

City of Bay Village

Minutes of Public Improvements, Streets, Sewers and Drainage Committee
Lydia DeGeorge, Chairman, Thomas Kelly, Peter Winzig

August 31, 2023
5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers; augmented by Zoom.
Lydia DeGeorge, Chairman, presiding

Lydia DeGeorge, Councilwoman, Ward 2, and Chairman of the Public Improvements, Streets, Sewers and Drainage Committee called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m..

Present: Lydia DeGeorge, Councilwoman, Ward 2
Dwight A. Clark, President of Council
David L. Tadych, Councilman, Ward 1
Peter J. Winzig, Councilman, Ward 4
Thomas J. Kelly, Council-at-large
Sara Byrnes Maier, Council-at-large.
Mayor Koomar.

Also Present: Law Director Barbour, Finance Director Mahoney, City Engineer Bierut, City Engineer Filarski, Director of Public Service and Properties Liskovec, Building Director Tuck-Macalla, PW Supervisor Greenwell, Clerk of Council Kemper.

Audience: See List Attached.

Chairman Lydia DeGeorge, Ward 2 Council Member, opened the meeting by welcoming all in attendance, and thanking them for attending this meeting.

Ms. DeGeorge acknowledged that this has been a difficult time for so many. Chagrin Valley Engineers Don Bierut and Jeff Filarski, City Engineers from Chagrin Valley Engineering, were introduced to the audience. Jon Liskovec, Director of Public Service and Properties, Paul Greenwell, Public Works Supervisor, and Finance Director Mahoney were also noted as being in attendance.

Next Step in regard to Basement Water Issues

Ms. DeGeorge stated that the City of Bay Village, along with most of Northeast Ohio, has had some recent storm events beginning July 2 and also on July 6, July 20, and August 23, resulting in water coming in to residents' basements. On July 11 Ms. DeGeorge and Mayor Koomar met with Canterbury Road residents and on July 13 more than 30 residents spoke regarding the water issue and the effect it has had on them. Residents want to learn what has been done and what will be done in terms of long-term planning. In July and August several courses of action were discussed and evaluated by the administration, followed by another rain storm a week later. Plans were mentioned at the Special Council meeting held on August 13 and this evening's meeting has been called for an update and answers to the many questions of residents.

Ms. DeGeorge asked Mayor Koomar to conclude tonight's meeting with his comments and answer any questions that were not previously answered. Knowing the importance of this matter and the emotions involved, it is the desire of the committee to have everyone leave here feeling that their questions were answered.

Mr. Jeff Filarski, City Engineer, Chagrin Valley Engineering, proceeded to display a Power Point presentation, attached to these minutes as if fully incorporated herein.

Mr. Filarski stated that the goal this evening is to explain the sewers in the City of Bay Village, how the sewers are connected to the homes, backflows and basement backups, and provide residents a general plan on the path forward. Since the storms happened multiple times over the past two months, there are no specific answers tonight, but they will be working on the issues.

The sewer system is made up of sanitary sewers and storm sewers. There are 350,000 feet plus of sewer mains, sanitary sewers, and 15,000 feet of sanitary force mains. Those are connected to four lift stations, areas where the sewers cannot flow by gravity. About 358,000 feet of storm sewers take the water from the streets, gutters and downspouts and conveys it eventually to Lake Erie. There are about 3200 feet of culverts, which are storm sewer conveyance pipes under the roads, one side to the other, not a continuous network of sewers. In the sanitary system there are 1400 plus manholes, and in the storm system 973 manholes. Forty to fifty thousand feet of sewer inspection is done manually with cameras put into the sewers, along with trucks for flushing to maintain the system.

The next slide indicates the number of reported water in basements during July and August of 2023, defined by colors.

Slide 3 reports the sanitary/storm work orders from 2019 to present, color-coded according to categorization from critical to routine.

Slide 4 displays the sewer system connections to homes.

The next slide displays the sewer connections to homes, blue pipes representing storm sewers, green pipes are sanitary sewers. With a home connected properly, the sanitary sewer takes all of the plumbing fixtures including bathroom fixtures, sinks, showers, washing machine and floor drains in the basement.

Infiltration and Inflow

Infiltration and inflow is storm water that gets into the sanitary system. Sanitary systems are not constructed to take a large amount of storm water. What happens over the years is the sanitary system becomes less tight, joints open up, the pipe deteriorates and allows water to get into the sanitary system. Infiltration is storm water that gets in through joints or cracks in the sewer pipes, leaking in here and there all throughout the system.

Special Meeting of Council
August 31, 2023

Inflow is more of a direct connection, e.g., roof drain connections going into the sanitary sewer, clean-outs or yard drains going into the sanitary. Whatever is going through the downspout or yard drains is going right into the sanitary sewer.

Tree roots are an issue getting into the lines causing problems, allowing ground water or storm water into the pipe. If the roots get into the storm pipe, it can block the pipe and cause back-ups into footer drains and basements.

The next slide displays a sewer that has been tested with dye. A camera is placed into the sanitary sewer to find water coming into the sanitary sewer.

When water backs up into the basement sometimes it occurs because the sewers surcharge, meaning water has built up over time. It pushes through under pressure. When the sewer capacity is exceeded the water forces its way through and when reaching a certain point of the basement the surcharge level basically reaches the same elevation of the basement. The surcharge level doesn't have to come up very high to get into the basement.

