



Portage County Board of Commissioners

Special Meeting

~ Minutes ~

449 South Main Street
Ravenna, OH 44266
<http://www.co.portage.oh.us>

Amy Hutchinson, Clerk
330-297-3600

Monday, July 9, 2018

6:10 PM

Ravenna High School Auditorium

*The Commissioners' meeting minutes are summarized; there is an audio recording available.
Please contact the Commissioners' Office for specific details.*

The Portage County Board of Commissioners' special meeting came to order with the following members present:

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Vicki A. Kline	President	Present
Sabrina Christian-Bennett	Vice President	Present
Mike Kerrigan	Board Member	Present

PROJECT INTRODUCTION MEETING FOR CHINN REGIONAL SEWER IMPROVEMENTS, PROJECT NO. RV-O (17-080)

JULY 9, 2018 AT 6:00 PM
RAVENNA HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
6589 CHESTNUT STREET
RAVENNA, OHIO 44266

PORTAGE COUNTY OFFICIALS AND PROJECT TEAM PRESENT:

Vicki Kline
Sabrina Christian-Bennett
Mike Kerrigan
Vince Coia
Joe Diorio
Mary Helen Smith
Gene Roberts
John Vence
David Sloan
Lesley Gordon
Virginia Wilson
Melanie Barbis

Public Present: Kelly Roger, Deborah and Ralph McBride, Bryan and Donna Montgomery, Norman Odell, Barbara Miler, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Vasarhely, Sarah Richards, John Carpenter, Michael Wood, Larry Boyd, James Myers, John Reid, Melanie Barbs, Ken and Marge Drugan, Dennis and Marie Taylor, Scott Dozanti, Eric Ferguson, Justin Cochrase, Sara Bisson, Barb and Nick Ramicone, Robin Farquhar, Robert Longshore, Tim Molnar, Ravenna Township Trustee Vince Coia, Konyescni and Elkies, Debbie Singleton, Wayne Wise, Diane Lee, Virginia Wilson, Andrew Mitchell, Keith Warrick, Bruce and Karen Null, Jim Meduri, Pat Nelson, Helen Farquhas, Brad Harris, Bill and Loretta Simon, Vernon and Margaret Heron, Lois Tennant, Daniela Zurschmit, Ray McDaniel Jr. Don and Kay Viall, Gary Chaffee, Lynn Waltenbaugh, Stephen Karos, C. Randall Gruson, Mike Ryan, Gary Hogan, Jeff Brabic, Sherryll

Robinson, Robert and Sheri Tilden, Paul Newhauser, John Smith, Ernest Swanigan, Curtis Rude, Bruce Smith, Dominic Belline, Sharon Eisenleath, Tony and Kathy Muscari, Wanema and Deborah Flasher, Anne Marie and John Noble, Cathy Rufener, Martin Braun, Mark McCoy, Randi Clites, Paul and Latty Land, Mark Karas, Jeff Gaynor, Ravenna Township Trustee Patsy Artz, Josephine Colecchi, Carol Schofield, Mr. and Mrs. Condos, David and Melody Harvey, Tim and Laura Young, Doug and Karen Haiflich, Scott and Beth McBride, Dale Chrest, Nina and Felicia Arrington, Darryl and Tracy Johnson, Pat Meadows, K. Tossome, T. Baughman, Jeff and Carol Whetsel, Marjorie Longshore, Irene Myers, and Earl Lohr.

GENE ROBERTS: I've just been given the thumbs up, so we'll get started. Just make your way into the auditorium. I'm Gene Roberts. I'm the Director of Water Resources for Portage County. I'll be doing some of the introductions, and parts will be done by some others here this evening. I'd like to introduce the President of the Board of Commissioners, Vicki Kline. And to her left is Vice President, Sabrina Christian-Bennett. And to her left is Mike Kerrigan, board member. Vince Coia is some place out there. Hi, Vince. Ravenna Township Trustee.

We have Joe Diorio, the Health Commissioner from Portage County Combined Health District. I don't see, there she is. I just barely see her. She's leaning forward there. That's Mary Helen Smith, she's the Director of Environmental Health for the Health District. John Vence is around here some place up here, he hasn't made it up to the stage. When you signed in, John is our Engineering Division Manager. When you signed in, the Project Engineer is Dave Sloan, so he was at the table out front. Also with us is Lesley Gordon. Lesley is sitting on the end. She's with our design team that we selected, CT Consultants. She's the Project Engineer for us.

And then in addition, but not least we have two friends from the Ohio EPA. Sitting in the back is Virginia Wilson and Melanie Barbis. Welcome. So don't let us stray too far from left of center, right? And we'll see if the modern technology works.

The project we're here to discuss tonight and we're trying to name it, if

somebody has a better idea, we're open to it. We'll have to change a resolution or two. We're calling it the Chinn Regional Sewer Improvements Project. Like all projects, we have to have a name in order to go to bid and do all those pieces. The introduction of the project is the purpose of tonight's meeting. And what we're hoping to accomplish is after we've met everybody is to have our President of the Board of County Commissioners to swear in anybody that thinks they're going to speak.

But before we do that, a couple of housekeeping issues. The restrooms are out the rear door. If you walk backwards to the back of the auditorium to the right. Equally then, let me get my notes so I don't miss anything.

If you think you are going to speak, that's where I started, there are microphones. And we have a court reporter down here making sure we don't make any mistakes. So they'll transcribe the comments and questions that come before us. And the whole purpose of this is when you walk up to the microphone all we need is your name and your address. The rest of the information has already been included in the sign in sheets. If you have a question, just start out with your name and your address. I am Gene Roberts from Infirmary Road, 1212 Infirmary Road. That's all we need. The next step is actually the swearing in.

VICKI KLINE: As Gene said, I'm Vicki Kline, President of the Board. And also if, as Gene said, if you are going to speak or you think you are going to speak, and I would tell everyone unless you know for sure you are not going to speak to stand up and take this oath, because then we won't have to do this again. And after I do the oath, you just say, "I do," just like getting married.

Do you solemnly affirm under the penalties of the law of perjury of the State of Ohio that the testimony you are about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth and

nothing but the truth? Please respond.

MANY ATTENDEES: I do.

VICKI KLINE: Thank you very much.

GENE ROBERTS: I like to walk, so I probably should have gotten a portable mic but I will try and glue my feet so you can hear me. The purpose of tonight's meeting is really to introduce the project. We don't have a design, so we don't have a price. What we need, and one of the primary purposes of tonight's meeting is information from you. And it's not specifically information tonight, but to describe the process that we will go through to get the information from you. And there will be some details, and we're available any time you need. Just give us a call. And there's contact information for both the Board and Portage County Water Resource staff in the agenda tonight.

We're here to receive public comments. This is early. It's not a meeting that's required by the Ohio Revised Code to move the project forward, but in order to have the least expensive project, we need to have the most amount of information possible.

The design team and the County staff need to find out what property owners know regarding what can occur in your neighborhood. An example, maybe the Dominion East Ohio Gas ran a gas line down one side of the street and we didn't know it was there. You may, because you've lived there. Those are the kinds of things that we will be asking in a questionnaire that will be sent to your home. Additionally, there has been considerable amount of information that has, at least from what I've been told, maybe circulated that isn't a hundred percent accurate. So one of the big purposes of tonight's meeting is to get everybody on the same page. And if you have any questions going forward, I can't repeat this enough, please call us. We're not here to make it

difficult. We'll give you the best answer. And if you have a question that we think is going to impact everybody in the neighborhood, we're going to send out another mailing so everybody that has the same question can provide input.

A little background on the project. This actually started back in the '80s with apparently some repairs we've been told were made to a common collector pipe. A header pipe that contains sewage from discharging septic systems, and that was repaired as it surfaced in, from what I've been told, more than one location in some back yards.

Then in 2015, the Board of Commissioners received a petition from some of the property owners, by no means a majority, which started this process, and the discussions have not stopped. A lot of things happened in the background that you don't see. It's not like we're trying to hide something. We're trying to do it in the most cost effective and expeditious manner possible.

