Rink Season.
- Reduction of overall ice rink season.
- Extended baseball season with “fall ball”
- Negotiation of field usage agreement with RRCSD
- Evaluation and implementation of fee increases where necessary in programming.

Future Considerations:

- Impact of Credit Card Fees (roughly 2% of rec budget)
- Continual evaluation of pricing based on wages & product/supply costs.
- Continual review of fees charged for programs, memberships, and services.
- Park upgrades will continue to need to be managed:
 - o Tri City Tennis Courts
 - o Walking Path Upgrades/Installations
 - o Playground Replacements
- Aging facilities continue to need attention:
 - o Indoor pool systems/HVAC
 - o Ice Rink chillers/cooling systems
 - o Park facilities & storage buildings

2024 Major Expenditures:

- Tri City Park Playground Replacement
- Ice Rink Ceiling Replacement
- Civic Center Ductwork Wrapping
- Civic Center Locker Room Renovations
- Civic Center Boiler Replacements
- Elmwood Cabin Furnace Replacement
- Elmwood Ballfield Fencing Replacement (in-progress)
- Outdoor Pool Lobby & Locker Room Renovation
- Outdoor Pool Surfacing & Feature Replacements (in-progress)
- Linden Park & Civic Center Walking Path Replacements

2025 Capital Budget Highlights:

Elmwood Park

- Path Upgrades \$ 80,000.00

- Building Upgrades \$ 60,000.00
- Bleachers, Benches & Tables \$ 60,000.00

Total \$ 200,000.00

Ice Rink

- Concrete/Landscape Improvements \$ 350,000.00
- Parapet Wall Work \$ 200,000.00

Total \$ 550,000.00

Civic Center

- Pool Dehumidification \$ 1,400,000.00
- Fitness Equipment \$ 60,000.00
- Pool Features \$ 100,000.00
- Gym Ceiling \$ 90,000.00

Total \$ 1,650,000.00

Outdoor Pool

- Remaining Features \$ 100,000.00

Total \$ 100,000.00

Mr. Holub began explaining his slide regarding wages. Wages will be a 5% increase over the revised number of 2024. The department has implemented significant for the part-time team. One of the most exciting things for Mr. Holub is that they offered additional programming throughout the year and that was also part of the supplemental, was part-time wages. The Rec is over the revenues in programs by about \$175,000 for 2024. All of that is in direct correlation to the wages. The Rec is providing more aquatic programming, fitness and wellness programming and the sports programming is through the roof. There is a direct correlation to the output in wages and increase in programs and memberships. The overall expense budget increase is 3%. Revenues projected increase by 16%. That large number is in conjunction with the city support received from the transfer. He greatly appreciates that from the Finance Office.

Where do the monies come from? The next slide shows that roughly 40% is from city support/tax dollars. The other 60% is speculative revenue; memberships, sports and leagues, aquatics programming are some of the larger numbers. What is it spent on? A great chunk is on personnel at 66% including healthcare and OPERS. The utilities come up second and then the general operating costs including credit card fees and anything that is overhead to operate the general facilities. As of December 4th, the Rec Center has surpassed expenses in revenues. The total dollar amount for "Membership Monday" was \$203,000 brought in. A great majority was membership at \$145,000, the highest in any day the Rec has done. The remainder portion was due to Learn to Skate registration. It was tremendously successful. They will be doing some things differently next year to moderate some of the overall transactions but in general it was a huge day.

- Mr. Sindelar asked about concessions.

Mr. Holub explained that they moved to an outsourced concession a few years ago. There is no expense. The expenses are all on the vendor so there is only income. It is a small slice in the amount of \$8,000 which includes vending. The vendor has named it "Rink Rats Café". It has been branded and wrapped. The gentleman also runs the concessions at Winterhurst. It has been tremendously successful. People have loved it. He has brought in more things as people

have asked for it. He is satisfied. The concession operation is tough. There is a lot of expense to it if the rec operates it because staff is added along with overhead and product. Concession for the pool will be outsourced in 2025 and up for RFP in January.

Mr. Holub said the big project for 2025 is the dehumidification unit for the indoor pool. They are looking at about \$1 million to replace it. They have been all over northeast Ohio on rooftops of communities and schools physically looking, getting in and checking out these systems. There is only a handful to see of the brands. The rec currently has a Dectron. They want to see places that have brand new ones and places that have three years and places that have older to help make an educated decision. Mike Balla has been instrumental in this process and there is a meeting next week to go over all the specs and data and then begin looking at the actual pricing for everything. There are some original budget numbers and it is going to be pricey. Speaking of Fairview Park theirs has been ordered. Mr. Holub has hope that if this is done early it could happen in calendar year 2025 or early 2026. They have been expecting this to be 18-24 months from order date. It is a big dollar amount but it is important to keep the pool facility open and running.

Mr. Holub is looking to make some minor upgrades to Elmwood Park including bleachers and new fencing this year. Martin Park is getting a new path. Something that has not had a lot of emphasis on is park structures for storage and new roofs to keep buildings operational. They are continuing a camera upgrade process. Each year a different park has had cameras installed. Martin's Park is the next one on the list.

- Mr. Sindelar asked about the Elmwood Park buildings. Mr. Holub said that those are two of the buildings they are looking at for new roofs and painting. That concession is done through whoever is utilizing the space. If it's travel teams, they have been able to generate some income.

The ice rink pavilion roof is failing. It is original to the facility. That is also tied into the parapet wall, the metal sheeting around the facility. They are working with different contractors and engineers on what needs to be done to bring that space up safety wise and usable.

- Mr. Sindelar said that he had heard that the useless hill is going away. Mr. Holub said that he and Director Snyder have been talking for a while about what to do with that space. That is the whole front of where you walk into the pool and the ice rink. They have gotten some ideas and designs from MacKay on better utilizing that space with more seating, less hill and different options.
- Mr. O'Boyle asked if pickleball will be introduced in the new considerations for next year. Mr. Holub said currently there is drop in pickleball three days a week for three hours. There are outdoor courts and three indoor courts.
- Mr. Furry asked if Tri-City was quieter on the pickleball front. Mr. Holub said it has. Fairview Park has finished Morton Park that has six or eight pickleball courts. Bay Village has added pickleball courts off Clague Road. Those two things alone have helped. Additionally, he has had better communication with one of the organizers. Mr. Holub tells them they cannot organize, but they still do. He has shared directly with them the ramifications if they cannot get it under control or if there are problems with alcohol at the park. We have asked them to park in different spots. Some of the street work over there has helped. The Mayor said they came to meet with her regarding an issue of loud profanity and the residents weren't happy. Since that time, things have been in control. There has been one individual who has consistently been unhappy but

has not heard anything from that individual. The pickleball group has done better.