The Cleveland area had 6.62 inches more of rain than the previous year in the last two months. Over 6 inches of rain fell during the four events in July and August. Multiple rainfalls back-to-back changes the water line. If the ground is fairly dry, the initial rainfall soaks in. When there is a situation of heavy rains the ground doesn't have a chance to dry out and the soil is soaked with water. The water can't go into the ground so it flashes off into the street and catch basins.

Mr. Filarski noted that there were 50-year rainfalls in July. A 100-year rainfall means that there is a 1% chance that the storm is going to happen. The design of storm sewer systems are based on rainfall amounts and storm frequency. Residential street storm sewers are designed for 5-year rainfall events. Commercial areas are 10-year rainfall events, and heavy commercial areas are designed for 25-year rainfall events. There are more intense storms now than what the sewers were designed for in the 1930's.

Sanitary sewers are designed for a flow per home from the plumbing fixtures at basically 100 gallons per day per person, plus a small factor for infiltration and inflow. Sanitary sewers are smaller than storm sewers. They start out at 8 inches minimum and some of the interceptors in Bay are 5 feet in height. On most of the streets the sanitary sewers are 8-inch, 10 inch, or 12 inch, and can easily be overwhelmed by the inflow and infiltration from homes. Mr. Filarski explained that there are many sources where the storm sewer water can get into the sanitary sewer.

Initial data has been received on where the flooding has occurred. A survey was created by Chagrin Valley Engineering and was sent out with over 200 responses received thus far. Information from the survey will help to pinpoint the largest areas of concern and to determine if the water is storm water or sanitary sewer water coming into the homes. After reviewing the information, the sanitary sewer system will be smoke tested, by pumping smoke into the sanitary system to see if there is smoke coming out of the downspouts, the ground, driveway drains, etc., to get a target as to where the water is coming from. They will follow that up with dye testing of the mains. The results will indicate what needs fixing, e.g., lining the sewers to seal them. On

Special Meeting of Council
August 31, 2023

private property it is more difficult, but dye testing will be done to pinpoint the sources of inflow and infiltration. Properties to be dye tested will be notified by mail. The Service Department will inspect manholes for leaks. There are twelve direct pipe outlets and the crews will make sure they are all open.

When results are received from testing there will be rehabilitation including work on the public side to make sure there are not persistent root problems in mains. Dye testing will be done to determine leaks which will then be sealed on the lateral lines from the main line back 10 feet or to the right-of-way line by the sidewalk. The laterals will be lined to prevent water coming in. There is about ten times more lineal feet of sewer on the lateral side, main back to the house, as there is in the mains. They will look at choke points in the storm and sanitary sewers, meaning points where the sewer from one direction comes in and meets the sewer from another direction. If the flows are opposing causing issues, they will look at realigning those areas. Other choke points include sewers that look like they are undersized. They will look at trying to augment those to push more flow through the system. They will determine the impact downstream if considering an enlargement of a sewer. The sewers will be monitored to make sure that what they have done in the area has increased flow in the sanitary line. On the private side, they will be testing properties to look for any issues. They will try to identify those and let the residents know where the problems are.

The last slide is a time line extending to year 2033. In the next couple of months, they will receive proposals from contractors for testing. The testing program will begin in areas where there is a density of issues. A sewer information guide will be published. Testing will be done from November 2023 to July 2024. They will also expedite projects to review the storm sewer side to year 2027. After 2027 they will continue investigations and programs on an annual basis to continue to try to improve the system. He noted that the system is over 100 years old. The Service Department will continue their flushing to make sure lines are open throughout the City.

The work is also augmented by requirements of the Rocky River Wastewater Treatment Plant. Bay Village is one of four cities where the sewer flow goes to that plant. Each one of the four cities is under an Ohio EPA requirement to reduce inflow and infiltration. By doing the work outlined, they will help to attain that goal. There is also an Administrative Order from the US EPA which has been worked on for several years which will be met by putting in a sewer storage tank, estimated to cost \$14 million, to hold back flows during wet weather rainfall events to eliminate two sanitary sewer overflows that still remain in the city that are ordered by the US EPA to be taken out. The last planning item is getting an understanding of the capacities of the storm sewer and the connection figuration to homes to reduce basement backups. Some lines have connections from the storm sewers that are not connected properly. Those items will be addressed. Mr. Filarski also commented on the City's force mains and lift stations that will need work as well. The recent increase in the sewer maintenance fee will help to pay for all of these projects.

Residents Comments

Dan Straitiff, Manchester Lane, stated that the gentleman from Chagrin Valley Engineering provided data from 2019 moving forward. His opening comments seemed to suggest the rain

frequency is new. In late June or July of 2015, the City experienced significant flooding. Nearly every home in the Manchester area had water damage, so much so the City had to send front end loaders and dump trucks to assist in removing damaged household goods. I want to hear what specific infrastructure projects the City has undertaken since the summer of 2015 to de-bottleneck and improve the sewers and drainage in the City. I expect to hear specific, shovel in the ground kinds of projects and don't want to hear about data gathering. I have specific interest in storm water remediation projects. I would suggest that you could have presented a map with all those colored blocks of city homes from 2015 that showed the impact and there was substantial data available on that year to have informed tangible projects.