The Ohio EPA and the Portage County Combined General Health District have conducted field sampling and have identified failing septic systems in the neighborhood, which is the whole purpose of building a sanitary sewer, because there are failing septic systems. The results of the field sampling showed that there's a health concern in your neighborhood and immediately to the west of your neighborhood in a swamp where a large portion of the pipes outfall into that general swamp. If you are driving down Brady Lake Road it's on the left-hand side.

The best alternative is a cooperative effort from everybody to install sanitary sewers and take everybody off of the septic tanks in whatever form you have. And I'm sure the health department will be here to discuss that with you this evening, the Health District. I apologize, I keep slipping on that one.

The County Commissioners have instructed Water Resources to start the process of the design of the sanitary sewer; hence, the reason we have CT Consultants under contract to do that. In the letter that you received about tonight's meeting, you may have already seen surveyors in your neighborhood. They were starting to gather the information for the base map that will be necessary in order to do a complete, full design.

The CT Consultants was selected by Portage County Water Resources and approved by the Board of Commissioners to do that. And in addition they'll be doing some geotechnical drilling. You may see a drill, a big truck with a drill on the back of it that's going to drill down and find some soil samples. We're also looking for is there a rock outcropping that could impact the route we've selected. It's really expensive to excavate rocks, so we try and figure out where that's at. We're not going to hit 100 percent, but we hope we can do a good job for you.

Right now this evening there are 305 property owners that have been identified based on the geographic area that we're trying to figure out what gets sewer and what doesn't. Just because you were notified tonight does not mean you would receive sewers. We looked and found from topo maps that are not really accurate, but representative of accuracy, 50-foot elevation difference through your neighborhood. Now, you can imagine the necessity to dig 50-foot deep. We're not going to do that. So the design not being done, the whole purpose of this is to figure out what's the best way to provide the service at the least expensive cost understanding that there are areas and lot sizes that may not require sanitary sewer service, so we would not drill 50-foot deep through the ground to try and figure out how to get you service.

Having said all that, Mary Helen, I think we need to switch the Power Point.

MARY HELEN SMITH: So, thank you. My name is Mary Helen Smith. I'm the Director of Environmental Health for the Portage County Health District. We really appreciate the County Commissioners and Water Resources to include us in the opportunity to explain the sampling that had occurred in your area. A year or two ago you might have seen our inspectors out there. So we're providing you with a copy of the results of what we determined at that time.

So what happened in March of 2016, we had started in 2015 to try to do some sampling and investigation in response to a complaint, but in March of 2016 Ohio EPA received a complaint from one of the home owners in the community and made a complaint of unsanitary conditions. EPA sent out two of their inspectors from the Northeast District Office out of Twinsburg and they undertook sampling of their own where the initial complaint was made.

They provided us results for two sets of samples. They sampled at Genevieve and they collected two samples following EPA's protocol for determining public health nuisance in accordance with EPA's statutes and requirements. And the standard is, you will notice at the bottom of the document, the standard under both the Ohio Department of Health standard that the Health Department uses under Revised Code 3718 and under the EPA's Water Quality Standards for a nuisance under Administrative Code 3745 sets the standard at 1,030 units of Escherichia coli. EPA's results for the samples that they collected showed a total of 110,000, and a second sample of 64,000 on Genevieve, and then they went down and collected a sample at Red Brush because that's where the property owner thought it exited your community, and they got a sample of 36,000, and 95,000. At that point they were pretty surprised. Those are quite high readings. At that time they contacted both the Health District and Water Resources and

did a review of our files, they saw the petition that was submitted to the County Commissioners, and then they spent quite a bit of time creating their own evaluation of that data. This is a copy of just a picture of the sample where they collected the one set of samples on Genevieve.

And at that point in September of 2016 they invited, Ohio EPA invited Portage County Water Resources and the Health District up to their office to talk about the community and their findings. And at that point they more or less were wanting to do an enforcement referral. And at that point we sort of negotiated with EPA and said, well, we're not sure that just two samples is reflective of almost upwards of 300 homes. So we asked them for additional time to undertake a sampling of our own following the protocol that's required, and they allowed us to do that.

So the Health District agreed to a time line for sampling and report and Water Resources agreed to review the data, and then based on that to develop a time line if there was a problem that was determined.

So they very, they assisted us, they came down and they did training with our staff to make sure that the samples and the method that we were collecting was accurate, and that we were making the holding times and requirements for collecting the samples so that they were viable results, and we, what we provided you is a copy of a diagram of all of your properties and what we think is at your house. And on the back of it is the sampling results. As you leave the auditorium the map of the location of the sampling results is the last map as you leave the auditorium. And we found 16 locations within the community, and we had, we collected no less than four samples at each of those. One of the sample points that we selected was dry the whole time.

And looking at the table that you have that's provided, looking at the table

that I've provided on the back, there was one sample that had a result of 1,100. The standard is 1,030. Some of the results were as high as 12 million. Some of the results are 49,000, 130,000, 1.1 million. So they're extremely high samples and they're all throughout the community in all of the locations that we sampled.

So at that point we were pretty convinced that it wasn't just several houses, that it was impacting the whole neighborhood completely. And so we backed up and we undertook an assessment of all of the properties that were surrounded by these sample points. And we gave this map to you tonight because we also are asking for your input and help.

The dots are color coded to what our files tell us we may or may not know about your sewage treatment system. If it is a green dot, that is somebody that probably had to fix their system so that they could sell their house, then the bank probably required during a point of sale for it to be upgraded or repaired. If it is sort of a salmon colored dot, we believe it to be slightly new in technology, put in maybe the '70s or early '80s and it's a tiled field, and on what we call evaporation trenches. We probably have no idea as to the functionality of that system. It's probably as old as your house, but it doesn't mean that it's not working, we just don't know whether it is or is not causing a public health nuisance, because it's an on lot sewage system and we've never received a complaint about it.

If it is red, it is either a complaint that we've gotten along the way in the last couple of years and we've come out and documented on your particular property that it is failing and exceeding the standard of 1,030, or that it is one of those old chemical tanks which is prohibited technology now or it could be a leech well which is also considered prohibited technology, because it is a direct conduit to groundwater. And

those terms are used interchangeably.

If it is purple, it is either an old filter bed, which is discharging, also considered illegal technology. If it's purple it could be what we call this special classification of systems put in prior to 2006 starting maybe around 1984, '86, that is discharging. If you're taking care of it, it might be meeting the standards. If it's not being taken care of, and it doesn't have a service contract and it's not maintained, it would be failing. And there are several of those surrounding the sewer project also. If it is yellow, we don't know anything about your septic system, which means it's probably as old as the house, and a better chance that it's one of the prohibited technologies.

And then on this map is the Genevieve Red Brush discharge point. So if you look, okay. Sorry. What I'm trying to find is this point right here. That's Red Brush. This is where EPA originally found the discharge point, this is where the health department thought that it was discharging. But it really wasn't that terribly bad. What happened during the sampling event is that we are also contracted by the County Commissioners to do storm water outfall verification and identifications. So after a storm event a pipe that's entering a ditch is supposed to be dry. So while we were doing the sampling in your community, we were also undertaking these activities around other townships, and lo and behold and independent of the study we found that point. And that point ended up being the discharge point for all of this failing sewage treatment systems.

We found that by a sign that I'll show later on. Once we completed the sampling event, the inspectors went back and put dye at this catch basin and came down here looking to see if it came out and it didn't come out right away. So they got really kind of confused, so they went back and put dye on the other side of it and thinking well,

maybe the flow would be different. And then eventually, both dyes came out at this point. So all of the sewage from this community is actually running to a self-contained wetlands area that is south of Brady Lake.

This is a copy of the sampling locations that were throughout the community.

The highest sampling points were up here at number 6 and number 5 that were around 12 million. And number 6. And then I think it was number 15, this sample point was always dry, but this sample point was continuing.

