



SHAKER HEIGHTS

Safety and Public Works Committee Agenda Via Zoom Thursday, February 5, 8:00 am

This meeting is being held remotely (Zoom) pursuant to Chapters 113 and 115 of the Codified Ordinances and Resolution 22-29.

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[pwd=AXdGS5d7SROwgW6YaJblzXVYo5SquZ.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81061952868?pwd=AXdGS5d7SROwgW6YaJblzXVYo5SquZ.1;); Description: Safety and Public Works Committee; or join by phone at 833-548- 0282 (toll free); Webinar ID: 885 9119 5596; Password: 910136. International numbers available at: <https://zoom.us/u/aUzB20ML>.

Closed captioning is available but Zoom attendees [must turn on this feature](#) in their Zoom settings.

1. January Meeting Minutes

Documents:

[JANUARY 9 MEETING MINS.PDF](#)

2. Lee Road Complete Streets Appropriation and Acquisition of Right-of-Way

Submitted by Director Braverman

Documents:

[SAFETY AND PUBLIC WORKS 2026 0123.PDF](#)

3. Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works 2026 Sewer Maintenance Agreement

Submitted by Director Lowery-Ferrell

Documents:

[SPW_CCDPW SEWER AGREEMENT.PDF](#)

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SHAKER HEIGHTS

SAFETY AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES FRIDAY January 9, 2026 at 8:00 AM VIA ZOOM MEETING

Members Present: Nancy Moore, Council Chair
Orlando Alvarez, Council Member
Peter Chengelis, Council Member
Tenille Kaus, Council Member
Jonathan Hren, Citizen Member
Sara Schiavoni, Citizen Member

Others Present: Mayor David Weiss
Matt Carroll, CAO
Patrick Sweeney, Chief of Fire
Wayne Hudson, Chief of Police
Ramona Lowery-Ferrell, Director of Public Works
William Gruber, Law Director
Christian Maier, Assistant Director of Public Works
Annette Wallace, First Call Program Coordinator

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES.

The minutes of December 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

The first meeting of the year started with introductions from the new Chairwoman, Nancy Moore, along with the new Council members, Citizen members, and City Directors.

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Public Works City Safety Assessment

Presented by Christian Maier, Assistant Director

Assistant Director Maier presented a request for the Committee's support to enter into an agreement with Partners consultants to conduct a City Safety Assessment in the amount of \$45,250. He reported that in September 2025, Public Works issued a request for proposals for a consultant to perform on-site health and safety assessments of nine City facilities and to develop standard operating procedures and inspection forms that would allow City staff to conduct biannual inspections in the future.

Mr. Maier explained that proposals were evaluated in October using a quality-based selection process by staff from Public Works, Fire, and the Building Department. He stated that Partners submitted the most comprehensive proposal and was interviewed in November, demonstrating experience with similar municipal projects and a clear understanding of the City's needs. Following the interview, partners submitted a fee proposal of \$45,250, which Mr. Maier characterized as fair and reasonable.

In response to questions from Councilmembers, Mr. Maier confirmed that cost was not considered during the initial evaluation of proposals under the quality-based selection process and that this type of formal safety assessment had not previously been conducted by the City.

Upon motion by Citizen member Hren, seconded by Councilmember Chengelis, the Committee unanimously recommended approval of an agreement with Partners to conduct the City Safety Assessment in the amount of \$45,250.

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Contract with Chagrin Valley Dispatch (CVD) for Employment Services for First CALL

Presented by William Gruber, Law Director

Director Gruber presented a request for the Committee's recommendation to City Council to enact legislation authorizing the City, on behalf of the five participating municipalities in the First Call Program, to enter into an employment services agreement with Chagrin Valley Dispatch (CVD).

Director Gruber explained that the First Call Program began in 2021 as a mental health response initiative working alongside police and fire with licensed social workers. In July 2024, five cities formally entered into an agreement establishing the First Crisis Assistance and Local Linkage (First Call) Program, with the City of Shaker Heights serving as the operating city and grant recipient. He noted that significant grant funding had been secured, keeping local contributions relatively low in the program's early years.

Director Gruber further explained that Recovery Resources had previously provided employment, payroll, training support, and data management services for program staff; however, Recovery Resources announced in October that it would wind down operations despite having a contract in place through May. As a result, the City explored alternatives and determined that CVD was a logical partner to assume these employment services functions, given its existing relationship with the City and its placement of a social worker within the dispatch center. He emphasized that the

program would continue to be coordinated by City employee Annette Wallace and that day-to-day operations would remain substantially the same.

