

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Safety Committee of Council
Held in the Caucus Room of the Municipal Building
On Friday, February 28, 2020
8:00 A.M.**

Councilwoman-at-Large Tammy Holtzmeier, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Safety Committee Members Present:

Chair, Councilwoman-at-Large Tammy Holtzmeier

Councilman-at-Large Brian Fischer; Ward 4 Councilman Scott Radcliffe

Others in Attendance:

Capt. Larry Fischbach, Avon Police Dept.; Councilman-at-Large Craig Witherspoon; Service Director Mike Farmer; Capt. Mike Panehal, Avon Fire Dept.; Asst. Fire Chief Mike Emling; City Engineer Ryan Cummins; Finance Director Bill Logan

Discussion of French Creek Road Construction Project

Mr. Cummins displayed a map on the board of the Briar Lakes Pump Station Abandonment Project. The focus is to put a sanitary sewer along French Creek Road from 38151 French Creek Road to 37556 French Creek Road. He pointed out the existing pump station that will be removed once the sanitary sewer is in place and will take with it long-term maintenance responsibility and risk from adjacent residential structure flooding with sanitary sewage when a pump station has maintenance issues. So that is the overall benefit of the project. The sanitary sewer in general is going to be placed along the south side of French Creek Road just off from the roadway. For the maintenance traffic plan, what they have established is a one-way traffic pattern that would start at the beginning of the project. It would be one-way west-bound and the reason for choosing that direction is that would allow the emergency services coming from the Police and Fire Stations on Detroit Road to always be moving with traffic in their first response activities. There is a posted detour so if you wanted to go east-bound on French Creek Road, the detour would be posted as Moon Road to Detroit Road. The barricade will stop east-bound traffic just on the east side of N. Long Road, so traffic will be able to get to both Kenwyn and N. Long Road in the east-bound direction but not travel through the work area.

Mr. Cummins stated that the project was awarded to a company called Fabrizi Trucking and Paving. Initially we were looking at a start date of March 9th but in discussions with the contractor and sorting out some of the communication issues with residents, etc., they agreed that they are going to start on March 16th. He said that he wanted to have this meeting today to see if there was any additional input from City Council but he does have a resident letter drafted explaining the highlights of the project, when it will start, when we project it to finish, and that there will be one-way west-bound traffic. Another logistical item during the project that will impact the residents is that since the work will be going on right along the south side of the pavement, their mailboxes there will have to be moved. Part of the contract is for the contractor to take the existing mailboxes, store them, and place temporary mailboxes on the north side of French Creek Road. Mr. Cummins said he has spoken to the Post Office and they will deliver mail in that west-bound direction, both to the homes that are on the north as well as to the temporary mailboxes for the homes that are on the south. All delivery will be on the north side of the road.

Mrs. Holtzmeier asked about storing the mailboxes and Mr. Cummins said that a lot of times the contractor will talk with the resident and ask if they want to keep the mailbox in their garage or store it

somewhere; otherwise the contractor might take them to their yard. Each contractor is a little different but they are responsible for safely storing the mailboxes either with the resident or under their own means and then re-installing them in the same location once the project is complete.

Mr. Cummins said that the other kind of logistical issue for the residents is trash pickup, The trash trucks have the grabber that comes out from the right side so that in this case, the east-bound traffic flow is blocked off so they have to go west-bound which means that the residents will have to take their trash bins to the north side of French Creek Road. What the City has done in the past with this type of situation is that they will have someone from the Service Dept. drive the roadway before the trash pickup on that day and if someone did not take their bin over, they will take it over. Also in the past, they have had people maybe with limited mobility; if they call in and talk to the Service Dept., arrangements will be made for those bins to be taken and placed on the north side. But in the letter it will just be a general notation that they have to take their bins over and if anyone expresses concern, to please call and we can see what arrangements can be made for that.

Mrs. Holtzmeier noted that during the term of this project, there are also going to be bulk days for trash pickup and on April 6th, yard waste pickup is scheduled to start. She asked Mr. Cummins what should be done with those items and Mr. Cummins said that everything will have to go to the north side of the street as there is not an option to have the truck drive against traffic. Some people may not have work in front of their homes on trash days but the maintenance of traffic dictates that the truck cannot get there on the south side.

Mr. Farmer said that since you do not have the grabber issue with the bulk pickup truck, maybe with some of the bulk pickup, the residents may be able to put it out close to the street and it would probably be on pavement if they got it somewhere close and the same with the yard waste, so that is a conversation we can have with Republic to see what they prefer. And we are trying to work, too, on the school bus schedules to make sure that Republic and the buses are not running at the same time.

Mr. Cummins said that the last point in the letter states that the contractor is responsible to maintain driveway access although obviously there will be times when they are working right at the drive. What generally happens there is that the contractor and/or the inspector will contact the residents in advance to say they would be working at the driveway and to ask if it would be possible for the resident to park at their neighbor's or to make other arrangements if they have to be somewhere at a certain time. At the end of each workday, the driveway access will be installed, so he does not foresee issues until maybe we get to replacing driveway aprons where concrete has to cure. But generally as they are working along, they will make arrangements for the residents to be able to get in and out; they will try to identify if anyone has special medical needs and has to get out at a certain time, those types of things. Mr. Cummins said that he has had some experience with this contractor and he thinks they do a really good job at those kinds of things, not that it is ever perfect, but they do many public-type projects like this and this comes up all the time.