- Mr. Hunt asked about the installation cameras. Has there been a corresponding reduction in vandalism? Mr. Holub said vandalism is very minimal in general. When it happens, it is a park bathroom. Several kids have been caught and we have utilized the SRO's who have helped identify the kids. Parents have paid for the broken items. When there has been an occurrence, they are able to go back with the cameras and say this happened. At the Civic Center, they have been a tremendous help. They can follow someone mostly through the building. Once you swipe in, they have the name and can track almost everywhere you go throughout the facility.

Senior Center

Councilman O'Boyle introduced the Director of the Senior Center, Deb Huff.

Ms. Huff had a power point presentation for Council.

Personnel Overview:

Full-time: 6

Part-time: 12

Total of 18 Employees 2024

Personnel Changes: 7 FT, 10 PT

Total of 17 Employees 2025

Anticipated Replacement: *Cindi Williams (January 3)*

Ms. Huff explained that there are approximately 36 independent contractors/instructors that teach fitness, art and music director along with the volunteers who are considered unpaid employees. The Center has utilized 91 volunteers so far. Ms. Huff had a picture of Michelle Dull, a new to the Senior Center this year and is the trip coordinator and is doing a fantastic job. She is the one who took everyone on the Common Ground field trip. The next slide was a picture of Cindi Willimas who has been Ms. Huff's administrative assistant for a great number of years. She is retiring at the beginning of 2025. The Mayor recommended restructuring the department to better suit the needs as operating now. The next slide detailed taking the administrative assistant position to encompass administrative and trip coordinator. The part-time Marketing Communications Coordinator is recommending to add Volunteer Coordinator to that to make it a full time position. So, the two former part-time positions are eliminated. The next slide was the organizational chart that has been proposed for 2025. All coordinators will report directly to Ms. Huff. Several employees reported to Cindi and then down the line. This will simplify things and make it easier for the chain of command. It will allow the Center to eliminate a position so instead of having 18 staff members they will have a total of 17. In 1999 the Senior Center had 25 or 26 paid employees. They are serving more people with less resources. Everybody on the team are hard workers and do a fantastic job.

- Mr. Sindelar said that one of the most impressive things is the number of volunteers. Is it because of their enjoyment, the Director, what keeps bringing them back. Ms. Huff stated that Rocky River Senior Center is a magical place. People enjoy coming there so much and the instructors enjoy teaching there. It is also the social connections that people are making. The Mayor observed that they have put together meaningful volunteer experiences and leverages some of the skills that many of the seniors have. It is such a beautiful transition for many of them from working life and making those contributions to now having hours to volunteer and be helpful to others. The Mayor credits the staff with the training and Deb said that if it wasn't for the volunteers they would be asking for 91 staff people.

Financial Overview:

2025 Revenue Projections: \$1,010,415
2025 Expense Projections: \$1,748,053
2024 Revenue: \$968,446
2024 Expense: \$1,576,189
YTD 2024 Revenue: \$862,281.81 (9/30/24)
YTD 2024 Expense: \$857,239.57 (9/30/24)

2025 Operating Budget Highlights:

- Increase full-time wages/ decrease part time wages by equivalent amount
- Slight Increase in utilities & postage
- Increase Operating Expenses to eliminate end of year transfers (decrease Gift Shop and Deli Lunch Operation accordingly)
- Furniture & Fixtures, Equipment to reflect necessary purchases for the addition

Impacts on 2025 Budget: Minimal

Cost Savings? Increased Revenue in 2025:

Anticipate increased revenue as we increase class offerings, however, center may be closed at times due to renovation which may mitigate this gain in 2025, more realistically, the gain will occur after the renovation is complete. Ms. Huff also anticipates an increase in real estate tax and Homestead Credit.

2024 Capital Expenditures:

- *Auditorium Lighting/Sound/Curtains*
- *Flooring in Ceramics and Multi-Purpose Rooms (removed carpet and installed washable flooring)*
- *Storage shelving in the back room was a major expenditure but has quadrupled the amount of space back there*

2025 Capital Expenditures: *Addition of*

- *Restrooms*
- *Dance Studio*
- *Gym/Fitness*
- *Storage*
- *100 Seat Lecture Hall*
- *Employee Restroom*
- *Exterior Refresh (Front of building)*

Ms. Huff pulled up the slides of the additions to the Senior Center. In addition to the restrooms there will be a dance studio, a gym area which will allow participants to exercise and dance without impeding quieter activities, a 100-seat lecture hall for adult education classes with up-to-date technology and people will be able to stream right into their hearing aids. The next slide was the fitness area that will have a small walking track around the fitness area with room to do chair volleyball, chair hockey and other classes. There are cubbies off to the side to store their things in the room that they are in and benches to sit down to change their shoes.

- The Mayor said that when individuals scan their Silver Sneakers pass, there is revenue generated per swipe. There is a limit to how many swipes are allowed per month..

There is also ballet, tap and Irish dancing. The classes have really grown. The Dance Studio will have bars at two different levels and the floor has been approved by the dance instructors. The third part of the addition is the Lecture Hall with four rows of tables with no steps in the walkway area. There will be opportunities for people to plug in their laptop and devices on the built-in tables with room for wheelchairs.

- Lighting has made a huge difference. Curtains are relatively new. Given more flexibility.

Long Term Capital Needs/Wish List: Only *one* thing left!

- *Generator (grant purchase)*

As far as future horizons are concerned in 5, 10, 20 years the Center should be in really good shape to accommodate seniors for many years to come.

In conclusion, the City of Rocky River in partnership with older adults is thoughtfully and intentionally prepared for the future of aging by improving the aging experience for older adults of today and tomorrow by creating an age friendly community that appreciates the contributions of the seniors.