Ms. Wallace, Program Coordinator, expressed her support for the transition, stating that it would strengthen existing relationships with CVD and participating communities while allowing the program's work to continue effectively.

Chief Hudson and Chief Sweeney each spoke in support of the program, noting its demonstrated success in Shaker Heights and its value to regional partners.

In response to a question from Councilmember Chengelis regarding potential cost changes, Director Gruber indicated that program costs would continue to be covered through existing program funding and that any potential administrative fee from CVD, if requested, would likewise be paid through the program. He also confirmed that a draft contract had been prepared and that final language was expected to be completed in time for Council consideration later in the month.

Upon motion by Councilmember Chengelis, seconded by Citizen member Hren, the Committee unanimously recommended that City Council enact legislation authorizing the City, on behalf of the five First Call municipalities, to enter into an employment services agreement with Chagrin Valley Dispatch.

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Public Works Backflow Preventer Maintenance Contract

Presented by Shannon Marlin, Public Works Building Superintendent

Superintendent Marlin presented a request for the Committee's support to increase the City's existing contract with Breakfire, Inc. for the 2025 Backflow Preventer Maintenance Program from \$43,259 to \$62,188.

Mr. Marlin explained that the City maintains 31 backflow preventers across various municipal buildings and irrigation systems as required by the Cleveland Division of Water (CWD) to protect drinking water quality. He noted that CWD requires annual testing each May, and that any valves failing inspection must be repaired or replaced.

Mr. Marlin reported that testing costs have remained relatively stable at just under \$5,000 annually; however, repair and replacement costs have increased in recent years. In 2024, 13 of 28 valves failed testing, resulting in approximately \$30,000 in repair and replacement expenses. In 2025, 15 valves failed testing, with costs to date exceeding \$43,000, and one additional valve still requiring replacement. He explained that

completing this work would exceed the current \$50,000 contract limit, necessitating the requested increase.

In response to questions from Councilmembers, Mr. Marlin confirmed that the remaining work had not yet been performed and needed to proceed as soon as possible. Finance Director Potts advised that the additional costs would be paid from the 2026 budget.

Further discussion addressed the lifespan of backflow preventers and factors affecting their durability, including debris from water main breaks and general wear over time. Mr. Marlin and Director Lowery-Ferrell noted that backflow preventers are required devices with no alternative substitutes, and that repairs are attempted before replacement whenever feasible.

Upon motion by Councilmember Alvarez, seconded by Citizen member Schiavoni, the Committee unanimously recommended approval of increasing the Breakfire, Inc. contract to \$62,188 for the 2025 Backflow Preventer Maintenance Program.

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Fire Department Donation of Horton Rescue Squads

Presented by Chief Patrick Sweeney

Chairwoman Moore introduced the final agenda item regarding the Fire Department's proposed donation program for two, out-of-service Horton Rescue Squad vehicles in 2026 and invited Fire Chief Patrick Sweeney to present. Chief Sweeney explained that the City currently operates three frontline rescue squads and has historically retained additional units as backup due to significant manufacturing and delivery delays that arose during COVID, which extended procurement timelines from approximately six months to as long as three years. He noted that the Department recently placed a new 2025 Horton Rescue Squad into service, and that a replacement vehicle is included in the 2026 capital budget, leaving the City in a strong position with sufficient operational redundancy.

Chief Sweeney stated that the Department now has two older vehicles—the 2009 and 2014 Horton Rescue Squads—that could be removed from the fleet. He recommended donating these units to neighboring communities experiencing critical equipment shortages: the 2009 vehicle to the City of Maple Heights, whose rescue squad was destroyed in a serious accident, and the 2014 vehicle to the Village of Oakwood, which lost a unit to a mechanical fire. He emphasized that while each vehicle could potentially be sold on GovDeals for approximately \$10,000, the regional public safety benefit of donation was far greater, reducing reliance on mutual aid and supporting neighboring departments.

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Deer Management Program - Informational Update (Added Item)

Chairwoman Moore added an informational item to the agenda regarding the City's Deer Management Program, noting that all members of Council had received a recent memo from the Communications and Marketing Department. She explained that, consistent with past practice, the City seeks to provide the community with robust and transparent information at the outset of each winter program. She acknowledged that deer management remains a complex and sometimes controversial policy issue and emphasized the City's long-standing approach of soliciting diverse perspectives through the Deer Management Program Advisory Committee and community surveys while ultimately pursuing a practical, common-sense strategy.