So that's a copy of the dye, the picture of the dye that both colors ended up from both directions from Red Brush. The reason the dots are not connected is that we were able to establish that the sewage is getting from Red Brush down to south of Brady Lake. We just don't know where that pipe goes, so we did not want to draw some kind of storm water or sewer connection or something through someone's backyard when we really didn't know that it was in their backyard. So this is part of the information that Water Resources is hoping that maybe somebody knows where that connection is between those two points. That's it.

GENE ROBERTS: Thank you, Mary Helen. Everybody wants to talk about project costs, and we're nowhere close to doing that, but I want you to understand there's two pieces to the cost. One is the cost that is public in nature to install the public portions of the sanitary sewer mains and laterals. Everything that's within the public right-of-way is a shared cost equally distributed by the benefitted properties. The part that you can play a part and control your cost, is you can help us control ours, is on your property, and we'll get into that in a little more detail here in a second.

What makes the shared cost is really a combination of surveying and design, that's project related. If we have to buy land to build a lift station. We don't know yet.

Or if we have to obtain easements because of the topography it makes more sense to go around somebody's house than it is to go down front. Construction of the sewers, the actual construction work, project administration, the construction, inspection and project financing, the project will be of such magnitude that we're going to have to borrow money in order to achieve the final outcome, which is the construction.

On the individual property owner side, there's also cost that will be borne by the property owners, which is the connection impact. So if you can figure out how to get your sanitary sewer lateral positioned at the right-of-way line which we're happy to do for you, and get it to the shortest distance you want to connect with the minimal impact, and we'll get into some details on that in a second. Equally, the sewer connection fee and permits, the best thing you can do is interview several contractors, and maybe even form a co-op, several property owners come together and get the same contractor because there's scale on a common. You will have to pump your existing septic tanks however they may be configured, whether it's a chemical tank or what we commonly call a septic tank. And the plumbing construction, depending on how you elect to do the work inside your house. If you are going to connect just exactly where the septic tank connected on the outside there will be no plumbing costs relative to changing inside. There are still some other fees that the health department charges to verify that there's separation between water and dirty water. With that, I'm going to turn it over to Mr. Vence to talk about project financing.

JOHN VENCE: Good evening. My name is John Vence and I run and lead our Construction and Design Groups in Water Resources, and I'm here to talk to you a little bit about an important aspect of the project, and that is the financing of it. Essentially how are we going to pay for this? This is a very basic overview for a preliminary

meeting. As time goes on and the project develops there's a lot of details within these three categories that you see on your screen that will become apparent and discussed at a later time.

The first one we have there is our staff at Water Resources and Project Management, as Gene discussed previously here, we've got CT on board. To get them on board we publicly advertised for area firms. We got responses back. We accepted 15 proposals in response to this project. We went through them as a team internally, our Design and Construction Group personnel. We reviewed them, graded them on a criteria, slimmed them down to a couple that we further moved on and interviewed. We finally essentially made a choice who we thought was best to represent this project and that's who we have at this point. And some agree there was a good amount of effort to get to this so far. This has all happened in the past several months before tonight's meeting. So Portage County at this time basically paid for salaries and the due process to get to that, that has already started to be attributed toward our project.

Moving in to the second category there is acknowledgment for grants and loans. We don't know if this project is going to be acceptable to get a grant or loan in good terms. Part of the reason for having CT on board is they have experienced personnel who deal in that and the loan requirement. We also have internal people on staff who have years of experience also with that due process. They have professional people involved in projects that are very similar to this in nature that have acquired funding for good positive impact anyways for the project.

Moving into the last category there, we foresee this project being an assessment project. You probably heard that term before. Assessment, the word assessment in general is a term to use back for repayment. There's a formal process,

there's steps that need to be conducted, even guidelines by Ohio Code. We foresee this project fitting that mold anyways, the best way to move forward on the financing. The repayment process for that assessment of course is borne to the responsibility of the home owners within the district. Again, that repayment process is the county's going to go out and borrow money and pay for all of the design, pay for all of the construction and move the project along, get the project built where it's ready to connect for the end users, sanitary sewer users, and then the repayment process would be kicked into effect thereafter.

Hereafter this meeting in the due process again, we'll talk about the terms, the length of that repayment process, details as much as interest rates and how all that works. But at this point anyways we give a general idea anyways with those three categories.

The next topic I'm going to talk to you a little bit about is the schedule here. There we go. So the plan is we've got to acknowledge there and this schedule is also outlined in your agenda packet as the last page in that sheet. And this took some working out through some weeks anyways of what others' involvement, not only us, Ohio EPA is involved and what we all feel is a legitimate time frame to accomplish the goal. Five years is a pretty good amount, length of time, but there's a lot of effort and a lot of things to do yet to get to the end product here to finish the construction. We've got it outlined with five general categories there, general plan, moving into pursuing funding, the design phase, the assessment process that I just mentioned, time for the meetings, time for the input from the affected property owners within the assessment district, and then moving into construction.

So the calendar is started here today already within that five year plan

schedule. You can see there was a date there, 6/23 that was referencing the date I think when we finally approved this five year map anyways, for completion. Down towards the end there we've got a construction phase. So what we're looking at is we've outlined a year, 15 months anyways, for construction. So the plan is from this five year schedule is that pretty much at the end of 2022 the sewers would be constructed and they would be ready for the individual home owners to connect and tie into.

Again, my name is John Vence. My contact information is in that agenda. Again, it's a general overview of these two categories. And Gene's going to step up next with some more house and lateral details for discussion.

GENE ROBERTS: I will try to move this out so I can see you and see the screen. The first slide up here is where you are probably at at some point or another. There's a septic system, maybe there's a leech field, maybe there isn't, it could be a tank that you have pumped, a chemical tank. Regardless, it's buried in the ground either in the front of your house or the back of your house and it may be connected to a common collector pipe. Again, we don't know. That's specific to each individual property.

The couple of pieces I want to re-point out if I can do this, right here is what's called the exit point from the building. And on the outside of that would become the lateral. But the reason I point this out is if you notice where it's coming out it's above the basement floor. Common term in our industry is high wall, it's also called an overhead discharge, because it's coming out above the floor, so it's over the floor. The reason that's important we'll get to.

If you notice on the slide on the left, we're connecting just like it would be if it was a septic system. Your plumbing fixtures are discharging high wall. And if you notice the slope of the pipe is deep enough that it's going to drain fine into the main.

The house on the right is now being discharged through the basement floor, which means there's no more sewage pumps in the basement, no more mechanical devices to lift the drain water from the washer as an example, up to the discharge. So gravity will work and the design should include wherever possible the ability to actually drain to the basement floor. And if it was my house, my preferred method is, gravity is so far free, they're not charging us an electric bill for it, so getting under the footer is a good deal. The reason this is a point, if you don't, this is being plumbed again, high wall, above the basement floor.

Here we have an ejector pump where the washer/dryer, the wash tubs, the toilet in the basement has to drain into a device that pumps. And if you do that, that's an alternative, but if you do that you are now responsible for that pump forever and ever. That's not something that's owned and operated by the County. That's a private property owner.

One of the things we would like to point out on this slide if you notice over here that's a sump pump. And that is designed strictly to handle the footer drains and under the basement floor, the slab. That's not designed to take gray water from the washing machine. One of the things that's required through this process is to make sure we separate clean water from dirty water. All right?

Here's an example of how you can help yourself. And this is, if there's 200 homes serviced, there will be 200 different stories. But if you look that house on the left in the plan view up above, here he's come all the way around his house to connect. Well, that just doesn't make sense when it's shorter to go the other way, right? Except for the fact that he has the driveway. The driveway, it could be a 30-year old or 40-year old or 50-year old oak tree you don't want to lose, you don't want to interrupt it. That is an

alternative to go a longer distance and connect. Plan A.