Ms. Huff shared some statistics with City Council:

- 42% of Rocky River population is 50+
- There are 9,136 River residents eligible to participate in programs and services at the Senior Center
- Between 2022 and 2040 the number of people that are 85+ will more than double
- For the first time in history older adults outnumber children and youth.
- 23% of Rocky River's population is 0 - 20 years old

You think about the school system and how many schools and buildings there are and teachers to provide for these students and the Senior Center is there providing for 42% of the population. She thinks what they have been able to create in River is amazing.

Ms. Huff shared some Christmas selections that can be purchased at the Senior Center.

Deb Huff handed out a Peer Group Analysis of Area Senior Centers. You can see how well Rocky River Senior Center performs amongst all their peers. Mr. Furry can attest to this as he stops by for lunch occasionally.

- The Mayor added that the social services that are provided by Mary Hildebrandt and Deb do a tremendous job and possibly bring on another part-time or a student. The Senior Center provides, not only to the seniors, a wide array of social services when they need assistance. Their families call that live outside this area to have the Senior Center be that resource. It is really supporting seniors, keeping them in their homes longer and living full vital lives. Deb is a leader among leaders and an absolute source of pride for this entire community and her staff.

Ms. Huff thanked the administration for turning their vision and values and goals into a reality for our community. It is truly a tremendous thing.

Fire Department

Chief Lenart said that for two years now, the department has been talking about replacing the cardiac monitors. The defibrillators were finally released and are state of the art in the state of

Ohio. The old monitors were a 2012 version which is about 5 versions ago and now the Lifepak 35 previously was a Lifepak 15. The paramedics would do a 12 lead EKG previously so the patient can receive prompt care and we are fortunate in the Cleveland area with the medical systems that we have. Now the paramedics can do a 15-lead EKG and look at the heart in all different directions. This gives a better diagnosis for the doctor so they can treat the residents much faster. The Chief thanks City Council as these are expensive at \$66,000 but it delivers care second to none anywhere. The paramedics are trained to deal with this care and the medical protocols have kept up so that the paramedics are giving appropriate drugs to make a difference in people's lives. Between this, ambulances and personnel residents are delivered to definitive care quickly.

- Mr. Sindelar asked how many years there are between the old and the new. The Chief said that the difference is, this machine runs on biphasic which is better for your heart. There are 12 years between the machines. It runs almost like an iPad now. There was not a model between #15 and #35 but there are different generations of it. The paramedics put the pads on a patient's chest, it analyzes the rhythm, and the paramedics take what that rhythm tells them to deliver the appropriate pharmaceutical care necessary through the LifeNet System which is where the EKG's are sent right to the cardiologist so the Cath Lab is ready for the patient to be there. They try to be on scene less than 10 minutes, transmit within 10 minutes and the hospitals will have the cardiac Cath lab ready. We go right through the ER to the lab. It truly makes a difference in patient care.

The Chief has been here since 1995 and we went from a little paper slip to now where it is complete digital. It is a medical grade screen without printers.

- Mrs. Morris asked when the paramedics arrive at someone's home, does this information get hooked on their MyChart information. The Chief said that they work with Epic which is what the hospital systems have transferred to. When the paramedics send their file from the LifeNet System, it automatically puts the information into their charts. Once they do the EPCR, which is the electronic patient care report, that automatically is sent to Epic. In 2013 they were still doing paper reports and that paper report never was attached to anyone's medical file.
- Mr. Sindelar asked that when the leads are attached does that do the defibrillators too or do you still have paddles. The Chief said they have been away from paddles now since they purchased the Lifepak 15's. They had paddles as a backup, but everything now is completely on patches which is much safer for the patients and paramedics.
- Mr. Furry asked if there is two or three of this equipment. The Chief said there are three. The spare reserved ambulance does not carry one of these, but they keep it on the engine because if the engine catches a run while they are coming back from another run they can meet mutual aid there and be able to deliver very good care. The only thing the engine doesn't carry for a cardiac event is it does not have a Lucas machine which is the automatic CPR machine. These machines deliver perfect CPR. This year, if his budget allows it, he'd like to pick up a third one so there is a spare and delivering that care.

One thing different in this technology is that they have a thermometer now. Never have had that before. With sepsis being a major contributor to death of the elderly, it gives them another diagnostic tool when they have someone who is not doing well.

Mr. Hunt said that our front-line services of the fire department and paramedics encounter our residents on their worst day. As a Council, for a number of years, have tried to maintain the utmost in facilities and equipment and all those things we can do for our residents and it shows in something like this.

Personnel Overview:

Full-time: 30 since the 1970's and the number of runs has increased.

When the Chief was hired in 1995 the department was doing about 1700 runs a year and is now getting close to 4000 with the same manpower numbers.

However, revenue is up this year.

Part-time: 0

Personnel Changes:

- Retired
 - Lt. Frank Schaefer
 - Ff. Scott Solarz
- Resigned
 - Ff. John Otcasek
- Hired
 - Ff. Austin Bruckman
 - Ff. Frank Parente
 - Ff. Marty Rehor
- January 2025
 - Retiring
 - Lt. Steve Golobic
 - Ff. Jerry Cahill
 - Ff. Paul Murray

Anticipated Replacement:

- 6 Candidates moving through the process currently

Financial Overview:

2025 Revenue Projections:

- \$605,000.00
 - Ambulance Billing

2025 Expense Projections:

- \$5,536,500.00

2024 Revenue:

- \$940,000.00

2024 Expense:

- \$5,573,000.00

YTD 2024 Revenue:

- \$627,000.00

YTD 2024 Expense:

- \$4,587,000.00

2025 Operating Budget Highlights:

1. New Software for our mandatory reporting
 - a. Our current software package was bought out. The new company is in the process of sunsetting our Emergency Reporting and will be replacing it with their own version.
 - b. We are currently using the new vendor for our EPCR , EMS reporting.
 - c. This transition will make things easier and more accurate reporting for our personnel.
2. Water Rescue
 - a. In 2024 we received several calls for help on our lake front. Our city has ample access to the lake, and it is being utilized by our residents. We have some of the best parks in northern Ohio giving great opportunity at water access.
 - b. 2024 we began training personnel to better respond to these waterfront emergencies.
 - c. The Fire Department, through strong working relationships with our mutual aid partners, have been successfully making these rescues. As in any emergency, time is always against the first responder. Launching boats, ski bobs, all takes time.
 - d. 2025, I am planning on training our shift personnel better to effect a more timely rescue. Properly equipping them to more safely attempt the rescue.
 - e. Equipment is minimal, training is intense.
 - f. I would also like to explore the use of jet skis, as another bolster to our waterfront safety.
3. We are working on a new fire station.