Chairwoman Moore directed members and the public to the dedicated Deer Management Program page on the City's website, highlighting this year's new emphasis on a deer sterilization component implemented by White Buffalo. She explained that sterilization reduces future births over time, works best in densely populated areas where traditional culling is more difficult, and must—under Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) rules—be paired with a limited culling program. She noted that treated deer live out their natural lifespans and therefore continue to contribute to habitat damage and vehicle-collision risk, which is why the combined approach is necessary. Chairwoman Moore further stated that initial sterilization efforts would occur over one to three nights and that data from South Euclid has demonstrated the potential effectiveness of this regional collaboration.

Police Chief Wayne Hudson added that all culling activities are conducted only with prior written permission from property owners and adjacent landowners, refuting claims circulating on social media that deer are removed from private property without consent. Mayor Weiss remarked that the City has considered non-lethal alternatives for many years and that the current approach reflects lessons learned from South Euclid and coordination with Beachwood, both of which are participating in the expanded sterilization program. He encouraged residents to consult the City's website and its extensive FAQ section for accurate information.

Councilmember Kaus read into the record (without identifying the student) a letter from a minor at Onaway School expressing concerns about safety and urging that households with children have security cameras. She suggested that City departments consider outreach to Onaway regarding safety education. Mayor Weiss requested that the letter be shared with his office, noting that the City regularly responds to student correspondence as part of civic engagement efforts. Chief Hudson also advised that the Police Department will begin visiting each school at least once per month starting January 1.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 am. The next meeting will be February 6, 2026 at 8:00 am.

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Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Moore, Council Chairperson
Safety & Public Works Committee



Memorandum

To: Safety and Public Works Committee

From: Joyce G. Braverman, Director, Planning
William M. Ondrey Gruber, Director, Law

cc: Laura Englehart, Director, Economic Development
Ramona Lowery-Ferrell, Director, Public Works
Christian Maier, Assistant Director, Public Works
Kara Hamley O'Donnell, Principal Planner

Date: January 26, 2026

Re: Lee Road Complete Streets
Appropriation and Acquisition of Right-of-Way

This memo recommends the acquisition and appropriation of six (6) parcels of land in order to clear the right-of-way (ROW) and proceed with the Lee Road Complete Streets project.

The city of Shaker Heights is partnering with Cuyahoga County to enhance the Lee Road corridor as envisioned in the *Lee Road Action Plan*, a community-driven plan that creates a vision to comprehensively transform the area south of Van Aken Boulevard into a thriving corridor and commercial district that is attractive, walkable, bikeable, and transit-friendly. Roadway improvements include reducing the roadway from four lanes to three (one lane in each direction with a center turn lane) through most of the City limits, making way for bike infrastructure and pedestrian improvements. North of Van Aken Boulevard, in-road bike lanes will be added. South of Van Aken Boulevard, an off-road, sidewalk-level, two-way cycle track will be added, along with streetscape improvements. This will create a safer roadway for all users.

The City and Cuyahoga County Public Works are working with Chagrin Valley Engineering to design and engineer roadway, streetscape and utility improvements. The final plan package is due to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) by February 27, 2026 to put us on track for a spring bidding. To date, \$24.5M in grant funds have been secured to construct the improvements. OR Colan has been hired and is responsible for securing appraisals, making offers to property owners, and acquiring parcels needed for the ROW. The land being acquired are small areas along the current ROW which are needed for the project.

To meet ODOT requirements, portions of six properties need to be acquired. OR Colan has made offers to all property owners. However, there is only one (1) signed deal. In order to clear the ROW by the February 27 deadline, Council will need to authorize both acquisition of the property and appropriation of real property for the reconstruction of Lee Road. The appropriation guarantees ROW will be clear by the deadline. OR Colan

will continue to work with the property owners to reach a deal on acquisition. Private property owners will be compensated based on appraisals and offers of fair market value. Appropriation requires funds to be deposited with the Probate Court of Cuyahoga County, which are equal to the fair market value (FMV).

The parcels that require appropriation and the authorization to acquire as necessary ROW, per the ROW plat exhibits, and per fair market value appraisals, include:

PPN 735-25-028—Chagrin Lee LLC (Chagrin Lee Square)

FMV estimate: \$92,500.

