



# SHAKER HEIGHTS

## Memorandum

To: Members of City Council

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 23, 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 presented our recommendation to the Safety & Public Works Committee on February 5, 2026 and it was passed unanimously.

Citizen member Hren inquired if our request includes extending the option to renew the contract for 2027. No, Public Works will come back in 2027 for a contract renewal.

Council member Chengelis asked is the \$500,000 cap was reasonable. Yes, Public Works has reviewed previous years sewer maintenance efforts and feels the \$500,000 cap is reasonable.

Council member Moore mentioned her surprise at the reduction in sewer maintenance costs for services provided by the County. Director Lowery-Ferrell stated the Department is going in a new direction and we are performing more sewer services “in-house”. Additional equipment, such as the camera truck, the hiring of a Sewer Superintendent and the creation of a sewer department has enabled the Department to provide sewer maintenance services to residents, with less reliance on the County.

We presented our recommendation to the Finance Committee on February 17, 2026 and it was passed unanimously.

Council member Moore inquired how the new contract was impacted and how these services will be used as Shaker Public Works is performing more sewer maintenance “in house”. Public Works is primarily using the County for after-hours sewer calls. With the additional staff and equipment allocated for “in house” services, there will be less reliance on using the County.

As a follow-up question, Council member Moore asked if other municipalities are using the County’s service for sewer maintenance. Yes, other communities are using the County for sewer services but Public Works is unaware of the individual agreements with these municipalities.

We requesting authority from City Council to enter into an agreement with the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works for sewer maintenance services in the amount of \$500,000.00. We request this legislation be passed as an emergency and under suspension of the rules so we proceed with this much-needed project.

ORDINANCE NO.

BY:

Authorizing a one-year agreement with the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works for sewer maintenance services for the period January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, at a not-to-exceed cost of \$500,000, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, since 2012, the City has had an annual contract with the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works (CCDPW) to augment City staff related to sewer maintenance activities and capital improvements, and the services include cleaning and inspecting laterals and mains; and

WHEREAS, under the agreement, the City has also used CCDPW to perform sewer repairs and other improvements such as installation of cured in place pipes (CIPP) liners to reduce infiltration & inflow and manhole rehabilitation, and when conducting extensive sewer repairs and CIPP liners, CCDPW also provides an engineer and inspector to ensure quality control; and

WHEREAS, in December 2025, the City received a new agreement from CCDPW with similar terms along with an annual cap of \$500,000; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Public Works recommends that the City enter into a one year agreement with CCDPW for sewer maintenance services from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, at a not-to-exceed cost of \$500,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Shaker Heights, State of Ohio:

Section 1. This Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to enter into a one year agreement with the Cuyahoga County Department of Public Works (CCDPW) for sewer maintenance services from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026, at a not-to-exceed cost of \$500,000. Said Agreement shall be in the form as approved by the Director of Law.

Section 2. This ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare for the reason that it is necessary in the current operation of the City so that the City can effectively provide necessary sewer maintenance services in 2026 and, therefore, this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its enactment and approval by the Mayor.

Enacted

Approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID E. WEISS, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
MATTHEW P. CARROLL  
Clerk of Council

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