Impacts on 2025 Budget:

- These programs will not be a major impact to my budget.
 - New Software will be in \$13,000.00 range
 - Rescue swimmers
 - Equipment is \$700
 - Class is \$600, but will try for a group discount
 - Fire Station is yet to be determined

Cost Savings? Increased Revenue in 2025:

- Our lone revenue in the fire department is ambulance billing.
- The amount has been increasing steadily each year.
 - We have taken actions to increase our billing to capture as much of the available Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance monies that are possible.
 - Another government program has been presented to Ohio Fire Departments to capture a gap in Medicaid runs that could result in some increased revenue.
 - Our billing company Lifeforce Management continues to provide very good service for both our residents and the city.

- One, last note, we are still able to provide services to our residents without having to hard bill. We accept what Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance pay. Nothing more.

2024 Capital Expenditures:

- 2024 Chevy Work truck
 - \$62,000.00
 - 4x4 for weather
 - Tool cabinets to organize our equipment
- Three Lifepak 35 Defibrillators
 - \$66,000.00 per unit
 - State of the Art cardiac care for our residents.

2025 Capital Expenditures:

- Fire Station

Long Term Capital Need

- Personnel
 - Currently the fire department has 29 personnel.
 - Runs since I was hired have increased from 1700 in 1995 to more than 4000 is projected in 2024.
 - The number of personnel in my 30 years has remained the same, the workload is increasing rapidly and the need to better protect and serve our residents id also increasing.

The fire department went through a Medicare audit this year and it was three months of pulling information for Medicare. If the department did not do the audit, they would not certify the department for 2025 for reimbursements. The Chief said that Shelley Zollars, his assistant, set 2-3 hours a week to complete the audit and she did the bulk of collecting the information. This is the first audit since the Chief became the chief. The Medicaid audit was upset that the Chief did not have a fireproof safe to store reports in. He had to write a plan to Medicaid explaining how he would go buy a safe. There is a program out there so departments could capture more Medicaid dollars through federal reimbursement. The program is not in place yet in Ohio.

Mr. Hunt asked for an update on the apparatuses that have been ordered. There is an ambulance on order that delivery is expected in 2025. The oldest ambulance in service is the reserve ambulance that was built in 2000 and was totaled in an accident and re-chassis in 2005. A fire truck was approved in 2022 and he hopes to see that delivered in the spring of 2026. He could use that fire engine as the oldest truck is kept in reserve because as it breaks down, the Chief cannot get parts. Mr. Hunt said it is taking 4-5 years from order to delivery and the manufacturer is not taking new customers. The Chief does not know how they are forecasting expenses for that length of time. This truck on order was \$773,000 and if he was to bid for that truck today it would be \$1 million.

The Chief highlighted six people with under a year of service with the city. It is a lot of tension for the department. There are firefighters that are here for a few months in a five hole and usually if you were in the sixth spot there was time to give on the job training and get them well into the fold before they moved up through the ranks. The world of the drop program is creating

retirements. Guys are going all at the same time. They are getting beat up on runs and doing so many runs that the older guys are seeing their bodies not recovering like they did. We are trying to bring these new hires up to speed as fast as possible. The last test had 50 testers. Some of the Chief's counterparts, Fairview Park and Bay Village, may only be getting 15-20 testers. Probation is very important so if someone is not making the grade they must be cut and move on. The Chief has not had to do laterals yet. These have all been straight test takers. He has an opinion on lateral transfers that it is a tool in the toolbox, but he still believes in Civil Service. He likes to use the process. Several have experience though, per the Mayor.

The Chief talked about the fire station will change the whole scope of City Hall. This is a process. We have made very good preparations for it. They are in talks with the architects. It is a big building and they are trying to find the efficiencies, places to cut and keep the budget contained. The Mayor said that the personnel in the fire department are very engaged so it meets their needs and wants. The footprint may expand out a bit but it is going up. They are looking to squeeze in some extra bay space because that is needed desperately. All the living space will be upstairs. There will be a fire poles are safer than stairs. Firefighters are tired and tripping downstairs. The pole comes in brass or stainless. There is only one brass manufacturer in the USA and he is 88 years old. They take every room and plug it in to see how the station will flow. We cannot slow response time down. The fire station itself is designed to keep people healthy from cancer and mentally healthy. They are trying to bring the outdoors to the indoors to give the firefighters the time to decompress. This is called biophilia. You must plan for the future and the square footage is the cheapest it will be. We are trying to get it right so the city has it set for the next fifty years.

- Mrs. Morris asked if the workout space would be upstairs too. The workout space needs ceiling height because of the stair climbers that need 10 feet ceilings. Firefighters come in early and work out before work. They do not want to disturb the firefighters that are sleeping.

They are also looking at alerting systems. Firefighters should be woken up softly with gradually increasing the light as they go to the apparatus space so they have a chance to wake up. This waking up happens within 30-60 seconds. The days of big bright lights coming on are gone. The science behind it is very interesting. The Chief is very happy that he gets to lead it through. It is a very big process and thank you to City Council for giving them the opportunity to do this project.

Mr. Hunt thanked Chief Lenart for his presentation.

Police Department

Mr. Hunt welcomed Chief Lichman to the Budget Hearing as he has been for the last four years. Mr. Hunt distributed the outline of the Chief's budget review and started off initially with a discussion of personnel.