Director of Public Service Liskovec answered that since 2015 a handful of storm water projects were done including replacement of a culvert completed in 2019. The City also worked with the City of Avon Lake in 2020 to provide an expansion to the Walker Road Retention Basin. Completed in 2017 was the replacement of a storm sewer on Osborn Road. Work within the waterways was done shoring up areas around infrastructure, e.g., storm and sanitary mains that were exposed, protecting them from storm waters. They have also done a number of sanitary sewer projects, focused on improvements on the lift stations which are important and critical to the sanitary flow of the City to the Rocky River Wastewater Treatment Plant. Ongoing and expensive maintenance is done on a daily basis to the sanitary and storm systems.

Kimberly Moore, 363 Pinewood, stated that she checked all the boxes for all the things a homeowner can do. My house is 98 years old, lines are divided, storm is not infiltrating sewer, or anything like that. What has the City been doing to maintain these lines? Very specifically. We all know we have inadequate sewer capacity. This is a process, it is expensive, digging up, no one likes orange barrels. But, maintaining these lines, I would like to see a detailed plan of what we have been doing and how that is going to change. Because that is something we can do and do better. My main concern about the flooding is that it is largely because we aren't doing anything as dramatically as we need to. Having a print out available to us through the internet to click on for the plan, the streets, how it is being addressed, how frequently, exactly what are they doing. What are we doing going forward, how are we going to improve that in a way that will make a dramatic difference?

Director Jon Liskovec stated that within the Service Department there are four members of the staff dedicated to the maintenance of the system and an additional two members that maintain the lift stations. The maintenance consists of filming with camera trucks for defects and issues within the system, flushing of all mains throughout the system and acoustic technology to help improve the ability to get through the system even more efficiently. Each year over the past five years they have been improving and increasing efficiencies. Last year they covered over 50,000 plus feet of mains within the system. To date they have covered over 80,000 feet, putting the schedule on a six year turn to get through the City.

Ms. Moore asked if that means every six years the lines near her home are going to get cleared. That is the cycle?

Mr. Liskovec stated that if they continue at the same rate it would be a six-year cycle.

Ms. Moore stated that the cycle needs improvement.

Mayor Koomar stated that when he came into office he was critical of the long-term plan. At the end of 2017, and in 2018 he made a decision to bring on Chagrin Valley Engineering at the beginning of 2019. Earlier this year in order to turn the cycle quicker, they placed into service a second service vehicle for flushing the sewers. Historically they had one state-of-the-art camera truck but having the second vehicle is super important. The acoustic technology works well for sanitary sewers, but not so much for storm. The sound waves indicate whether a line is cleared. We are not trying to just put more resources on it, we are trying to use technology which will allow us to move through the system more quickly. The second truck is intended to increase that turn.

Paul Greenwell, Public Works Supervisor, stated that when it is not raining no one is calling them. The system functions. To say there needs to be maintenance on a line is not always the case. We are out there cleaning; we are mandated by the EPA to do a certain amount. We are meeting those expectations. To say that every single sewer needs to be flushed is really not the right answer. Our guys are excellent; they know this system better than anybody. They know where we have maintenance issues; if we don't do things in a certain amount of time then we have trouble. Those have all been identified, get reviewed, we are in those areas all the time. We have a two-month list, a four-month list, and a six-month list. It might only affect a group of people in a cul-de-sac, but if we are not there in two months they are calling us. I can sympathize with everyone in this room. People have been experiencing this ever since they lived here. This is nothing new. Our volume of inflow and infiltration goes through the roof in a rain event. It is the cause of this. It is not a maintenance issue. We have peaked out all the flow we can get out of the system by the maintenance we are doing now. One of the projects was cleaning the interceptor – the main line that goes, pretty much everyone's waste, to the Rocky River Wastewater Treatment Plant, that had never been cleaned before. In 2011 was the first time it was cleaned completely. We removed tons and tons of material which was reducing the amount of flow. Every year since we have repeatedly gone back, started from one end and worked our way through to the other end. We have maximized our flow; this isn't a flow issue; this is a leaky pipe issue and an inflow and infiltration. In a normal rain event, we sent 2 million gallons to the Rocky River Wastewater Treatment Plant. When Hurricane Sandy came through we jumped up to 14 million. We go from everybody's fine at 2 million to all of a sudden we can't handle it. That is why you see the surges in the sewer and the flow go back down. If a sewer is blocked, it doesn't matter if it is raining out or not, you are going to be calling us because it is going to start affecting everyone on the street. We are out there; we are doing everything we can to maintain the sewers. Maintenance is not the issue.

Sarah Sweeney, 368 Oakmoor, stated that she thinks there is a public relations issue here. We are a wealthier suburb, but this has caused a major economic hit to many of our households. We have maxed out our insurance and we don't even have a sense of how much we are going to have to put into our homes, e.g., sub pump, change the drains. I think it has been disappointing that coming from Council, aside from Councilwoman DeGeorge who has been really reaching out to us, that we haven't had folks on the ground with us. In our basements, week after week, we are carrying out damaged stuff with sewage. I was in my basement again last week pulling out a new floor that I put in last year. I think there needs to be some change in the tone of how you

approach this. Come out and see what we are dealing with. People have had basements flooded four or five times. Things are more expensive for us; we are taking a huge economic hit and we really would like you to speak to that. The question I have is, what are we doing to deal with the impact of the changing climate on our community. Do we have any research we have done on what we can expect as a lakeside community for changes in rain flow, drought, or any of that? What are our best practices then in dealing with runoff because I think we don't have a policy on that? I love Heinen's but they built a humongous, black, asphalt parking lot where everything goes into the sewers and that is definitely not the best practices for runoff for a community that might be experiencing higher rainfall. Do we have any evaluation of what we can expect with rain flow? Do we have any plans on managing runoff, like swales and policies for new homes and parking lots?