Plan B, and this gentleman on the right he's actually going the shortest route because there's no interruption for him. You have to look at each one of your parcels individually, we'll be happy to help where we can, and decide this. Part of it may be talking to a contractor that does this, and he can help you gauge from his cost analysis what's going to be the cheapest cost for you to connect. It's important to understand if you look down here at the bottom, you see this R/W, that's a right-of-way line. That's the equivalent to your front property line. The roadway is in the middle in this example, but if you notice the pipe is a little bit to the right. Again, part of the shared cost is the lateral in this area. So the lateral is owned and maintained by the County. If it fails 20 years from now in that section in the right-of-way, the County comes out and fixes it. If it's behind a right-of-way line or on the private property site, that's your maintenance responsibility. So help us help you, because it will save a lot of money.

What you will receive, and this is just a similar example for you, what you are going to receive in the mail in addition to the questionnaire that will help us define how this project evolves is the site schematic once the survey is done. CT Consultants will actually provide us a copy of your site plan. And it's not going to be a hundred percent to scale, but it's good enough for what we need to accomplish. We need to define based on where your footprint of your building is how you want to come out. Do you want the lateral right, dead center? Do you want it to the left, do you want it to the right, you don't care about the driveway? Maybe the driveway isn't, is totally on your property, you can come around the house this way. All of those things can be decided. And if you let us know ahead of time we'll get the lateral at the right-of-way line where it's the least expensive for you to connect to it.

Some of the things that we're going to need to know on this sketch is where your plumbing exists in your house. A real key element if you go home tonight and you look up on your roof, you are going to find a soil stack. Some people call it a stink pipe. It's in the area that the pressure inside your house is released when you flush the toilet. You get the gust of water. It won't go down if there's not a plug of air at the top. Well, that air relief pipe is a good indication of where vertically your plumbing is housed inside a wall, just a short step. But if you can show that, identify the location of your septic system if you know. Some cases you may not. Some of these were built back in the '50s, so there's little to no record as Mary Helen pointed out, it says you have septic system but there's no record of how it was built. If you know, if you have had it cleaned and the septic cleaner, show us what information you have, all right? And answer the questions in the questionnaire, sign and name and date, send it back to us. We're going to take all this information along with a partner in the design side and we're going to start putting these on the map where it makes sense. It saves money so let's focus on saving money. Back to the example.

If you have any questions as you proceed, there's contact information. We're more than happy to come out and spend 15, 20 minutes with you and get you pointed in the right direction. That's what we're here for.

All right. Questions and comments? Again, please go to a microphone so that we can get the question clearly understood and we'll be happy to answer everything we can to a point. No questions? Microphone, name and address.

MARTIN BRAUN: Hi, my name is Martin Braun. I live at 6463 Marchinn. I apologize for coming in late. I'm assuming this is the right --

VICKI KLINE: Does he need to be sworn in?

SABRINA CHRISTIAN-BENNETT: Yes, he will. I am going to go ahead and swear you in.

VICKI KLINE: Because you weren't here in the beginning.

SABRINA CHRISTIAN-BENNETT: Do you solemnly affirm under the penalties of the law of perjury of the State of Ohio that the testimony you are about to give shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth? Please respond I do.

MARTIN BRAUN: I do. Okay. So I again, I apologize for coming in late. This is the soonest I could come in. I have a couple of questions. First of all, has this already been approved, and this is just giving us information as to the process that's going forward?

GENE ROBERTS: Best way to answer that, and I'm sorry you missed the presentation by Mary Helen, the Director of Environmental Health for Portage County. There is a problem. We know that. That's where we start. How we resolve that problem we start tonight. So is anything in concrete yet? Absolutely not.

MARTIN BRAUN: Okay. Good. Because the questions that come to my attention was the bill that our governor has basically vetoed discussing cities such as Columbus, Akron, major cities that are price gouging neighboring cities and that there isn't an equitable fee that's associated with the sewage. And that's been reported in the Columbus Dispatch June 26, 2018.

Another issue that I'm concerned about is that we have we had utility bills that are soaking residents. That's been recorded in the Akron Beacon Journal. And we have increased sewage rates that are occurring as well. So my concern is fairness of the fees that are going forward. I'm also concerned for my residents in my area who have recently put in a septic system, they have been, they haven't been, they have been falsely

informed that they were going to be getting public sewage, and now after they put in a septic system, now they're going to have to be paying for this as well.

We've had the past 16 years of runaway government that's been spending a lot of our money, and their solution is to increase taxes, and we have a group of people here that are recovering from their financial losses, which it is an undue burden upon them. So what we need to have is solutions from all of you on how it's going to, how we're going to have fair and equitable fees that are going to be by committee, moderated, allow us to be able to vote or speak up on how we're being charged, so there needs to be some form of oversight. And if this is, we're going to pay for this out of pocket, that there's going to have to be some way that we're going to be able to pay for it such as a bond zero percent interest on uses and have the cities pay for inflationary rate. So those are my chief concerns.

GENE ROBERTS: If I could address those. First off, just so there's no confusion, we're talking capital expense to install the sewer versus operating expense which are the fees you are talking about.

MARTIN BRAUN: Correct. I'm actually addressing both.

GENE ROBERTS: The Board of Commissioners has charged Water Resources when I started with developing a fair and equitable rate structure going forward. And part of that is rate stabilization so you don't go for 20 years and then get a 70 percent increase. The idea is small increases over a shorter duration, which is more palatable and more dependable from somebody that is going to pay the bill. But we're not done with that. It's been ongoing for over 18 months. The water portion is done. The waste water component isn't. Understand that Portage County Water Resources does not operate as a profit organization. We operate based on cost. Our expense is what drives

the rate. Now, there is some portion of the rate that needs to be in a set aside fund for emergency. We have yet to figure out what that is. I can tell you from back of match book we're over a hundred million dollars' worth of assets to maintain. And a large portion were installed in the '60s and '70s and '80s and they're rapidly approaching end of useful life. That won't be the case for this region, because it will be built new. So going forward your rate would be the same as everybody else. The idea is to stabilize the rates across the entire region so that everybody pays their fair share.

MARTIN BRAUN: Wonderful. I appreciate that and that's why there needs to be some type of public oversight. We've heard for the past eight years about transparency, and we got far from that. Okay, and I mean, I am an equal opportunity criticizer of both parties. Don't get me wrong. So one of the things that concerns me is that I don't believe we've had one report of a health issue. Now, granted, I believe in clear and clean environment. I believe that we should have a sewage system. But it needs to be expressed to us why we must have this, and could we on an individual basis do it more affordably than what you have to offer?

GENE ROBERTS: This is Joe, he's our Director, I'm sorry, Health Commissioner for Portage County Health District.

JOE DIORIO: So I apologize for you coming in a little bit late. Part of our presentation early on was the discussion of Ohio EPA came out and did a complaint, where they actually took some samples. This was part of our discussion earlier before you came in. So Ohio EPA actually came in and did some sampling and determined that the levels were exceeding the 1,030 limits, far exceeding those. What we did was we negotiated with Ohio EPA to say, you know what? I could not as a Health Commissioner go to my Board of Health and say, Ohio EPA took these samples and we're going to

declare a public health nuisance and require sewer for this whole area for 300 people. So what we agreed upon with Ohio EPA was that my agency would take into consideration the samples that were done by Ohio EPA, we would undergo a regimen and sampling protocol where we took samples throughout the whole Chinn allotment and came up with data to actually represent that there is, and everyone saw that earlier, that there is an exceedingly high problem with the discharge of E-coli up to the limits, like I said, the acceptable limit is 1,030. And some of the limits I think in the northern sample 6, northern central part of Chinn allotment was in 12 million.

MARTIN BRAUN: My question then regarding that: Has there been anyone admitted to a hospital suffering from E-coli related to this?

JOE DIORIO: Not that I'm aware of.

MARTIN BRAUN: Thank you.

SABRINA CHRISTIAN-BENNETT: Please state your first and last name and your address.

GARY HOGAN: My name is Gary Hogan and I'm at 6455 Genevieve. And if you look at your map, I have the dubious distinction of being the Hogan Genevieve Red Brush drainage ditch.