PERSONNEL:

Chief Lichman began by stating that the department does not need more but needs to fill the

vacancies that they have. That has been a challenge for him in the last couple of years. The non-sworn personnel are looking good. He would like some part-time dispatchers and jailers. These have been budgeted for, but it is hard to fill to give some relief to the full-time personnel and fill in some of the blanks for days off etc. It would be nice to have a fourth full-time dispatcher so they could go on 12-hour shifts to match the patrol officers for continuity of service. The three full-time employees are working out very well. There are a couple of interviews next week for the part-time dispatchers. Mr. Hunt added that the police department can do lateral hires for patrol. The Chief said that testing numbers for Civil Service for police officers have been coming up. They aren't nearly what they've been a couple years ago. There was a low of 9 three years ago for a Civil Service test but recently there was a test that drew a high of 50. The last test was in the mid 40's. That's regionally also. There will be another test in January. The department hired their first lateral candidate which is working out extremely well. He came from Whitehall which is a Columbus suburb. He is entering his third phase of field training. His last night of phase 2 was last night. The Chief is interviewing another lateral candidate today at 2:00 p.m. She is from Grove City which is another Columbus suburb. A lateral transfer candidate has the advantage of not sitting for a Civil Service test. They still must complete all the background, agility testing, medical and psychological testing. They have no seniority when they come here. They will however with this new contract, if approved, they will get the benefit of pay for their experience. The Mayor added that the laterals have to have been appointed in their previous position through a Civil Service process. Most sheriff officers cannot be hired because they do not go through a Civil Service hiring process. Most villages and townships, the same thing.

- Mr. Sindelar asked if qualified immunity goes away, do you see more people applying for police or less. The Chief feels there would be more retirements because the guys that are more accustomed to the current rules will say they are out. He does not think younger people are getting into it, but they won't know the different rules and won't know what they are not getting to appreciate. In Colorado, officers are only liable for the first \$25,000 so they do have to carry that insurance, but it is a limited amount. He thinks that most cities would say they will cover the patrol officer for that first \$25,000 that they are personally liable for. The Chief does not see Ohio doing that.

For the lateral transfers, there will be a renewed interest once they can be compensated for their prior service. Generally, the Civil Service testing numbers have very slowly increased.

- Mr. O'Boyle asked why there is not anything budgeted for crossing guards next year. One of the things up for discussion is to privatize the crossing guard service. There is a crossing guard company that offers that service to municipalities. They do it for Cleveland Heights where we pay the company and they provide the crossing guard service. The department has had a terrible time staffing all the Crossing Guard posts in the city for the past 3 or 4 years. It is hard to keep staff and there are frequent call offs. They have to post police officers for community service officers there which keeps them from their other responsibilities and it ends up costing the city more money than if we take advantage of this private company. The company would pay them a little more, but they would be responsible for all the liability insurance, training and equipment. But most importantly, they would be responsible for filling the vacancies if the crossing guards call off. This company does the same background check as the police do and they will hire all our guards currently. It would be no different for our guards now other than there would not be a public pension. The Mayor added that this has been an ongoing issue.

One of the things that has been offered to the community for parents to establish a coop. The city would do the training and outfit them and if they want to develop a coop where they work the mornings one week a month crossing at a certain location, people weren't interested. Retirees have been where the crossing guards are found but it disruptive to their lives with it being an hour and a half in the morning and afternoon.

Full-Time/Sworn:

Chief - 1
Lieutenants – 3
Sergeants -6
Patrol Officers - 20
School Resource Officers - 3
Detectives - 3
Sub Total - 36

Full-Time/Non-Sworn

Police Coordinator - 1
Records Coordinator - 1
Dispatchers (Full-Time) - 4
Jailer (Full-Time) - 2
Animal Control Officer - 1
Sub Total - 9

Part-Time/Seasonal

Administrative Assistant (Chief) - 1
Dispatchers (Part-time) - 6
Jailer (Part-time) - 2
Community Service Officers (Part-time) - 2
Crossing Guards (Part-time/Seasonal) - 0
Auxiliary Officers (Unpaid, non-sworn) - 15
Sub Total - 26
Grand Total - 72

The Division is currently two patrol officers short of authorized strength, several part-time dispatchers, one part-time jailer, and several substitute crossing guards. A civil service examination was given in June 2024; the list is still active but will likely be exhausted by the end of the month. Another examination has been approved by the Civil Service Commission for January 2025. The Commission recommended, and City Council approved, the option to hire Lateral Transfer Police Officer Candidates in mid-2024. Lateral transfer applicants must be fulltime police officers at an Ohio Civil Service agency to be eligible for hire in Rocky River. In September 2024, we hired our first lateral transfer applicant. Hiring in all areas is difficult, as it is in other law enforcement organizations and other professions that require continuous staffing.

SWORN PERSONNEL CHANGES IN 2024

The following personnel changes were made in 2024:

- Ptl. Thomas Schneid was hired in January and completed the Ohio Basic Peace Officer Training Academy at the Ohio State Patrol Academy in July. He completed our Field Training program in October and is currently a solo patrol officer.

- Ptl. Malik Abu-Hamdh, our first lateral transfer candidate, was hired in September.
- Ptl. Daniel Yu was hired in December.
- Three patrol officers retired in 2024.
 - Richard Bird
 - Michael Bernhardt o
 - Edward Kolenc
- Ptl. Garth Selong was assigned to the Rocky River High School as a School Resource Officer.
- A probationary patrol officer was released in November.

There are three anticipated retirements in 2025. The first in April; no official notice has been given for the second and third. There are several others who are pensionable and could leave at any time but have not yet expressed an intent to do so.

Chief Lichman said that the department has not lost anyone to another agency. All of the vacancies have been as a result of retirements and one that didn't work out.

MAJOR REQUESTS/EXPENDITURES (Capital & Equipment) 2025

- Full staffing by the end of 2025 in all areas, with primary focus on sworn personnel.
- Two Ford Police Utility Interceptors to maintain the patrol fleet.
- One Chevy Tahoe to replace the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Vehicle. The current CVE (2015 Tahoe) will be transitioned to a SWAT vehicle.
- Discussions to privatize the services of Crossing Guards are ongoing and requested for 2025.
- Ongoing computer expenses including replacement of outdated systems and maintenance of annual user agreements.
- Replacement of new radio console for dispatching to maintain compatibility with the Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS). This was budgeted in 2024 but not realized as uncertainty regarding dispatching remains.
- Upgrade furniture in the dispatch room to accommodate the addition of the new console and return of VESTA 911 PSAP. This was considered in 2024 but not realized as uncertainty regarding dispatching remains.
- Our current police K9 is nearing the end of service and will retire soon after the beginning of 2025. Because of the great expense of replacement, the uncertainty of K9 effectiveness after the changes of Ohio marijuana laws, and advances in other technologies in search, rescue, and tracking, replacing the current K9 is not guaranteed.
- Budgeting for the start-up of a tactical drone program to aid in search, rescue, and tracking abilities.
- Increase in travel and education budget to accommodate training for current and new supervisors that have not completed intermediate and advanced leadership and supervision training.
- Increased in travel budget to accommodate travel for advanced driving/pursuit training because of continued increase in vehicle pursuits over the last three years.

