

Legal Services: Mayor Artino and I had an initial conversation with representatives of Seeley, Savidge, Ebert & Gourash to discuss legal services for the City. Also, representatives will be present Tuesday night regarding their ongoing work previously authorized by Council.

ConAgra Utility Design: OHM completed the design and construction estimates for the utility infrastructure for the ConAgra site. There are two alternatives; (1) install the utility lines within the right-of-way following the curvature of the road from US 6 to the site, or (2) install the utility lines following direct routes from the connection points to the site. The second option would be a more efficient system, cheaper construction cost, but requires additional legal work (easements from adjacent property owners – State of Ohio and Norfolk Southern).

IAC Facility: Staff and Mayor Artino had the opportunity to tour the facility this week. I continue to remain optimistic that a sale is likely as the site is in fantastic shape, we're competitive both from a workforce and economic standpoint, and the price of the facility makes sense. I'm continuing to work with ECEDC to facilitate local efforts to re-energize the site.

One common theme continues to be the current state of infrastructure on Sawmill Parkway. Preliminary engineering had the reconstruction budget at \$1.8 million. I'd like to work with Mayor Artino to facilitate a series of Council work sessions this summer to establish the 2021 budget, finalize the capital infrastructure plan, and discuss long-term policy goals and objectives relative to economic development and financial management activities, of which this project's place in the prioritization needs to be finalized.

Wexford Storm Water Infrastructure: With record water levels and substantial amounts of rain, the storm system across the City has been significantly taxed. In particular, the Wexford development experienced road and property flooding. Staff and OHM are reviewing the storm water infrastructure in the Wexford development to determine if any modifications or improvements could be made to improve the system's performance. There could be additional engineering cost incurred depending on the scope of the review and proposed improvements. Likely, any improvements will exceed the financial capacity of our current storm water utility fee revenues. As we continue to work with Erie Soil and Water to map the system and build a short and long-term capital infrastructure plan, we'll need to facilitate a discussion relative to funding this operation during our budget discussions.

Main St. Drainage: Staff is working with the County's sanitary crew to study an ongoing issue at the pump station in front of the Comfort Inn / Harbor House. We suspect that when the sanitary and storm sewer systems were separated (est. 1980's), some storm lines/connections and are

still feeding into the sanitary system which can overload the sanitary system during heavy rain events. This has caused serious flooding issues for nearby properties. I'll keep Council updated as we learn more.

Nickel Plate Beach

- *Weather monitor and warning system*: The contractor and our staff are working out the final logistics of the warning system. We anticipate having the warning system and camera system fully operational early next week.
- *Swim Area*: The Fire Department Dive Team will be setting the buoys for the swim area per the Nickel Plate Beach Assessment Plan next week (tentatively scheduled for Thursday).
- *Closure*: Our normal opening day would have been Memorial Day weekend. Due to COVID-19, we pushed the opening date back to June 1st as we make final preparations to open the beach safely. The gate is currently closed to prevent increased attendance prior to opening.
- *COVID-19 Operations (attached)*: The State issued the Responsible Restart Ohio guidelines for beaches. [The PDF can be reviewed following this link](#). The main highlights include continued social distancing, limiting gatherings to less than 10 people, and providing hand sanitizer for restrooms where soap and water aren't available. We're working with the operator of the Paddle Shack to ensure that if they open, they do so in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the plan.

Berlin Road Waterline and Re-paving Project: The waterline along Berlin Road (US 6 to City Limits) is targeted for the next major replacement project. The line regularly experiences multiple breaks each winter. The infrastructure dates back to the 1940's. 2021's capital budget includes a replacement of the waterline and re-paving of the entire stretch of Berlin Road from city limits to US 6 (connecting into the new intersection to be completed during Phase 1). The project was being funded in part with low interest loans from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA). Due to budgetary restrictions, the State informed us that they may be delaying our funding for a year. We should know a final determination soon as the funds are subject to authorization of the State's budgetary appropriations. The State's fiscal calendar is July 1 – June 30 so a vote will be coming soon.

Ambulance Damage: Due to a problem with the diesel fuel at the Shell on Cleveland Road and Rye Beach, Ambulance 412 sustained significant damage and stranded the crew at 4:00 AM last Saturday. The ambulance is currently at Sandusky Fleet getting worked on and we're hopeful to get it back in service soon. The nearly \$10,000 worth of damages will be covered by Shell. This highlights the importance of acquiring the third ambulance as it allows us to operate during a short-term outage without significant impacts on service delivery.

Online Utility Payment Upgrade: We have been working closely with our utility software vendor (SSI) on upgrading the City's billing and payment processing system. The new system will deliver a better customer experience to City residents and allow the City to recognize cost savings in the long-term as customers opt-in to e-billing and electronic payments. We are still working out

logistics on convenience fees (or transaction fees) and will provide a comparison of breakdown of current costs versus new costs (customer and City) for Council to review.

Benefits to City residents include online access to past bills, e-statement options, text/email reminders, autopay, and other convenient payment options. The City will realize additional efficiencies, opening the consideration for converting to monthly billing, better back-end integration with our accounting software, reduction in printing/postage costs, and easing the transition to a new utility billing/work order management software (upgrade from current antiquated system).

We've targeted having full implementation ready to go live by the 4th quarter billing cycle. This will give the City time to test the software and communicate changes to City residents through social media and quarterly billing inserts.