

**VILLAGE OF CHAGRIN FALLS  
STREETS AND SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE  
August 25, 2014**

Members present: Evans, Lutz, Subel  
Also present: Himes, Patton, Newell, Muscenti, Lannon

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Chairman Janis Evans.

**SPEED LIMIT ON EAST WASHINGTON STREET**

Jim Weingart, Moreland Hills resident, asked the committee to consider doing whatever is necessary to lower the speed limit to 25 miles per hour from 35 miles per hour on East Washington Street from the high school to the BP Station.

Mr. Himes said there are two separate issues. There is what the speed limit is set at and then there is enforcement to make sure that the kids leaving the school and everyone else obeys that limit. The village and all municipalities have to follow the state law regarding setting speed limits. There is a process set in the law for doing an engineering study that looks at the pace speed of traffic and a number of other issues and then that recommends what the speed limit should be. Based on speed counts that we have done, 35 miles per hour seems to be about the pace the traffic is going so that would tend to indicate that 35 miles per hour may be the proper speed. As far as declaring a business district, the village still has to follow state law regarding assigned business districts. The legal opinion I have right now says that between intersections if the frontage is 50% commercial properties that can be made a business district so between the Main Street intersection and Philomethian Street if 50% of the frontage were commercial that could be made a business district. This is an old legal opinion so I am waiting for an update from the law director but we still have to follow state law in assigning those business districts for assigning a 25 mile per hour speed limit.

Mrs. Evans asked if the old funeral home, that is going to be the new historical society, would that be considered a business? Mr. Himes said that is a good question. Under state law what exactly counts? Would the school count as commercial? If we added that as well we could be getting close to 50%. We will investigate that further and see if that is a possibility.

Mr. Lannon said the Ohio Department of Transportation looks at a number of issues when studying speed limits including signage, the location of trees, geometry of the road, accident data, and prevailing driver speed. The \$5,000 study cost would be the responsibility of the village.

Mr. Weingart asked, how did the 25 miles per hour get changed so quickly when it was 35 miles per hour just west of the intermediate school and before the business district.

Mr. Himes said when we did the signage for Safe Routes to School ODOT had to review that

signage. Entering the school district from the east the speed limit is 35 miles per hour and you go into the school district which sets the speed limit at 20 miles per hour during the regulated hours and when you come out of that 20 mile an hour speed limit you have to go back to the existing speed limit, which is 35 miles per hour. So, as soon as you come out of the school zone on the west end you have to go back to 35 miles per hour and then immediately go to 25 miles per hour in the business district. So rather than having that short space between a 35 mile per hour sign immediately and then have a 25 mile per hour sign we changed that signage back to 25 miles per hour. If we could make that business district from Main Street all the way up to the post office that would be the best way to do it.

Comments were heard and questions were answered. Mrs. Evans said we will be doing some further studying for that area.

### **2014 ROAD PROGRAM**

Mr. Himes explained that when we discussed the capital improvement budget the Mayor has asked that we set aside savings from the general fund that we have achieved through things like the garbage contract, the shared services that we have with the school on fuel, and the dispatch C.O.G. We have had some efficiencies in savings that we have worked hard to achieve. Over the past two years that has generated about \$155,000 out of the general operating fund. We put this out to bid to see what that would do in the way of a road maintenance program. Mr. Lannon reviewed the scope of the project and the bid results.

No action was taken.

### **SOLON ROAD SURFACE WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Mr. Himes said we have a grant for \$73,000 and the bids exceeded the grant by \$11,725. We previously determined to delete work from the project to meet the grant amount.

Mr. Lannon said the original plan includes improved swales and drainage enhancements on the west side of the road in River Run Park and replacement of east side berm material along the condos with permeable concrete. The most likely reduction in the contract is deleting the portion of berm replacement opposite the street department garage. After inspection of the berm, I am recommending keeping this work in the contract and using capital improvement funds to cover the amount over the grant. The replacement will reduce surface runoff, eliminate the loose material, and provide a contrast in material/color between the road and sidewalk. There is also potential to add miscellaneous concrete repair work in the area that the street department has identified. I would expect the amount of that work to be in the range of \$1,000 to \$1,500 and could be added by change order later.

Moved by Mr. Subel, seconded by Mrs. Evans that we approve the \$11,725. All voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

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Janis Evans, Chairman  
lgb