The Chief's main goal for 2025 is to have sworn staffing. This has been budgeted and is his goal. They deserve to be fully staffed and have their load lightened.

He is asking for two new Ford Police Utility Interceptors to replace the fleet as it continues to age. He is also asking to replace the Chevy Tahoe which is the commercial vehicle enforcement officer's car. That car is weighed down and has well over 100,000 and is nine years old. The miles are city miles with a lot of weight. The Chief wants to keep the vehicle and give it to the full complement of SWAT officers. There will be four guys on the team and the department will work out the schedule as they go along. They owe it to the WestShore Enforcement Bureau to contribute. They need a vehicle for their equipment and to get to and from practices and call outs. The Tahoe will be repurposed for the SWAT team. It has had its fair share of mechanical problems but the Chief is hoping that without the daily use, it will serve the purpose that they need.

The ongoing computer expenses will not go down any time soon. The new model of computer software are annual contracts. Software contracts are annual and the upgrades come with the contracts. Almost everything the police do now has some sort of computer software.

The radio console replacement is in the budget. It was budgeted in 2024 but was not used. The radio console being used currently was given to the department and if it breaks it cannot be repaired. We still are uncertain as to the future of dispatching so if we go somewhere else, a console will not be needed. If dispatch stays here, the console will need to be upgraded. If it does get upgraded and dispatch ends up moving, it can be moved and used. If it is leased, the lease can be transferred to wherever they go.

In the furniture and fixture area it is to accommodate the dispatch center. It was in the 2024 budget but it was never spent.

The canine is going to retire in the first quarter of 2025. He is getting older and the marijuana laws changed and you cannot untrain a dog to not smell marijuana. A tactical drone is much more effective for search and rescue and chasing bad guys.

The Chief added costs to travel and education. There are several supervisor promotions expected and he would like to continue sending supervisors to the advanced supervision training but they do require time in Columbus. He has had an increase in vehicle pursuits, so he would like to get the officers to advanced pursuit schools. Local training is hard to find and the department must pay for hotel rooms. He has found a driving school that is offered locally so he may not need to spend the travel money.

FUTURE HORIZON (1-5-10-20 year)

- Restructure supervision to delineate administrative staff (Lieutenants) from first-line supervision staff (Sergeants) to ensure accountability and define responsibilities for personnel.
- Addition of a Detective Sergeant or Detective Lieutenant, depending on the outcome of the above bullet point.
- Addition of full-time dispatcher to attain and maintain 24/7/365 dispatch coverage OR retrain staff to manage jail and other needs if dispatching responsibilities are relocated.
- Additional SRO to accommodate requests from the Rocky River City School Districts of an SRO in each building, if desired by the district and staffing levels can accommodate the request.
- Onboarding of part time Marine Patrol Officers and Seasonal SRO for private schools

that request one.

- Drone as First Responder Program, likely as a multiagency effort.
- Consideration of enhanced traffic enforcement program.

REVENUE PROJECTED 2025

- Continued receipt of Marine Patrol from Ohio Department of Natural Resources.
- Continued receipt of Juvenile Diversion grant from Cuyahoga County.
- Continued receipt of DARE grant from Ohio Attorney General.
- Continued reimbursement for SRO assignments at the RRCSD, with the expected increase if a fourth SRO is added.
- Revenue is expected for billing of part-time SRO to private schools, if one is desired.

Before the Chief's retirement he would like to find a way to have a nice delineation between frontline supervisor and executive/administrative personnel at the police station. Executive and administrative work in law enforcement has ballooned. There are accreditations, audits and reports to complete.

The new contracts will give the option to hiring seasonal SRO Officers if private schools want them and if the public schools want a fourth SRO. The new CBA will allow the city to hire part-time Marine Patrol Officers, which will save some expense and get the boat on the water more.

Drones as a first responder program is something different. It is flown and does not have a line of site and can be flown from a dispatch center. The price is steep for an agency of this size, but if it could be done regionally it would be more affordable.

- Mrs. Morris asked what an enhanced traffic enforcement program is. Mr. Shipp and Mr. Snyder and the Chief have been working on a traffic program that would go beyond just throwing police to do traffic enforcement details. It would measure some traffic volume and average speeds. If certain requirements are met, then add other components to that area. For example, education and perhaps some traffic calming measures. The city has a draft already and has software that will be helpful in pulling some of that data.

Mr. Hunt thanked Chief Lichman for his report.

Safety Services

Mr. Snyder thanked City Council and the administration for taking the time to discuss some of his goals for 2025 for the Safety-Service Department and Public Works. Mr. Snyder introduced Sam Rosario, the new Service Commissioner in the Service Department. Mr. Rosario replaces David Arendec who has retired. Mr. Rosario came to the city and initially began in the Street's Division. In the time that Sam has been here, Director Snyder realized he has a lot of immense capabilities that he is able to bring to the community. He has a lot of great background working with equipment and being a leader of men and women. His role as Service Commissioner is a huge benefit to the city and with Council's approval of the wage ordinance, a Service Operations Manager, Steve Elek, was added. They work together to provide opportunities for the staff and residents of the community.

Mr. Sindelar said that Director Snyder is a proud Ohio State University graduate with a bachelors in Natural Resources and Conservation. We were lucky enough to hire Director Snyder in 2013 as an arborist. You could see the early signs of someone who would be innovative and change the city for better as he started things like Arborist Corner and getting technology involved. He made people aware of conservation issues and keeping our natural resources like trees happy and the canopy growing and continue the Tree City USA certification. By 2019 he becomes the Safety Service Director. It is a testament to the administration to pick good leaders. It was a sad day when Mrs. Costello left, but Director Snyder took the torch and ran with it and far exceeded expectations. With the term innovation, he thinks of long-term forecasting and he looks for grants continually and ways to break up costs. Instead of just buying a snowplow, the city buys the plow package somewhere else cheaper and maybe the chassis and cab somewhere. He shepherded us through the Bradstreet's Landing project and coming out of the pandemic, these projects were tough.

Mr. Sindelar and Mr. Snyder met last week and went over these things so he has a good grasp on them.