PPN 735-16-007—LK Woods, LLC (The Woodlands Assisted Living)

FMV estimate: \$98,900

PPN 735-17-001—MW Centers Shaker, LLC (Shaker Towne Centre shopping center)

FMV estimate: \$31,450

PPN 735-23-023, 026, 027—Nursery Partners LLC (Process Canine)

FMV estimate: \$5,000

PPN 735-28-010—Chagrin Boulevard, LLC (Irie Jamaican Kitchen building)

FMV estimate: \$10,950

The parcel that requires authorization to acquire is:

PPN 735-25-030—Lewis Properties (Lewis Electronics)

FMV estimate: \$2,950

Total estimate fair market value is: \$242, 250.

The process to acquire the ROW is as follows:

1. City receives and signs fair market value appraisals (Complete)
2. Council grants authority to acquire and appropriate parcels
3. City deposits fair market value with the Probate Court of Cuyahoga County
4. OR Colan continues to secure final offers and agreements
5. City subdivides land, dedicates ROW, and sends checks to property owners.
6. ROW plats are filed

This is a request for the Safety and Public Works Committee to recommend to Council to acquire six parcels of land and to appropriate five (5) parcels of land to acquire and clear ROW so that the Lee Road Complete Streets project can proceed on schedule. Right-of-Way cannot be certified to the Ohio Department of Transportation as being ready for construction until all ROW parcels have been acquired either by agreement or by filing a petition for appropriation, along with a check for the fair market value estimate with the Probate Court of Cuyahoga County.

The funding for the ROW purchase includes: 2025 Capital Budget - \$250,000 and 2026 Capital Budget - \$100,000 for a total of \$350,000. The total Fair Market Value estimate for all parcels is \$242,250. This could increase due to counter offers and negotiation.



Memorandum

To: Members of Safety & Public Works Committee

From: Ramona Lowery-Ferrell, Director, Public Works

cc: Mayor David E. Weiss
Chief Administrative Officer Matt Carroll
Christian Maier, Asst. Director of Public Works Infrastructure
Anthony Smith, Sewer & Streets Superintendent

Date: February 5, 2026

Re: **Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works 2026 Sewer Maintenance Agreement**

Since 2012, the City of Shaker Heights has been using the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works (CCDPW) to augment Public Works staff related to sewer maintenance activities and capital improvements. In general, these services consisted of cleaning and inspection of laterals & mains. Public Works has also used the County to perform sewer repairs and other improvements such as installation of cured in place pipes (CIPP) liners to reduce infiltration & inflow and manhole rehabilitation. When conducting extensive sewer repairs and CIPP liners, the County also provides an engineer and inspector to ensure quality control. As depicted in the table below, Public Works use of CCDPW's has varied over the past 13 years.

YEAR	MAINTENANCE	CAPITAL	TOTAL
2012	\$260,000.00	\$0.00	\$260,000.00
2013	\$300,000.00	\$37,632.50	\$337,632.50
2014	\$592,000.00	\$0.00	\$592,000.00
2015	\$400,000.00	\$400,790.00	\$800,790.00
2016	\$400,000.00	\$749,732.00	\$1,149,732.00
2017	\$225,000.00	\$282,118.00	\$507,118.00
2018	\$95,000.00	\$1,563,189.00	\$1,658,189.00
2019	\$112,500.00	\$2,175,873.00	\$2,288,373.00
2020	\$115,000.00	\$0.00	\$115,000.00
2021	\$200,000.00	\$574,892.00	\$774,892.00
2022	\$110,164.00	\$225,000.00	\$335,164.00
2023	\$175,000.00	\$315,000.00	\$490,000.00
2024	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00
2025	\$50,000.00	\$450,000.00	\$500,000.00
Total =	\$3,134,664.00	\$6,774,226.50	\$9,908,890.50

The original contract with CCDPW was renewed annually. In December 2025, the County provided a new agreement that would be effective for 2026, with the option to renew in 2027. The core services provided by the County would essentially remain the same. The new agreement would have an annual cap of \$500,000. Given the new direction of the Department to perform more sewer maintenance activities “in-house”, this amount is a reasonable. Funds would come from a combination of sewer maintenance and sewer capital. CCDPW services provides another resource the City can use for sewer maintenance and select capital improvement projects.

We are seeking support from the Safety & Public Works Committee to enter into an agreement with Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works for Sewer Maintenance services in the amount of \$500,000.