Mr. Filarski stated that his basement flooded twice. It is not fun, it is a real burden, both mentally and financially. As far as what is in place to manage development, if there is a subdivision built, or a commercial area that is developed, they have to conform to our storm water management code which basically requires some type of storm water control measure with a pond or underground storage to keep the flows to a pre-developed level or less. Those things are required. To what we are doing to predict what is going on? We are not climatologists. The NOAA, (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Association) is looking at reviewing their rainfall intensity tables, which are used to design sewer systems. Predicting weather is not easily done, but increased rainfall is happening.

Edward Pawlak, Kenilworth Dr., stated that all sewers from houses to streets have been inspected, by the City, when they were constructed or built. What are you going to tell people who need to make changes when their sewers have been connected the way the City says they had to be connected?

Mr. Filarski stated that is something that is a discussion point they have to have. This City is just like every other city in the respect that there is a lot of stuff that is done on the sly.

Mr. Pawlak stated that it was not necessarily on the sly. When the house was built the sewers were open. The inspectors had every opportunity to inspect and approve.

Mr. Filarski stated that possibly they did not do their job.

Mr. Pawlak stated that people were given a Certificate of Occupancy.

Mr. Filarski stated that he does not know what they did in the thirties and forties as far as that type of certification and inspection. The issue is we have to deal with it.

Lauren Osysko, Aberdeen Road, stated that her husband and she moved in six years ago and have never had issues with their house. We know the previous tenants; they did not flood except once in 2009. They didn't flood in Hurricane Sandy or in 2015. Our house has been waterproofed, we have sump pumps, we had extra work done. Our lines have been snaked every year since we moved in. We've done what we can do. I listened to the July meeting. My father-in-law came and represented us because we were out of town. Everyone asked the same

Special Meeting of Council
August 31, 2023

question of what has changed. All everyone keeps pointing to is the number of rainfalls. I understand these have been higher rainfalls. This can't be the only answer. Where we live, knowing where we are, we've had the new library come directly on our line; we've had the new town homes come directly on our line. There have been several other projects that occurred that have increased capacity on the lines that now push that flow back toward my house. What have you done since July to figure out the exact question that fifty plus people asked in July, which is what has changed this summer on top of just a little bit more rain? I have lived here six years. I've seen some bad rains. I heard my sump pump go off every five seconds because the back-up is kicking back in because they can't keep up. Why are we now having sewage and storm water six inches in my basement? I've paid thousands and thousands of dollars in two months to rip out stuff that my husband and I just put in. What have you guys done to figure out, outside of rain, what is damaging my house every week?

Ms. DeGeorge asked if we know for sure, when the library was built, when the town homes were built, if that line is connected to Aberdeen, Rexford, that area? Do we have that knowledge?

Mr. Liskovec stated that both of those projects tie in directly to the main interceptor which is a five-foot diameter pipe that flows down Wolf Road on the sanitary side. On the storm side both of those projects flow directly into Cahoon Creek; they do not go into any other storm sewer conveyance that is underground. They have access going down into the creek.

Mr. Filarski stated that obviously he does not have the history of the home. I do not have an answer for you right now, but we need to figure it out.

Ms. Osysko commented that the people that built the Wolf Road project stated that they didn't agree with the City and how the project was maintained, that the project was going to flood houses, was going to cause issues. There are obviously a lot of people that have heard things from professions that are doing some of these projects that don't agree with what the City has done. What else happened in July? If it is not those buildings putting new water into the system, what else was going on in July outside of rain? That was the weekend of the festival. Did the festival add anything? Outside of the rain, what have you guys looked at? It seems like all we are hearing are rain numbers. We've all lived in Ohio a long time. Something changed in July. Was there a line blocked? Did somebody forget to open something? What have you done to figure those things out, rather than just blaming it on the rain fall? What have you done after July 2 to check those types of things?

Mr. Liskovec stated that they are out in the field, checking manholes to see if everything is flowing. We did not see anything that wasn't flowing. Everything is moving in the direction it is supposed to be. None of the lift stations failed. They were all running at capacity.

A resident stated that multiple people have said today that the lines are running smoothly, and the period of time that it takes to get through the City is six years. All I am hearing is the infrastructure works, it is just not appropriate for the volume. A typical storm line should be 12 to 15 inches, and ours are 8 inches. Is it an infrastructure problem?

Mr. Filarski stated that a choke point is a small sewer. That is something that may need to be addressed; it depends on how much area is going into that sewer. If it is grossly undersized...if it is an 8 inch it may be undersized. We will have to look at what the effects are downstream.