A little background. I built the house in 1980. Nothing on the deed restrictions or the title search showed anything about drain tile running consistently through all our properties. In that drain tile is raw sewage. In 1986 I had a hole open up in front of my house with toilet paper, feces, about a four-foot wide hole down in the ground bubbling up after a rain storm. I contacted the health department, the only thing they told me to do was put a fence around it, that was it. I hired an attorney, because the health department couldn't tell me anything about it. And one week I had the name of

17 homes in the neighborhood tied into that drain tile that they knew of.

My neighbors agreed to help me fix that pipe. We connected it from the front of my property to the back of my property. Now, behind that on my neighbors' properties the drain tile's blowing open and I have a two foot wide, foot and a half to two foot deep ditch of toilet water.

Now, I've been told by the EPA don't let my grandkids get near it. The hunting dogs can't get close. At one time when they first measured it, it was 220,000 E-coli rate, okay? It's still flowing. I've been fighting since 1986. I feel sorry for people whose septic systems are fine, but I can't sell my house. I've had two realtors tell me I can't sell my house with that condition. Okay. And I've reached a boiling point. What are we gonna do for five years? I have water this deep of sewage and it goes into Ernie's yard and my other neighbors back down and through. You know, I'd like some mitigation somehow. We've had homes sold. Are they still tied into this pipe? Nobody's ever told me. We have neighbors doing a good job. We've had some homes being taken care of, but are they still tied in? I don't know. But when you have grandkids that can't even play in your yard because of raw sewage, something's wrong.

I'm paying \$3,400 a year in property tax and I get no relief from any of this and I've tried. I've been patient. But there comes a point where you know, we don't even drink our water anymore. When I drilled the well in 1980 it was three percent of the best water in Portage County. Now I can't even drink it. It smells, it's discolored, I had to put a water softener in, I change it every three weeks because the water's bad. And where is this sewage going? We know it's going into Red Brush, Jeb's pond, in Jeb's swamp, the Cuyahoga, who knows. It's also going into our water table, because the drain tile is not male and female. It's butting together with cracks. And my neighbor

across the street has it bubbling up into his side yard.

That's why I'm here. I want some mitigation. Eventually I want to sell my house. How? How do you do that? How do you tell your grandkids? Can't play in the yard in the back. Thank you.

PAUL HYLAND: My name is Paul Hyland. I live at 6388 Roselawn Avenue. I just had a couple questions. I wasn't clear, it seems like, you know, making an assessment, you mean dealing with costs. We have several properties in this area and I want to get a feeling for what the cost might be. So it sounded like there was going to be an assessment for all the properties no matter whether you tied in or not.

GENE ROBERTS: Just order of magnitude. I can't tell you what it's going to be actually until the project is done, because the assessment amount is the actual construction amount plus the other issues we've identified earlier. I can say this: We've just finished bidding a project in Brimfield Township for 56 homes and we're in the neighborhood for you folks 18,000, \$19,000. And you are writing that down so I know later you are going to quote that to me.

PAUL HYLAND: No. I understand.

GENE ROBERTS: It's an order of magnitude. All we can do right now is everything we can to get the price down. That price does not include the price for your side of the line. You know, the connection. So banding together and getting as many people in one group and getting some economic scale and relief by multiple houses being connected at one time by one contractor will ultimately save some money.

PAUL HYLAND: I understand. But even in your plan we talk about pursuing funding early next year. You are going to have to have some idea of what the cost is going to be at that point.

GENE ROBERTS: Once the 30 percent design is done, we'll have some idea based on lineal foot, which properties will be served, which ones most likely will not be served, then we can start putting some budgetary numbers together. Now, we say we're going to start looking for grants. And most cases we can't even apply until the year prior to. Now, I can say that the schedule has room in it, and we'll do all we can after hearing the gentleman speak tonight about the problem that preexists in the neighborhood to condense that as much as possible, but there are a lot of stumbling blocks to a project of this size. One person wants it and somebody right next door doesn't, and so we have to balance both sides. We will do everything we can to exercise all due diligence and transparency.

PAUL HYLAND: So if I don't want it or I don't need it I don't get assessed?

GENE ROBERTS: No. Everybody that we go in front of their house will be assessed. Everybody. That's the only way you can build a project like this. Think of it as, I live at the far end and I'm going to build all this sewer to get to my property and pay for all of it.

PAUL HYLAND: So what was your point about the neighbor next door doesn't want it?

GENE ROBERTS: We have to exercise the same due diligence to the property owners who don't want it as those who do want it. In other words, we're not going to skip any steps. We'll do all we can to find money. I wish it was shovel ready now. I'm told there's a lot of money available, twice what there typically is. But we're not shovel ready.

PAUL HYLAND: From my perspective if I have several houses I have to tie in and be assessed to, I've got to start planning for that probably the same time you do for

funding because I can't come up with all this money at once.

GENE ROBERTS: Nine months to a year from now we can get close. We'll be within a reasonable margin. The number now I believe that was just quoted, I'm going to say this and I'll be shot for it, I think it is higher than what it will be because we're looking at six times more properties to bear the cost of design, six times more properties to bear the cost of finance. That means scale of economy for the project.

PAUL HYLAND: Okay. Fair enough. I have another question. A lot of this area is sandy soil, and I know that one of the houses near one of my properties, they had an aeration system put in and the excavator had a terrible time putting it in even the, I don't know how far deep he went but, just because of the sandy soil, is that a consideration that's being considered?

GENE ROBERTS: If you remember, early on we said the surveyors were working for CT Consultants, you may have seen them in the neighborhood and geotechnical firms will be out confirming how deep that is. Sometimes you will have five, six foot of sand overlying clay. You get through the sand with a trench box and you are six feet below. We need to know that. That impacts cost, so we're looking at that. Most excavators that are going to bid on a project of this magnitude come equipped with the ability to excavate in loose sand.

PAUL HYLAND: Okay. Site plans, when are they going to be available?

GENE ROBERTS: To connect?

PAUL HYLAND: For us to look at.

GENE ROBERTS: There will be another public meeting, absolutely.

PAUL HYLAND: When?

GENE ROBERTS: Probably nine months to 12 months from now, because the

survey has to be produced. The surveyor has to produce the documents, the individual property owners need to review them, identify their location, then we start the process of laying out on paper what makes sense.

PAUL HYLAND: So in nine to 12 months we're going to review it with the property owners?

GENE ROBERTS: You will review a probably 30 percent complete design and a budgetary number. Wait a minute. Let me step forward. Is she kicking me? Is that possible? Nine months to 12 months for 30 percent?

LESLEY GORDON: Yeah, I think there are two questions being asked. You are asking about the individual sheets with the house and the property?

PAUL HYLAND: If I want to know where to tie into.

LESLEY GORDON: Right. I think you are asking two questions, one is, sorry. The individual sheets for each property showing where your house is relative to the road should be available to you and for us to send out to everybody to mark up prior to that 30 percent design so that we can start incorporating, getting all that information back so that we can incorporate it into the design.

PAUL HYLAND: Fair enough. Thank you.

SABRINA CHRISTIAN-BENNETT: Thank you. Steve.

STEPHEN COLECCHI: My name is Attorney Steve Colecchi. I do not live in the neighborhood, although I used to. I am here representing my mother, Josephine, 6459 Genevieve Road. Following up on some of the questions, these are more from a practical standpoint. Obviously my mom and other individuals in this room are on fixed incomes. So using your current time schedule, assuming the project moves forward, what year might they expect assessments to start, and what is the time period for the

pay back of the assessments?

GENE ROBERTS: Time period is a good question yet to be decided. One of the questions in the questionnaire is, do you want bigger payments in a shorter time span or longer time span and smaller payments? There's a time, value and money connection to that. So the overall pay back will be higher if we spread it out.

STEPHEN COLECCHI: Can you give some examples on some other projects, what the time periods have been?

GENE ROBERTS: 20, 25, 30 years. We can go less. I think there's a cap in the Ohio Revised Code and I think it's 30.

STEPHEN COLECCHI: And so are we talking 2022?

GENE ROBERTS: At the earliest. Probably in 2023.

STEPHEN COLECCHI: Because obviously folks need to plan for that. The other part is there, and would that be the same time period for actually making the connections?