Mr. Cummins said that the letter would be finalized after the meeting here today and the Utilities Dept. would probably get it out in the mail on Monday. We will also provide it to the Police and Fire Departments and the Administration and information from it will get posted on the website, social media platforms, etc. And then generally just a couple days before the work begins, we have the contractor themselves drop a note by hand to the residents, with a little bit more specific information.

Mrs. Holtzmeier asked if this letter will go to other residents as well as the people on French Creek Road, and Mr. Cummins said at this time, he does not anticipate doing that. He will probably draft a different letter to the residents on Century Lane because part of the project is boring under Detroit Road at Century Lane, but this happens much further into the project, probably in the June time frame so we will probably send a letter then to the residents on Century Lane. They are not necessarily impacted the way the residents on French Creek Road are by the flow of traffic on French Creek Road but it is important for them to know that the project is moving forward. His intent now is just to basically mail a letter to homes that front on French Creek Road both north and south between N. Long Road and the addresses up to Detroit Road.

Mr. Cummins stated that Mr. Farmer has had several discussions with the schools and there was a concern about picking up students right at N. Long Road. There is a through lane and a turn lane and they brought up a very good point that if the buses have to pick up students there, it is difficult to do that unless they are already in the left hand turn lane and if this lane is not blocked off, they were concerned about cars kind of shooting to their right of the bus and not seeing the students. So what we have proposed to do is we will barrel off this through lane during the length of the project so there will be a lane east-bound to the barrel so basically the bus would come up and stop and students could safely get off and get over to the sidewalk. The west-bound lane would not be impacted. So this came out of the discussion with the schools yesterday and Mr. Farmer will take our proposal back to them and make sure it addresses their concerns and if it does, we will work with the contractor to get it implemented throughout the length of the project.

Mr. Cummins said again, that the project will start March 16th and is projected to finish on August 15th. He thought that there are opportunities for that schedule to be shrunk and we will have those discussions with the contractor to see about doing that. Once you get into July, they are doing things like restorations, driveways, seeding and mulching and that is normally done by a different crew so maybe some of those things could start to be condensed a little bit

Mr. Logan asked if that timeline includes the Detroit Road portion of the work and Mr. Cummins answered, yes, the bore at Century Lane is anticipated to be between June 15th and June 26th so certainly in those two weeks that they are working over there, some of the restoration things, in his mind, could start happening on French Creek Road, depending on the weather.

Mr. Witherspoon asked if they were planning on putting out message boards ahead of time and Mr. Cummins said, yes, in the contract we have four message boards being put up, one in each direction on Detroit Road, and one in each direction on French Creek Road. They would like to have those message boards up a week before the work actually begins. The week of March 9th, they may start offloading the pipe and some things like that that do not impact traffic, and maybe putting up the detour signs, etc. so there will be some setup work starting the week of March 9th but nothing that impacts traffic.

Mrs. Holtzmeier asked if they were still planning to have a Duck Tape parade on Detroit Road on Fathers Day weekend? Capt. Fischbach said that the Police Dept. has not been contacted by anybody with the Duck Tape Festival so they really have no idea what their plans are at this point. He knows that the Festival has moved to the baseball stadium. Mr. Farmer said he thought that they are still working on whether they will have the parade. Mr. Cummins stated that the only work on Detroit Road is at Century Lane and they are actually boring under so they will not be impacting Detroit Road traffic flow in any way there.

Mr. Witherspoon asked if they were going to camera everything ahead of time and Mr. Cummins asked if Mr. Witherspoon was talking about the pre-construction video. Mr. Witherspoon said, yes, and Mr. Cummins stated that the Utilities Dept. has already done that on Century Lane and we have the contractor out video-taping French Creek Road from the railroad tracks to Abbe Road.

Mrs. Holtzmeier noted that traffic will be one way by Avon Oaks Nursing Home and she asked about emergency vehicles going in there. Asst. Fire Chief Emling said that flaggers are going to be there during the day so if the Fire Dept. has someone who is super critical, they can get in and then go against traffic if they had to. It is not a big problem; the big problem is getting there and starting treatment on the patient. Mr. Fischer asked if there were private emergency vehicles going in there also and Asst. Chief Emling said, yes, Life Care goes in there as well a couple others. He said that they will contact the nursing home and they will probably notify the private companies. Mr. Cummins stated that the nursing home is fully aware of the project and the extent of the project. Asst. Chief Emling said that if the patient is non-critical, the private companies take them; if they are critical and 911 is called, then the Fire Department goes.

Mrs. Holtzmeier stated that it was good to have an opportunity to just collectively discuss things, and she thanked everyone for being there.

Mrs. Holtzmeier adjourned the meeting at 8:27 A.M.

Transcribed by Gail Hayden, Assistant Clerk of Council