Dave Busa, 30611 Manhasset, stated that he has been in Bay about six years. I am a Local 120 Pipefitter. I told the Mayor, I told Paul, Paul has done a great job, he is a great guy. I don't blame any of this on them, but I am going to tell you what I found. These sewers are definitely undersized because on my street, Manhasset, I've gone through the whole thing because my neighbors have had problems. What I see is we've got a 12 inch that goes all the way up to Webster, and you have nine or ten houses on the 12 inch and you've got three catch basins. These catch basins are tied right into the 12 inch and when it rains really hard, these catch basins, you can see the water coming up. Not only is that a problem, but what I want to know, I've lived in Cleveland my whole life, and I never really had this problem. But, from the clean out to the tie-in, I always thought the City was responsible for that. I think that is where the majority of these problems are. From the clean-out to the tie-ins. You are getting roots in those tie-ins. Your flow is going to be so restricted; it is going to be unbelievable. I found with my house the problem was in the lawn. I took care of that, but also, what I see are the tie-ins. The City should have a crew for these tie-ins for all the residents. That is the way it is in the majority of the western suburbs. I know a lot of guys in the Service Departments. That is included in your taxes; from the clean-outs to the tie-ins, they are snaked by the City. You are responsible from the house to the clean-outs. That is what I would like to get a clear answer on, that if there is an ordinance, that ordinance needs to be changed. We shouldn't be responsible for roots that are on the City property. I would have to dig up the island which is City property to fix where it is clogged and put a clean-out. Without a clean-out you are not going to be able to tell from your clean-out to where it is tied in if it is blocked or not, or try to snake it out. Why are we responsible from the clean-out to the tie in if it is on City property? We shouldn't be responsible for having to dig up City property. That's not our responsibility as residents.

Tom Cucuzza, Lake Road, stated that he has owned three homes in Bay Village over the last 30 years. The first one I bought, my first home, was on Parkside in the early 90's. The basement flooded within the first year I was there. An all-finished basement went out to the curb. At that time, from consulting with the City, they said the source of the problem wasn't necessarily my downspouts, which were flowing correctly. They said a lot of the older homes on that street had downspouts going into the sanitary sewer and the sanitary sewers back up into the basements. That was in 1993, which was 30 years ago. I then learned that there was an ordinance on the City books in the 1970's that says tying your downspouts into the sanitary sewer is prohibited and that the City can force residents to remediate that; they have 60 days to remediate from when it is discovered. They can withhold a certificate of occupancy which means you can't get insurance on your home and the City can prevent you from selling your home if you are in violation of that ordinance. My question is: how many homes in Bay Village have downspouts tied into the sanitary sewer, and why in the last fifty years hasn't that been rectified?

Mayor Koomar stated that the short answer is they do not know what that number is. Part of this, when we talk about what has changed is, we talked about the inflow and infiltration, when we are talking about going through doing this testing to identify where we need to tighten the

system up, there is more rainfall but there is also as a system ages it is not going to be as tight, so we've got to make investments in that more than we have, to points like yours.

Resident: Sure, follow up. I learned at last week's committee meeting, which I also attended, that in the mid 90's the City dye-tested virtually the entire city. So, 27 years ago, the City had a list of every home in Bay Village that had downspouts tied into the sanitary sewers. You are telling me, now, that you have no idea? When you knew 30 years ago, that is the worst-case scenario. How is it possible that the City is just not enforcing this ordinance? If there were dead trees falling from my neighbor's house onto my house at the frequency of basements flooding the City would be all over that. If I was burning down the neighbor's garage because I had a bad electrical system, I would have to fix that. But, flooding the sanitary sewer with my downspouts – the City doesn't care about it.

Paul Greenwell: The house files for homes in the City are located in the basement of city hall. Everyone can go downstairs and look at their house file. We've done dye testing before. What they are dye testing is your downspouts. If they failed in the past what they would do is okay, say you have your downspouts tested again, it functions or they go on backsplash which doesn't solve anything but at least it is not mis-connected anymore. What they weren't testing for was the sewer tie. That is the big component of it. My personal opinion in the weeds is you wouldn't like it if we went after everybody and forced them to do it because that turns it back on you guys and you want answers from us and we are going to do everything we can with the main line sewers and that is why we are kind of frustrated. If we go after that kind of stuff a lot of you people are going to have to spend a lot of money and we don't want you to have to do that. That is what the result of what you are asking would be. Some of you have done all that stuff, but I can tell you there are a lot of homes that haven't done that stuff. The dye testing was just to make sure your downspouts went to the storm sewer. They were trying to separate out the sewers at the time and all they were concerned about was the sanitary was not going to the lake.

Resident: If people had downspouts going into the sanitary sewer that is a major source of infiltration.

Paul Greenwell: Absolutely.

Resident: There is a fifty-year-old ordinance on the books that if you want to live in Bay Village it is your responsibility to remediate that. And it is the City's responsibility to enforce that because if I and my neighbors don't do it and I have to tear my basement out, I am paying from now for not fixing it properly.

Law Director Barbour: So, what happened in 1992, I don't know. But, you are right. When we do this testing at the end of the year we are talking about we need to tell people who are misconnected as you describe it will be current. Based on something in 1992, that would not work in a situation where they were not cooperative and we had to go to court because these are criminal cases. So, we have the burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt. So, if we do the smoke testing in these areas and we find people who are misconnected like you just described, regardless of what the situation was in 1992, or whatever that date it is now, we are going to enter into that discussion with them and enforce that ordinance.

D. Reinker: If I can respond to that, I live on Saddler Road and to Paul's saying here some of the sanitary sewers were connected to the storm sewers and three of my neighbors had some pretty extensive fixing on their property. He knows what I am talking about. What I want to find out is, and I am not picking on my neighbor because they have a business next door, they have a toilet in the garage, and Paul sent them a letter because they did a dye test on the toilet in the garage and they don't know where that toilet goes. They don't know where. It could be going to my yard, it could be going to a neighbor's yard, but they sent him a note to get it fixed within 30 days. It is 90 days.