GENE ROBERTS: A connection, if you look at the schedule, it would start, probably mid 2022. And like I said, we'll do everything we can to make it 2021.

STEPHEN COLECCHI: So the earliest assessment would be 2022. The actual individual home owner's costs for their lateral connection would be about the same time period.

GENE ROBERTS: Correct.

STEPHEN COLECCHI: And let me clarify just based on some of the earlier comments, and correct me if I'm wrong, but there's not a choice. Once the sanitary sewer is installed in front of your property, you must tie in. And I think based on the questions, I'm not sure that was clear to some.

GENE ROBERTS: Because we don't know which properties will be included as of tonight, there are 305 homes. We started with 254. But as we set the boundaries, that's the maximum. We're not going to go outside those boundaries, so it's going to stay inside that. What properties are big enough that can support an on site system, you know, and remote so we don't have to extend the sewer a thousand feet to get to your property to give you service, it doesn't make sense where you have eight, 10 acres, you don't need to provide service.

STEPHEN COLECCHI: One other question and really follow-up to Mr. Hogan's question and I was curious, so you are not looking to add expense but you know, you did run the water up Brady Lake Road recently. Was there any consideration to adding water as part of this project?

GENE ROBERTS: The water is actually City of Ravenna Water Service area. And if you want that, one of the questions in the questionnaire that will be forthcoming here shortly is just that question. And we can partner, we would be the lead because of the assessment component, but yes, if the majority of the people want water, we can put it in the neighborhood with little effort.

STEPHEN COLECCHI: Okay. Thank you.

MARGE DRUGAN: My name is Marge Drugan, and I live at 6422 Red Brush. My question is --

SABRINA CHRISTIAN-BENNETT: Can you please speak up? Thank you.

MARGE DRUGAN: My name is Marge Drugan. I live at 6422 Red Brush Road. And I haven't heard anything mentioned about a lift station being included. Is this all going to be included in the price of what we're going to have to pay for?

GENE ROBERTS: The answer is yes. But we don't know. And I keep saying

we don't know because there's no design. And some preliminary sketches there may be two lift stations versus one. There's an existing lift station, which means the County already owns the property out towards 59 that could potentially provide service in this neighborhood with an upgrade. So we save the money on property acquisition. All that's still very preliminary.

MARGE DRUGAN: Okay. Is this going to be backed up with a generator so that we're not going to have to worry about anything?

GENE ROBERTS: Absolutely. We would not build one today without it.

MARGE DRUGAN: Okay. Thank you.

SABRINA CHRISTIAN-BENNETT: Are there anymore questions or comments?

JOHN CARPENTER: My name John Carpenter. I live at 6492 Wall Street, I am also not quite sure about the rest of Wall Street, but I live on corner of Wall and Maple and there's like a couple storm sewers on our property there, and there's also something caved in, so I'm wondering is there any plans to take care of those with this project?

GENE ROBERTS: Not part of our project. We only deal with sanitary water. That would either go to the county engineer or to the township.

JOHN CARPENTER: Okay. And also too, I was wondering there's, I know a lot of people in my neighborhood there's a private ownership. I was wondering about the, who's gonna restore the property once the digging is done?

GENE ROBERTS: Within the public right-of-way part of our contract is restoration. Outside of the public right-of-way on your private property that would be in coordination with your selected contractor or if you do the work yourself. Some

cases the people will have the excavator come in and do the work and then they take care of all of the restoration. It's really a matter of what portion you want to put sweat equity into versus dollars.

JOHN CARPENTER: Okay. And one other question. What percentage of the project is the County or the, going to pay for the like, as far as putting a system in? What percentage of that is the County going to pay for?

GENE ROBERTS: The County's portion is Water Resource staff time. Grant money is yet to be determined. The one project I mentioned earlier in the adjoining township down in Brimfield, 25 percent was paid for by grant money. Not saying we're going to get it here. I'm just saying there's an order of magnitude there, which then in turn reduces the amount you pay.

JOHN CARPENTER: And what happens to the existing septic tanks on the property once you tie into those?

GENE ROBERTS: They have to be crushed, pumped out, crushed and backfilled with good material. So they can't be left.

JOHN CARPENTER: Okay.

WAYNE WISE: My name is Wayne Wise, 6433 Woodlawn Avenue. I have a neighbor that's worried about between now and the time they get in are they going to force people that have bad sewage systems to put in new systems?

JOE DIORIO: I can tell you that from the Health District standpoint we're going to work with all of you. We're going to work with the best interests of the whole community. We'll have to determine on a case-by-case basis where you are at with your septic system, because obviously we want it to continue functioning, but eventually yes, you are going to have to tie in with the sewer project --

WAYNE WISE: No, I'm not worried about tying in. I'm saying what happens between now and 2022?

GENE ROBERTS: If his septic system goes bad.

JOE DIORIO: If it's identified as failing, we will try and work with the home owner to try and alleviate if at all any possibility of, we also have some grant money available that we might be able to use to try and assist with some of those repairs. But we want to try and make it so it's functioning, at least until the meantime until the sanitary sewer can be put in. So like I mentioned, we'll work with the home owners on a case-by-case basis if it does come up as failing. As you've seen earlier, many of them are failing and are discharging horribly. So there's not a lot that we can do. I'm not going to force you to say you know what, you need to spend \$15,000, because the lots are so small right now, that's part of the problem is that you don't have a replacement. And it doesn't make sense, feasibility, it doesn't make economic sense to replace a system that's going to have to be, you are going to have to tie in eventually.

WAYNE WISE: Okay. My second question is since we're, the septic systems at this point are normally going out the back of the house why can't we run a sewer line in the back on the --

GENE ROBERTS: Which is exactly what we're showing here. That's where the septic would go out the back of the house and you are running a proposed lateral all the way around the house.

WAYNE WISE: Why not put the sewer --

GENE ROBERTS: The problem is in order to clean the sewer, we have a big truck that won't be supported by your lawn. So we put it next to the public street so we can get in and clean. It's really about maintenance. Otherwise we're going to build, even

if it's a buried road below the grass, an increased cost.

WAYNE WISE: Not as much as it's going to cost to go around and re-do your plumbing on the inside.

GENE ROBERTS: There is an alternative. You could run through the house. And if it was my house, that's what I would do. I would keep the plumbing in the house as long as possible and then go out the front.

MARY HELEN SMITH: Gene, can you hear me in this one? We want to clarify a point about this question, if some of these septic systems are going to have to be fixed. As Mr. Hogan indicated, this is malfunctioning in the back of his yard where it actually has an opening in the pipe. We would encourage all of you to mitigate the problem in the next couple years while it's being designed and constructed that maybe take your laundry to a laundromat and minimize some of the water that you use.

However, Portage County Health District does not require a point of sale real estate program. We will provide that service from somebody that's selling your house to someone else as a fee for service. So we may not require it to be fixed, but if you sell your house we've had two or three instances where the bank has required that the septic system actually be replaced before they would do the finance.

So look at the map that we talked about earlier. Out of the 290 to 300 houses, I think there are approximately four people that over the last couple years actually have new septic systems because the bank required it during the transfer of the property.

PAUL HYLAND: I had a quick question. This is Paul Hyland again, 6388 Roselawn. In terms of the fully compliant aeration system installed per EPA requirements, do we have to tie in?

GENE ROBERTS: The short answer is?

MARY HELEN SMITH: The short answer will be yes. The Ohio Department of Health Sewage Treatment System Regulations require that when sanitary sewer is available or accessible to a property which is defined by the Professional Engineers Code in EPA's Title 61 that if it is available and accessible to the property that the existing sewage treatment system must be available and tied into the sanitary sewer.

PAUL HYLAND: That's, I know of several systems that went in just recently. Was there any thought about letting these property owners know that this was coming down the pike?

MARY HELEN SMITH: I'm not sure I understood the question.

PAUL HYLAND: Several aeration systems have been installed in that area already just recently.