Total Employees: Safety Service- 3; Service Division- 48 (51 in 2023) - **4 Current Vacancies**

Mr. Sindelar said that as you can see there are 3 in the Safety Service Department and 48 in the Service Division with 4 current vacancies due to 3 retirements and 1 new higher which would add a sewer program coordinator under the Safety Service Director. The city has done a great job of fixing the sewers and you heard Rich and Nick say it has to be in coordination with the WWTP. It is a big issue and it is part and parcel to Rich's background. Mr. Sindelar thinks that the coordinator with all the issues the city has with sewers is perfect, because Mr. Snyder is pulled in so many different directions, it will be good to have someone there coordinating that with you.

Retirements: David Arendec, Service Commissioner; Jim Lavelle, Refuse Division; Chris Eldred, Streets Division

Upcoming Retirements: N/A

New Hire: Adding Sewer Program Coordinator to Office of the Safety Service Director

Major Requests—Capital Expenditures-Equipment

Mr. Sindelar said that when people see the years and/or mileage of these vehicles it is not a very accurate representation when you are talking in a commercial sense. It is more than the hours on the engine. The city mechanics have done a great job keeping the vehicles moving. One of the biggest things on the list is the sewer jet truck. This is an invaluable resource to help with tree roots or rocks in the sewers. The last time the street sweeper was replaced was in 1992. Leaf machines are continual as there are a lot of leaves to dispose of. Leasing camera trucks comes with continual training and if there is an issue it is an Ohio company. With an aging infrastructure and older city, it is important to help the residents see this. None of these expenditures are off base.

Service:

- **Mechanics:** Utility Truck (\$100,000; Replaces 2008 Van in Fair Condition)
- **Refuse:** 31 Cu. Yd. Packer (\$265,000; Replaces 2009 in Poor Condition)

- **Refuse:** (3) Kubota UTVs (\$35,000 ea; Replaces 2015, 2016, and 2017 in Poor Condition)
- **Sewers:** Camera Truck (\$99,111.92/2nd year of lease for 4-years)
- **Sewers:** 2.5 ton Dump Truck Chassis with Snow Package (\$250,000; Replaces 2007 in Poor Condition)
- **Sewers:** Sewer Jet Truck (\$500,000; Replaces 2017 in Fair Condition)
- **Streets:** F-550 Dump Trucks with Stainless Bed (\$135,000; Replaces 2017 in Poor Condition)
- **Streets:** Street Sweeper (\$300,000; Replaces 1992 in Poor Condition)
- **Streets:** Spartan Leaf Machine (\$130,000; Replaces 2007 in Poor Condition)

TOTAL: \$1,884,111.90

Major Expenditures - Capital

- *See Attached Capital Project Schedule for complete information*

Capital Projects (Highlights):

Mr. Sindelar said that Director Snyder has done a great job of taking some of the things Mrs. Costello had whether it is the street rating system and improving and/or streamlining it. He is always thinking ahead and when you see the prices it is eye popping, but Rich and his staff look at how to coordinate projects to help save costs. Mr. Snyder said that nearly everyone has had some outside funding leverage. One of the things is that processes are always evolving. Everything we do, if there is a way to incorporate an additional new process be it a new type of pipe or larger diameter pipe to increase capacity, we do it. We always try to do a waterline project with a sewer project with a pavement project at the same time. This way we get the most bang for the buck. We are still under the current administrative order of consent from the EPA. The city has two sanitary sewer overflows that need to be eliminated. The first is SSP306 which is at Magnolia and Westway by 2027 and SSP302 which is at Falmouth and Beachcliff by 2031. When each of these projects take 3-4 years to implement, the city has been working hard with the private I/I infiltration. Mr. Snyder stated that this is a very aggressive list of projects and the Mayor thinks we should take a second and appreciate what we do and Mr. Snyder says let's put the foot to the gas and make this happen. The Mayor added that what Superintendent Barille said earlier aligns with this. Nick is saying that the city has bought some time with the EPA so that cities can do what they need to do and Rocky River has taken that very seriously for 20 years or more. All these projects align with what Nick is hoping for is that we are reducing I/I and reducing the flow to the plant thus reducing cost to the entire regional facility. Mr. Sindelar said it is good to see that Director Snyder and Superintendent Barille have the same focus on improving efficiency and the environment. Mr. Snyder's time at the Service Station, when they do the design and implementation of these projects, Rich realizes that at some point the contractor and engineers are going to leave and this will be turned over to Sam and the staff at the Service Department so he factors in the maintenance of things, the ease of maintenance and making sure there are access points in places that make sense.

Mr. Sindelar said that one of the other things is the street breakdown and intends to do that with the sewers. Mr. Snyder has the wherewithal and the knowledge to be out ahead of it before major issues happen.

Capital Sewer Rehabilitation

- Buckingham/Argyle Oval/Arundel- Water Main/Sewer Rehab (Engineering 2022-2024; Construction 2025-2026)
- Lake Rd (West of Avalon)- Water Main/Sewer Rehabilitation/Pavement (Engineering 2023-2024; Construct 2025-2026)
- Parklane (West of Wooster)- Water Main/Pavement (Engineering 2024; Construct 2025)
- Westmoor/Orchard Grove/Glendale- Water Main/Sewer Rehab (Engineering 2023-2024; Construct 2025-2026)
- Addington/Spencer - Storm Sewer Culvert Replacement (Engineering 2024; Construct 2025)
- Wooster Rd- Storm Outfall Replacement (Engineering 2023-2024; Construct 2025)
- Story Rd/Eldorado- Culvert (Replace Culvert Outlet; Summer 2025)
- Rockcliff- Water Main/Sewer Rehab/Resurfacing (Engineering 2023-2024; Construct 2025-2026)

Other

- Private Inflow/Infiltration Testing (Kensington Rd/Frazier Dr)
- Point Repairs and Relining Sewers in Sowershed 12 and 5
- Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study (Recreate 2012 Study)
- E. coli Dry Weather Screening Investigations
- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Mapping