Ms. DeGeorge: That is a different issue. There are a lot of residents here who want to discuss...

D. Reinker: Believe me. I work garbage for the City of Rocky River, I feel for these people. I picked up carpet for two weeks.

Max Gruber, 30614 Manhasset Drive. My neighbor already spoke who is in a licensed pipefitters unit. I'm a degreed engineer, both Master's Degree and Bachelor's Degree. I have had four months now of hell like a lot of people, sopping up my basement, sopping up my garage, sopping up my driveway, because it runs down my driveway. I have sewers in my driveway, I've done work like you've done to improve your sewers, but the city sewers won't take it away. I have the next present for Paul, here, if you want to see the root we pulled out. We did dig in the cul-de-sac against your wishes, but we still have more roots in the main sewer. And, the City, they say they cleaned it out, but I'm not seeing any results. I know we need a lot in the City, I think you don't even have a snake, right?

Paul Greenwell: We don't even use a snake; a snake doesn't work in that large sewer. So, we are out there in the big sewers. We don't have the ability to snake a 6-inch line which is a lateral.

Max Gruber: The problem is that they say they just jet them, but I pulled weeds, my neighbor and I we pulled out a root that is 6 feet long and we only pulled out part of it, and that's the sewer, and that is what is backing our water up into our driveways, into our sewers, into our homes, and into our basements. It's not even backing up directly into the sewer; it is raising the water table which penetrates our walls in our basement.

Resident: What is the City doing, really, to clean out these sewers, because I haven't seen any activity on my street?

Director Liskovec: We are going around, we have jets, we also have other equipment plus trucks, we also contract for help we need with the system. We are out there doing the work.

Paul Greenwell: I don't want to speak to individual cases. This is a little different. It is a storm water issue. That root they pulled out was in the lateral, which is underneath the road. I don't write ordinances. To say it was this big root thing that was in the city's main is not true. It was in the lateral which is next to the main and we did clean that sewer. Everybody has different issues. Sometimes it is on their own side, sometimes it is the city side. You just can't make a statement that we are not doing our job.

Mr. Gruber: Paul, I agree with you 100%. What I am talking about is from that clean out to that time, I don't care what the lateral is. I don't care what size it is. That is where the problem is. If it's on city property why should the tax payer be responsible for that? That is where the majority of the problem is, from that clean-out to the sewer because of the trees and everything, they just got right in there. It is unbelievable.

Mayor Koomar: We had a discussion and I told you as we are looking at this going back a number of years we are looking at that ordinance and others because we are going to go forward with a plan and we are going to hold ourselves accountable and if we can find an issue on private property we are going to make you aware of that. To make the system function better we are going to do that and be consistent about it and that is one ordinance that I have our Building Department, our Building Director, who is here, looking at it. And our Law Director looked at it since our discussion a few weeks ago. That would require Councilmanic action, but it is something, if you are going to be consistent and you are going to take responsibility and you are going to come up with a plan you are going to need all those components.

Andy Dzienny 26814 Bruce Road. I was listening to the engineer from Chagrin Valley Engineering talking about remediating some of this, putting some liners in to help tighten the system. But, then I was listening further and he said the systems are designed for five-year storms and ten-year storms. We just experienced multiple 25-year storms. So, no matter what you are going to do to remediate the system, it won't accommodate a 25-year storm. Is that correct?

Mr. Filarski – When a 25-year storm occurs it will push through, surcharge, so when it goes up in the sewer it pushes through, at that point, depending on where the basin is, it won't handle a 25-year storm like a brand-new sewer that was designed for that storm.

Mr. Dzienny. Now we are here, in 2023 and we are having 25-year storms. People said this hasn't happened before. We lived in Bay for 23 years and this is the third time we've gotten hit. We were good for about ten years, but we got it this time. But, now we are here, we are going to have 25-year storms. My grass has never been greener than this summer. Normally, it is straw this time of the year. What are we going to do to increase the capacity of the system to handle these big surges? I mean, lining the sewers, that will help some of it, but we are still going to need a sewer there for whatever size we need.

Mr. Filarski: I am sorry I didn't get the point across. When I was talking about lining sewers I was also talking about capacity issues, bottlenecks. So, we can determine where the bottlenecks are based on where everyone is flooding and then looking at the system and analyzing a 25-year storm and a 10-year storm. Then it is a matter of what do we do. Do we put in another sewer to help slow down, or replace the existing sewer? Then, we look downstream and do the same thing. But, those are things for us, the engineers to come up with. Here is where the critical issues are and here is what is going to cost. And then we kick that over to Council and Council has to figure out how to pay for it.

Special Meeting of Council
August 31, 2023

Mr. Dzienny: That's a lot of time. You are talking a three-year plan here, whatever that works out to be and along that three-year time are you testing what you repaired? And finding what you repaired is the right solution?

Mr. Filarski: On the sanitary line, yes.

Mr. Dzienny: You fix the sanitary, that kind of fixes most of the back-ups in the house.

Mr. Filarski: Not necessarily because you are also getting debris from store laterals. That is an issue.

Mr. Dzienny: The normal system can handle that. When we are getting these big rains...

Mr. Filarski: I tend to disagree. The roots in the laterals. It doesn't matter if the mains are clear; if you have roots in the laterals it is like a damn in there. The water is going to back up to the foundation.

Mr. Dzienny: All the people here have roots in their laterals. This really happens when the water from the storm system gets into our sanitary system. If we fix the sanitary system that would more or less keep less water out of our basements coming up through our drains. We are not talking about leaking through the walls from water outside. We are talking up from our drains. That is the sanitary system.