MARY HELEN SMITH: Yes. If you look on the map, there are four dots that are green that are new, upgraded household sewage treatment systems. Again, we have a voluntary point of sale program. It was disclosed during the property transfers that those were malfunctioning septic systems. It was disclosed that there is a sewer project proposed for the area, and the banks still required the transfer. What we understand, and maybe Sabrina can talk to it a little better, but a bank doesn't want to loan money on a house to a new person with a failing septic system, so if they default it they actually owed. So that was disclosed to our knowledge. If anybody uses our fee for service program, which is voluntary, we make sure that we include it in our report that this sewer project is being discussed at this time.

PAUL HYLAND: Okay. Thanks.

ANDREW MITCHELL: My name is Andrew Mitchell. I am at 6328 Roselawn. I feel for the man here. I want to know where the sewage is coming from that's coming

onto his yard. I don't understand that.

(Audience members speaking off microphone.)

SABRINA CHRISTIAN-BENNETT: Whoever wants to speak, please go to the mic and state your full name and your address, please.

GARY HOGAN: Maybe I could help with that question again.

SABRINA CHRISTIAN-BENNETT: Could you state your name?

GARY HOGAN: Gary Hogan, 6455 Genevieve. I'm the bad guy. A lot of these homes in the neighborhood that had either aerators or chemical systems failed, or people didn't want to pay the electric bill and pay for the chemicals, so they were connected directly into the field tile. As a matter of fact, the original houses in the neighborhood never had septic systems. They flushed directly into the field tile. And again, there are no maps of where the field tile is. I'm finding a new pipe through my yard every year. Okay? So they're coming, what I could identify that the health department did have some records, like I said, 15, 16 or 17 neighbors helped me put that solid PVC pipe through. But again, it's going through Dave my neighbor across the street, Ernie behind me, the Drugans, those people back in there. They have the same drain tile. It's not even on property, it's on their property. There is no easement and they're carrying this raw sewage. And I mean it is raw sewage. Did that answer?

ANDREW MITCHELL: Yeah. Because I have a septic system. My question I guess is why if there are failing systems why they can't just replace their septic system?

GENE ROBERTS: Probably the number one reason is lot size, but here's the expert.

MARY HELEN SMITH: So if I understand the question is, why you cannot replace the household sewage treatment system. When EPA undertook this process and

requested that the Health District and Water Resources come up and have a conversation with them, they told us right off the bat that they were not going to let us put in 300 off lot discharging sewage treatment systems, that they would not allow us to design the notice of intent to discharge the water to the state. So pretty much they told us to undertake, if our investigation found the same thing.

So as the Health Commissioner indicated, they originally provided us two samples in two locations and we did not feel as a Health District that that was sufficient data or information to be able to extrapolate that to 300 households. We were actually surprised we selected the 16 locations with the water quality people that had knowledge of the watershed, they're on the map that indicates, and all of the samples far exceed the requirements for the discharge. So they pretty much told us they're not going to let us do that, which means a sewer project.

ANDREW MITCHELL: So if I have a bad septic tank, I just can't replace my own septic tank?

MARY HELEN SMITH: You said can you put in your own septic tank? The answer to that is no. The EPA told us no.

ANDREW MITCHELL: So then they're just going to make me dig up my old septic tank?

GENE ROBERTS: You don't have to dig it up. The preferred method which most people follow is they knock a hole in the bottom so it doesn't pond water, crush the top, and then fill it to make sure you don't have a sink hole two or three years down the road.

ANDREW MITCHELL: All right. Thank you.

MARK McCOY: My name is Mark McCoy and I live at 3274 Brady Lake Road.

And Mr. Hogan, I feel for you. We've had some water problems at our place also. But does this map encompass all of the Chinn allotment? I mean, is there a defined area for the Chinn project?

GENE ROBERTS: If you look at the back of this map it basically is in color here. That's the 305 property owners that were identified as potentially receiving service from this project.

MARK McCOY: So you didn't actually test all of these places. You just tested certain spots and then encompassed people in that area?

GENE ROBERTS: The tests were run through multiple points of access. And I would defer to the people that actually did it, but from my understanding sitting in the meetings, wherever they could get an access point they tested. So there were tests up on the top from my understanding, tests down here at this outfall, tests up in this area. They tried every place they could gain access. So yes. I don't know if that answers your question. It wasn't just, let's go down here to the outfall and test till we get 12 million.

MARK McCOY: I'm saying I could be on the outskirts of this test project. And my system, I have an aeration system that works fine. So I'm on the outskirts of this project, and the people that are having trouble are on the far side of it, but I'm encompassed in that area. That's why I'm asking.

GENE ROBERTS: Right.

MARY HELEN SMITH: So yes, I think if we can talk to that, and John might be able to delineate it. The map that is in the back corner as you go out has the sample points. And we selected them across the entire area and sampled all of them and they all failed across the entire area. Some of them extremely high. None of them passed. One of them was dry and that was up on the north of Sanmar. So they all failed. So these

pipes were interconnected. They're going everywhere. But what John Vence will have to, as they design it, there are houses as you go down on Brady Lake, and there are houses that are north of the railroad tracks on Wall Street that eventually will not be included in the project. But again, we provided everybody in the area the information on their septic system because you will notice that there are some outliers of failing septic systems out there, some of these class one aeration systems and filter beds are unpermitted. Those houses, if they don't get included in the project will then have to fix their sewage treatment system. And those people that are outside what the County has defined as a project, we actually already sent letters to them and said that we have money to repair those septic systems if they've met the income guidelines for the project.

So once Water Resources draws that map, the information is on there to say what we do or don't know and you might want to assess where your septic system is and whether it needs to be fixed.

MARK McCOY: Mine works fine. I don't need to fix mine. That's what I'm saying. And I'm on the outskirts of that, and my system works fine.

MARY HELEN SMITH: Maybe you can meet with John and I afterwards and show us where the house is located. Once the sanitary sewer project is run, if it's available and accessible to the house, ODH, the Ohio Department of Health requires home owners to tie in to it.

MARK McCOY: I have one more question. I'm a little confused. We're required to incur the cost of your guys' project and then the private contractors also, so we're going to be incurred for both costs?

GENE ROBERTS: Correct. The benefit is to the property. And I tell the story,

just so we're clear, if you go buy a lot in a new development, the developer put in the curbs, he put in the pavement, he put in the storm sewer, he put in the water and he put in the sanitary. He charged you that when he built the lot, the development. So you build a house with sanitary, you pay for it. It's difficult for me to stand here and say to all those people who paid us for their sanitary sewer service, we're going to take some of their money and give it to people who don't have sanitary service. Does that make sense?

MARK McCOY: Yeah, but then also what you're doing to people that put in an aeration system and paid for that system to upgrade to make it viable and passable by the thing, you are making them incur that cost plus your cost again for now deciding for us that we have to do that.

GENE ROBERTS: I understand your concern. We can look at it specifically, your site.

MARK McCOY: All right. Thank you very much.

MARTIN BRAUN: I want to extend my condolences to the Hogan family and the surrounding neighbors. I think it's deplorable just the thought of raw sewage running into the system like that.

SABRINA CHRISTIAN-BENNETT: I'm sorry. Can you state your name and address and speak into the microphone?

MARTIN BRAUN: Again, my name is Martin Braun, 6463 Marchinn. And again, I want to extend my condolences and sympathies to the Hogan Family and neighbors that have to endure that sewage. I think the whole idea of just dumping raw sewage into a system like that is deplorable okay, but it sounds also to me that we're just going to go ahead and bypass a pinpoint problem such as that and remedy that.

Sounds like to me that the decision is already made that we're going to go through because in some situation, some instances residents will not be able to get a septic system or any other type of treatment system according to Ohio EPA standards. So it sounds like to me really that we have the option of tying in water or not.

My final comment is that having lived on Marchinn for a very short period of time, I've already witnessed a lot of waste and expenditures. We've had a yellow line put down the center of the street, and the following year we put in a new street and line again. And there's a house on Woodlawn and Brady Lake Road that has endured years and years and years of trouble, and this is, it's unbelievable what's going on there. And now that we're going to be tying into water, my concern is that we've had many situations where we've been told as residents, residents have been told, don't drink the water because it's contaminated. So it sounds like to me the decisions are already made. My chief concern here at this point is how well will you all keep the costs at a minimum?

