

CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE

MASTER PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE
PUBLIC SERVICES AND UTILITIES

Tuesday, December 2, 2008
North Ridgeville Public Library

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Facilitator: Rick Winrod, Master Plan Advisory Committee

Guest Speakers: Fire Chief Miller
Police Chief Thomas
Safety Service Director Johnson – Fiber Optics
Mayor Gillock & Director Johnson – FCWWTP
County Watershed Coordinator Dan Gouch – Watershed Action Plan

Recommendations to Master Plan Committee:

Fire Department

Department provides largest dual role service in Lorain County. Largest volume of calls is for the paramedic squad. The department goal is to achieve a four minute response time to all emergencies. One minute is required for turnout time which leaves three minutes travel time to destination. To accomplish this goal, stations must be located in all four quadrants of North Ridgeville. Currently, central station is located at 83/20 with a satellite station on Lorain Rd. in SE quadrant.

Master Plan items:

- Demolish current headquarters and determine highest and best use of site.
- Secure site and move Headquarters (#4) to Lear Nagle and Center Ridge in NE quadrant
- Construct new satellite station (#3) in NW quadrant at Stoney Ridge and Barres Rd.
- Construct new satellite station (#1) in SW quadrant in central location.
- Keep (#2) satellite station on Lorain Rd. in SE quadrant
- Explore regionalization of Westshore Dispatch Station into one district plan sometime in the next 10 years.
- Develop Fire Prevention Bureau and Fire Safety Program to provide ongoing public education.

Police Department

Department averages 35,000 calls per year. It is the lowest staffed per capita department in Lorain County. Recommended staffing is 2.2 officers per 1,000 residents. North Ridgeville is 1.36 per 1,000 residents. Surrounding cities have 1.73, 1.79, and 2.69. Additional resources will be needed in the next 10 years. Three department heads will be retiring by 2011-2013. Current station is undersized with no

safe room, only two interview rooms, and inadequate parking for cruisers. Jail facility is currently adequate but will not be in five years. Dispatch center is grossly inadequate. Firing range is shared and is located outside of city. Processing of records is curtailed by lack of space and resources (100,000 records need to be input). Training station is inadequate. Fifteen vehicles have over the limit of 100,000 miles.

Master Plan items:

- Explore potential sites for larger police station:
 - Joint police and fire facility
 - Expansion into the current City Hall site.
 - Middle school site
 - New construction
- Increase cyber crime investigation resources
- Upgrade equipment and implement modern technology
- Coordinate with school district to educate and investigate drug and substance abuse problems

Fiber Optics

The current administration's goal is to provide full wireless capability throughout the city. City-wide fiber would attract businesses with high power needs. Smart cities attract high-tech companies. Administration worked with cable company until state took away franchise capability. Now being installed, water meter systems use Wi-Fi units in neighborhoods Meters can be read from office.

Master Plan items:

- Monitor fast moving technology over the next 5-10 years to watch for stabilization.
- Lay fiber ring around city through all government buildings.
- Evaluate fiber optic as a public utility and revenue stream for the city.
- Evaluate plan to install fiber during large construction projects to start building loop now. Light up fiber as needed.
- Work with LCCC to develop 280 acres of college property to high tech use.

French Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant

This year the City of North Ridgeville obtained full ownership of the French Creek plant. City has contracted with engineering company to review residential and commercial rates to compete for new business. The city pays \$1 mill a year for plant maintenance. Administration currently camering main interceptors to identify illegal taps and I & I.

Current technology is poised to serve a growing base. Currently ready for 11.25 gallons per day, capable of expanding to 30 mill gallons per day. The plant sits on 75 acres with 35 acres in use today. Purchased 10 acres last year as a buffer for new development.

Master Plan items:

- Sludge removal – Now rated Class B and can't be used as bio fuel. Explore possible uses for sludge piles such as fertilizer for farmers' fields.
- Explore in-house hauling to remove new sludge for cost-effectiveness.
- Explore Regional Plan. Plant would serve as transfer plant.
- Explore option of selling plant outright for a potential price of \$300 mill.
- Explore outsourcing the management of plant to American Water Management Association, diverting funds to General Fund.
- Offer buying options to Sheffield Village and Avon.
- Explore creating JEDD with North Eaton. This will provide city income tax through commercial businesses.

Watershed Action Plan

Failing home sewage treatment is the #1 cause of contamination. Lake Erie dead zone caused by phosphorus from human activities such as use of dishwasher soap and laundry soap, fertilizer runoff. Unsafe to have secondary contact in local rivers, especially during high flows.

Master Plan items

- Environmental planning - Inventory all water flows and water resources.
- Prioritize areas needing protection to avoid future economic problems with flooding.
- Land use planning and zoning to minimize impact of tree removal or stream modifications in development projects.
- Protect areas that handle runoff naturally.
- Identify primary sources of phosphorus
- Minimize building in natural flood plains and utilize free infrastructure
- Preserve wetlands and flowing stream networks
- Increase housing density and remove failing septic
- Create Greenspace in subdivisions.