Mr. Filarski: Not necessarily. Clear water drains from cross connection tie-ins from footers in the basement which shouldn't be there. The lining doesn't take care of that. That is another issue that needs to be taken care of.

Mr. Dzienny: That is a capacity issue. We have 100-year-old drains that were sized 100 years ago.

Mr. Filarski: It is like looking at your cardiovascular system. You have arteries, you have veins. Something could go wrong in one of those areas.

Mr. Dzienny: But with a normal rain it doesn't happen.

Mr. Filarski: That is why we are here. We wouldn't be here if it was a normal summer with normal rains.

Mr. Dzienny: This is happening during the last 23 years.

Taylor Evans, Manchester Lane: Mayor Koomar, thank you for being responsive when I emailed you after my second flooding. I didn't see Winzig, Maier, or Kelly walking the neighborhood or doing anything like that. It's a bummer, and it's really a letdown. Show you care. Just show you care. To that end, out of complete irony, I walked past you the next day in what I assumed to be the county building, a week ago. I want to know, because I saw \$21 million on that screen. And I am not giving you guys another dollar. I will just default on my

taxes and move out of this town because you can't promise me right now that my infrastructure is going to hold up for the next couple of years. And, by the way, you guys devalued my home because of this infrastructure. I saw you going into the county building, so tell me, how Bay's own Chris Ronayne in the county government is going to support that \$21 million. Tell me how you guys have engaged Bride Sweeney at the state level, and tell me how Marcy Kaptur has been engaged on a federal level. How are we getting support to get this right? Give us more money? Raise our taxes again? That is unacceptable. I want to hear that from all of you. You put it on these guys to talk, the engineers. But you guys have been silent.

Ms. DeGeorge: What would you like to hear from us?

Mr. Evans: I would like to hear anything. But, clearly you haven't come to our doorsteps. So, I would love to hear what you guys have been talking about. What is relief going to look like? Because relief to me is increased insurance rates, a second deductible, actually a second claim that I am not going to file because if I get hit with a second deductible and get kicked off the insurance that I just joined 8 months ago. I want to hold on to my insurance that will pay for this next one that is coming because the infrastructure has failed. What do you want me to do?

Ms. DeGeorge: I didn't ask you to do anything? What is it you want to hear and we will tell you?

Mr. Evans: Show us you care; tell us what you have done.

Ms. DeGeorge: I can't speak for anybody else up here, you understand that right?

Mr. Evans: Speak for yourself.

Ms. DeGeorge: I have had a conversation with a resident early on where I explained to him the same thing you are saying; we can't knock on every single door for every single issue. Having said that, let me finish. I can't speak for anybody here, but you don't know what streets I have been on. I have been on Osborn Sunday; we were on Canterbury on July 11. I have been on Aberdeen, Rexford, what is it that you want us to do? Council's job is to appropriate the funds to help you with your issue. That is what we do. We don't come up with the answer, we let the engineers do it and come back to Council and say here is what we need from you in terms of money. Will you give us this money? And, if you think we are going to say no, then, I am sorry, you are mistaken. Because we understand the depth and gravity of this issue. We can't fix something that happened in 1990, 2002, 2015. We are here now; we are giving you this forum and you have our word that this something that we have been looking at and we will continue to look at.

Mayor Koomar: Taylor, to answer a couple of your questions. You are absolutely right on the funding. I sit on the county committee, Public Works Committee. One of the things we have done over the last few years is a rules change that makes it more of a level playing field for the suburban cities that are well off, and all around the outer ring. We can get funding on large scale projects. I've gotten a 2.9 million interest free loan, we got \$800,000 from an additional loan, but over twenty or thirty years that adds up if you are putting together a funding piece. I have

been on the phone as late as yesterday with Congressman Miller and we had actual funding that is still alive at the federal level that would go for sewers. We moved buckets around under engineering and construction and what that does is create our funding for it. I've had conversations at the state level because if we are going to do this we need help, we need support and it can't come from all of our pocketbooks. Relative to your situation it is unique because the residents in your section have a pretty large storm sewer. So, as we go in and say we want to do dye testing it is interesting because if you have a large storm sewer, what is not working? Is your tie-in too low in the storm sewer? Does it need to be a little higher? I don't know, but in the general sense you have a large storm sewer there that you are blessed with because your house was built in the 1980's.

Mr. Evans: 1974.

Mayor Koomar: But, you are still having an issue. So, part of a consistent approach on this is giving you advice because your situation is a little different than your neighbors, potentially. We want to give you relief and sometimes it is a simple solution, sometimes it may not be. If you go back and look, the City might take a section, give you feedback, come back with a plan, and execute, looking for funding. I am always looking for funding; that's why I sit on this committee because you have to look at where the buckets come from. Last year, Wolf Road, over 80% of that project came from the county. If I am getting money for roads from the county that saves money elsewhere for City projects like sewers. I am out there working on those committees at all three levels because we have to bring all revenue sources back.

Mr. Evans: Thank you.