GENE ROBERTS: Understood.

TIM MOLNAR: Hello. Tim Molnar, 6314 Woodlawn. The question I had, I understand about the taking the service out to the new sewer lines and also the right-of-way. I have a concrete driveway. What is that going to entail? Is that my responsibility or is that going to be part of the plan's project?

GENE ROBERTS: If the project, based on where you want the lateral, has a concrete pavement over top of the area where we install our portion, we pay for the restoration. The rest of it on private property would be yours. My recommendation is to look at putting an alternative route.

TIM MOLNAR: My lateral would be nowhere near the driveway. I'm just talking about the main lines going down the road for the right-of-way.

GENE ROBERTS: Same thing. If it crosses a concrete driveway, an asphalt driveway, a gravel driveway, restoration means we restore the surface back. So that includes not only the paved surfaces, hard surfaces, but also the grass.

TIM MOLNAR: I'd also like to state at the end of Woodlawn, I've been up at the County quite a few times. I've heard all sorts of different things, different answers about Sunbeau, all sorts of crazy stuff. County was out there a little over a month ago, finally replaced the drain line on to Woodlawn, the house hadn't flooded since. So I'm hoping that takes care of the problem there.

UNIDENTIFIED ATTENDEE: It hasn't rained, that's why.

SABRINA CHRISTIAN-BENNETT: Anymore questions or comments?

ERNIE SWANIGAN: Yes. Other than, Ernie Swanigan. I live at 3143 Brady Lake Road. If this does not go through, what are the plans then? Is this just a, we still have problems and if you guys decide not to follow through on this what are we going to do?

GENE ROBERTS: I can say Portage County Water Resources is committed to solving the problem. Wherever that leads us, we don't know where that leads.

ERNIE SWANIGAN: Okay. And also, what are the assessments, what would that cost like monthly so people have an idea? If it's 30 years say, and it's \$19,000?

GENE ROBERTS: Doubles every 10 years, so probably somewhere around 5 to \$600.

ERNIE SWANIGAN: A year?

GENE ROBERTS: No. A tax, a half.

ERNIE SWANIGAN: A half?

GENE ROBERTS: So 1200 a year. But please don't hold me to those numbers.

We'll get you numbers.

ERNIE SWANIGAN: So a thousand dollars a year?

GENE ROBERTS: Round figures.

ERNIE SWANIGAN: Okay. And that's over 30 years or is that over a shorter period?

GENE ROBERTS: It can be shorter or longer. Depends on the tolerance of paying a larger amount.

ERNIE SWANIGAN: Okay. Also who is responsible, because we're talking about, I live behind Gary, and I have probably the biggest problem of anyone in the area. I have eight pipes that run through my yard in my lower end. Three of them are, you showed pictures of at the end of my yard. Who is responsible for that part of it for the next five years? That's not just one pipe. You just showed one. There's five of them back there.

GENE ROBERTS: We need to talk. You know, the simple fact of the matter is I would never disconnect the pipe unless we're --

ERNIE SWANIGAN: There are three of them that are open I believe, that you can really see and like I said, you showed a picture of one. There's also three or four more pipes that go through probably an acre of my yard. I live up in the upper right here, so I've let it go for a long time and Gary's beared the responsibility of talking to a lot of people about it more than I have. But it's not just a few houses. Everybody thinks it's 10 or 15 houses. It's probably 30 or 40 houses tied into that. It's just not a few. You may not have trouble in your yards because most of it is flowing down towards our yard. Like I said, there's five to eight pipes that run through my yard. So it goes to show everybody thinks it's one discharge there, there are four or five that aren't open. And

you can see them. Anybody wants to come down and look in my backyard, you are welcome to it, because it's not just the three pipes or two that you have shown.

GENE ROBERTS: Would you do me a favor and reach out to us so we can come out and see? You were contacted by letter today.

ERNIE SWANIGAN: Last week they sent it out.

GENE ROBERTS: Okay. So you have our number.

ERNIE SWANIGAN: Yeah.

GENE ROBERTS: We appreciate knowing what you know.

SABRINA CHRISTIAN-BENNETT: Okay. If there are no more questions or comments I will call Commissioner Kline up for adjournment.

VICKI KLINE: Thank all of you for coming in. I hope that you do contact Water Resources or someone if you have additional questions after you leave, because like Gene said before, the more information Water Resources has the better they can help you. I need a motion now to adjourn.

MIKE KERRIGAN: So moved.

SABRINA CHRISTIAN-BENNETT: Second.

VICKI KLINE: All in favor, aye.

MANY BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

VICKI KLINE: We're adjourned. Thank you for coming.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Laura A. Melby, Registered Professional Reporter, do hereby certify that I reported in Stenotypy the proceedings had in the foregoing-entitled matter on July 9, 2018, and I do further certify that the foregoing-entitled TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS, consisting of 65 pages plus cover page and certificate page, is a true and accurate record of said matter and TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS.

(signature on file at the Water Resources Department)

LAURA A. MELBY

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTER

Dated: July 12, 2018

CHINN ALLOTMENT HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS

- Approved NPDES HSTS
- Tile Field and ET Trenches
- Confirmed Nuisance, Chemical Tank, Dry & Leach Well
- Class I and Filter Bed
- No Permit Unknown HSTS Status
- Genevieve Redbush Discharging Point
- Brady Lake Rd Discharging Point
- Brady Lake Rd Discharge Ditch
- Hogan Genevieve Redbush Discharge Ditch

Date: 3/22/2017

Data Source: Portage County
Water Resources & Combined Health District

By Amos Sarfo
Portage County Health District

PROPERTIES NOTIFIED WITHIN PROJECT AREA



Property Location Addresses Notified

Brady Lake Road from address 3123 to 3339 both sides of road
 Cleveland Road(all)
 Genevieve Road(all)
 Lois Road(all)
 Marchinn Road(all)
 Plainview Road(all)
 Red Brush Road, from address 6497 to 6414 both sides of road,
 Rose Street(all)
 Roselawn Avenue(all)
 Sanmar Street from address 6503 to cul-de-sac end.
 Wall Street from address 6220 to 6259 both sides of road
 Wall Street from address 6279 to 6395 West side of road only
 Wall Street from address 6404 to 6534 both sides of road
 Woodlawn Avenue(all)

Chinn Regional Sewer Improvements – Project Schedule																												
6/23/2017	2017				2018				2019				2020				2021				2022							
General Plan																												
Design Contracts																												
Prepare General Plan																												
OEPA Review & Approval																												
Public Meetings																												
Pursue Funding																												
PER/Environmental Report																												
Funding Submittals & Review																												
Land Acquisition-Easements																												
Design																												
Construction Drawings																												
OEPA Review & Approval																												
Funding Review & Approval																												
Assessment Process																												
Bid Process & Award																												
Process & Public Meetings																												
Construction																												
Contractor Construction																												
Start Up & Restoration																												

Motion To: Adjourn the Official Meeting of Tuesday July 9, 2018 at 7:35 PM

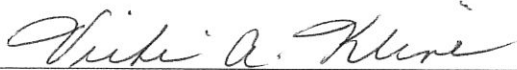
RESULT: **ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]**

MOVED: Mike Kerrigan

SECONDED: Sabrina Christian-Bennett

AYES: Mike Kerrigan, Sabrina Christian-Bennett, Vicki A. Kline

We do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the Portage County Board of Commissioners' meeting.



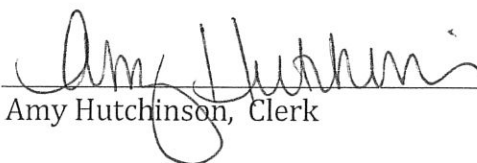
Vicki A. Kline, President



Sabrina Christian-Bennett, Vice President



Mike Kerrigan, Board Member



Amy Hutchinson, Clerk