Capital Pavement

- 2025 Streets Program
 - o Higley Rd – Major Rehabilitation (Full Depth Repairs, Curbs, ADA Curb Ramps, Striping)
 - o Prospect – Resurfacing w/ curb repairs
 - o Wright- Resurfacing w/ curb repairs
 - o Mercedes- Resurfacing w/ curb repairs
 - o Service Garage- Resurfacing
- Center Ridge Gateway Project w/ Resurfacing from Spencer to Wooster (Engineering 2024-2025; Construct 2026)
- Striping (Detroit Rd and Secondary Streets)
- Reclamite/Titanium Dioxide
- Traffic Capacity Analysis/Level of Service Studies -Detroit Rd (Wagar to Wooster) and Center Ridge (Linden to Wooster)
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) Crosswalks- Wagar @ Beaconsfield, Elmwood @ Maplewood, Detroit @ RRHS

These projects are good organization and good forethought. Higley will be the major project and done in one phase. Mr. Snyder is working with the engineer to transition the streets program into two phases. Cost for these projects identifies the highest priority streets which are Higley, Prospect, Wright and resurfacing at the Service Garage. Those will be phase 1 and we will see how the bidding goes. Engineering can begin on Mercedes but depending on where bidding is that may be kicked back into Spring of 2025 but will already have the engineering done for it. If prices come back great for Phase 1, maybe it can be done as a Fall 2025 implementation. This allows the city to identify where the cost is and evaluate the process and keep the engineers

working all the time so the city is ready to bid a project early the following year and keep it running. It keeps the resurfacing program moving without waiting.

Mr. Snyder said that the reclamite is the asphalt rejuvenate that is sprayed on the street. He did not look at incorporating the asphalt recycling program because it is a site-specific situation and none of these streets fit into that criteria because there is concrete and curbs that need to be done.

Mr. Sindelar said in line with the traffic discussion before that the RRFB's have been successful. Mr. Snyder is looking to incorporate three new RRFB's within the community along with educating via social media to teach residents to properly utilize them and also how to address a crosswalk and enter a street. Putting this infrastructure in one part of it and teaching people that you cannot push the button and blindly walk into the street.

Capital Sidewalk

- Sidewalk Improvement Program
 - o South of Center Ridge

Mr. Sindelar said the sidewalk program was a shock at first but there is a method to that. The city will pay for the sidewalk repair if the damage is from a tree lawn trees, sewer issue or whatever. If it is at the homeowner's end, it will be their cost. This is citywide in its fifth year. This should be significantly easier going forward. The city will continue to do this on an annual basis cycling through the community. It has evolved significantly over time and the implementation of this has improved significantly. Mr. Sindelar said that it is also a safety issue. The City of Rocky River is a walkable city and daily you see strollers, bicycles and people walking and this provides a safe opportunity for pedestrians and multi-modal transportation throughout the community and this needs to be a priority.

Capital Land Improvement

- Service Garage Sewer/Paving (Connect Catch Basins to Sanitary/Resurface)
- Fuel Tank Replacement (Eliminate both underground units and replace them with above ground at Service Department)
- Tree Lawn Trees/Public Land Improvements
 - o Post Construction Tree Replacement (Kensington and Sunnyhill plus additional)
- Improvements in front of Ice Rink (Re-design access and eliminate hill)

Mr. Sindelar said the legislation has passed for the fuel tank replacement. That is getting cleaned up. The above ground tanks are set to go in this winter. The appropriations request for 2025 is the elimination of the underground tanks. Tree lawn trees are going in and that is always exciting.

Capital Parks Improvement

- Shoreland Neighborhood Park
- Sidewalk Replacement/Catch Basin Improvement at RR Park
- Repair Drainage at Martin Park
- Spencer Creek Rehabilitation at Bradstreet's Landing

Mr. Sindelar said that residents should be excited about the Shoreland Neighborhood Park. The previous gas station could become a beautiful park. Mr. Snyder said he does have an update rendering for the park. The Spencer Creek rehabilitation was just discussed.

Capital Building

- Fire Station
- Senior Center Renovation

The fire station in late summer 2025 and the Senior Center Renovation were discussed previously in this meeting.

Miscellaneous Capital

- Crack and Joint Sealing
- Sewer Televising
- Emergency Sewer Repairs

The crack and joint sealing is to enhance and prolong the pavement. Emergency sewer repairs is a fund.

Outside Funding for 2025 - Projected:

Grants/Funding Awarded:

- Buckingham/Argyle Oval/Arundel (Federal Earmark; \$2,520,000; CWD 639,931)
- Parklane Water Line (CWD; \$401,160)
- Lake Rd Water Line (CWD; \$880,925)
- Rockcliff/Wooster Sewer/Water Line/Resurfacing (CWD \$353,389; \$1,000,000 Federal)
- Westmoor/Orchard Grove/Glenbar (CWD; \$634,099)
- Story Rd Culvert (Fairview Park; \$85,000)
- Spencer Creek Rehabilitation (\$300,000 OEPA; \$200,000 HB 2)
- Community Recycling Awareness Grant (\$6,000; Cuyahoga Co. Solid Waste District Funding *Pending Approval*)

Total: \$7,020,504

- Mr. Hunt asked in anticipation of the service garage resurfacing and tank work, does it have anything to do with the need to ultimately place the fire apparatus there. Is there anything that needs to be done special for that. Rich has been working with Infinity, the construction manager, on the temporary relocation of the fire department. The plan is for them to be temporarily located in the Sewer Division and adjacent to the Sewer Division. Sam and his staff have been doing a lot of great things to the infrastructure at the Service Garage already to prepare for that. Regarding the drive and fuel pumps should not be affected. The city is transitioning from two separate underground systems to one above ground system. It should be fully accessible 24/7 to the schools, fire, police and EMS. It will not be affected by the resurfacing. The Mayor added it should be completed before that and before the fire department is relocated.

Director Snyder said, “You talk about someone who gets everything done”, and introduced Maureen Nakonek, the Safety Service Coordinator. Maureen is the one who keeps Rich focused. Maureen and Mark Filipic, the Public Works Coordinator, do a great job. The two wonderful

ladies, Becky and Cathy at reception are the front line for the community. They answer the calls and get everything done. He is proud to say that Safety Service is a lean mean fighting machine.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Furry for his leadership not only as Council President but also as Chair of Finance.

Mr. Furry moved to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting, seconded by Mr. Sindelar at 12:35 p.m.

Vote: Mr. Furry – aye Mr. Hunt – aye Mr. Sindelar – aye Mr. Shipp – aye

David W. Furry, Chairman
Finance Committee

Susan G. Pease
Clerk of Council