Mr. Kelly: You have every right to be angry, as does everyone else in here. Bay Village is approximately 16,000 people. I can't claim to know all of them, but, I have plenty of friends and neighbors who are not here. I talked to a number of people trying to be of assistance. I'm sorry I haven't made it to you. The best I can say is what has happened to everyone here, which is that right now it is not good enough, and more needs to be done. The problem that any of you have under any circumstances to be patient, as you expressed, is incredibly hard. So, in the same way many of you have different thoughts in terms of individual issues. There has to be greater clarity, so that when we make these large investments that they return the kind of result that we all hope for. There are things underneath and still bits and pieces here and they don't bring out the results in what we should do. We are particularly vulnerable because we don't have a commercial base, for schools, for anything. It's all of us. We have to get it right; we hope we can get it faster than the time line from the engineers. I would like to suggest, to recommend, to the administration, I would certainly vote for it, I am one of the guys who voted for the tax increase on the sewers. We did not wish this would happen, I think it is foreseeable, based on our path and based on where we are going. I would like to see additional investments made both in the system itself but even in terms of the ongoing maintenance to enhance, increase the frequency. One of the problems could be manpower. We could have more staff. Jon (Liskovec) said he had four guys then two more; there has to be more people. We need more people. Myself and my councilmen will gladly stamp that through. It won't be perfect, but at least we will have that additional confidence knowing that there is an effort being made. I have had issues in the past and I know

Special Meeting of Council
August 31, 2023

what that is to live with that, to know the weather reports are coming, to not sleep well, and go on vacation and worry. We have to do better.

Mr. Evans: When there is standing water in your HVAC system and your wife is going through an intense condition for eleven months, this is a lot more than wet floorboards and soaked carpet. This is my wife's health; this is my children, this is the air that they are breathing, yesterday, today, and for months to come with a fear that every rain storm will sicken them again. This has nothing to do with rusty pipes; it has nothing to do with anything other than the health of my family. And it is not my family alone. You're dealing with it, you're dealing with it, when this stuff gets into our home it is affecting our health, physical and emotional. You can see my intense nature right now. It is unacceptable and it is far greater than wet floorboards and wet carpet.

Rosemary Kuhlman, Osborn Road: I had an issue, I don't know exactly if it is related to everybody's issue, or if it is my own personal issue. I do not have overflow into my drains, but I have significant seeping from the ground, in some areas over an inch, in about five different areas. What would cause that, and what would remedy it, and is it related to the drainage problems? The drainage did not overflow, it is just large puddles.

Mr. Filarski: One of us would have to come over and talk to you and get the background.

A resident asked why it is necessary to hire more people for testing, stating that there are companies out there that would be more than willing to be hired and they can bring in multiple crews.

Mr. Filarski said that there are companies that can be hired, but it is something the Service Department can do. We are also talking about the staffing of the Service Department. If you staff more, you don't have to hire out. The smoke and dye testing, as I understand, used to be done by Service Department crews. We don't do that anymore; we hire that out so that you don't take them out of their work schedule. We do have someone and it is a consideration for future maintenance, we do hire a couple of companies to come in and do the large mains every year. We do farm some of that work out to contractors.

A Lincoln Rd. resident asked about the choke points that were talked about that need to be checked.

Mr. Filarski stated that this would start with mapping the network of sewers and also the areas where there is the most flooding. We obviously want to look at those first, and look at the infrastructure that is in place.

The resident asked if the information is available regarding 8-inch sewers and 12-inch sewers.

Mr. Filarski stated that in the last four years the City developed a map that has all of the infrastructure and other things on it.

Special Meeting of Council
August 31, 2023

Robert Lovequist, 23909 Wolf Road: This question is for Jon in the Service Department. I met him a couple of weeks ago and he was supposed to follow up with the county. They screwed up my ditches and my property and all of that rain water wound up in our basement. So, when are they going to fix it?

Mr. Liskovec: I have correspond into them, as we speak. There are still items on that punch list that have not been addressed yet.

Mr. Lovequist: The county has the money so why aren't they fixing it?

Mr. Liskovec: I don't have an answer for you at this point.

Mr. Lovequist: Do we have to get Commissioner Ronayne down here?

Mr. Liskovec: That I don't know, but I have reached out to them to see where we are at in getting all those punch list items addressed.

Mr. Lovequist: Mayor Koomar, you are on the sewer committee.

Mayor Koomar: If there are not resolutions let me know.

Paul Carte, Lincoln Road. I live at the corner of Lincoln and Welshire. I had sewage come up in July, and again in August. What can I do to get some proper mitigation, by calling, on-line, or is there someone I should submit something to?

Mr. Bierut: Contact the Service Department: jliskovec@cityofbayvillage.com.

Pat McGannon, Bradley Road. My question is related to engineering. What is being considered from a standpoint of less inflow of water into the storm sewers, e.g., a bioretention basin, or bioswales? Is that part of the option for solutions?

Mayor Koomar stated that goes to the earlier question about ordinances. Our Building and Law Director are looking at our current ordinances, and we are going to be working with our engineers for opportunities regarding sump pumps, splashing in yards, and downspouts. Some people have rain gardens and other types of devices. Our Building Director can speak more clearly to the proper names. We want to make sure there is a process in place so you do not flood your neighbor. The amount of rainfall is increasing, so in addition to tightening up the system if there is a way to be creative and keep some of that rain on your property and let it evaporate with time. We want to find all the tools we can for residents.

Mr. McGannon stated that the question is more to the public property. I have seen in other cities where they have done curb cuts and have bioswales on the side of the road pulling that water before it ever get to the sewer. Rather than increasing the pipe and trying to flush it away, you are dealing with it onsite and it filtrates into the storm sewers after the rain event.