

Executive Summary: Committee as a Whole Meeting — September 24, 2026

In Attendance: Councilpersons Camara, Grant, Koss, Martin, Paessun, Pinter; Mayor Southard, Chief Delp

1. Streets, Drainage, and Stormwater

A significant portion of the meeting focused on drainage, stormwater infrastructure, maintenance, and recurring flooding/sediment issues.

Detention basin and Wildwood concerns

Officials discussed a detention basin that appears to have been designed to function without significant foliage. The basin currently has substantial tree growth, which was identified as potentially affecting both drainage capacity and its ability to retain water during major rain events. The group is working with the property owner and has contacted a high-level City of Columbus enforcement contact. Existing easement documents reportedly establish a permanent Columbus easement for maintenance.

A gravel driveway on Wildwood was also identified as a potential concern because stormwater could carry sediment from the driveway into the Village's sewer system, increasing the possibility of blockages and additional maintenance/scoping costs.

Preventive sewer maintenance

The group discussed several possible preventive measures, including:

- Installing mesh or grate-type covers over sewer inlets during leaf and acorn season.
- Exploring street-cleaning approaches that collect debris rather than pushing it toward gutters and storm sewers.
- Increasing preventive maintenance during periods when the maintenance department may have additional capacity.
- Investigating recurring sediment entering the Park Lane Court area from runoff behind Jordan.
- Observing water movement from Wildwood through backyards toward Park Lane during heavy rain.

The discussion emphasized prevention as a potential way to reduce recurring sewer-cleaning expenses.

Park Lane flooding and emergency cleaning

An emergency cleaning of Park Lane was authorized/discussed because of sediment accumulation and flooding concerns. The estimated cost was not expected to exceed **\$11,000**. The transcript notes that the work had been delayed because of an emergency affecting the contractor and that the larger street project was expected to be completed within approximately three or four weeks.

2. Cul-de-Sac / Traffic Circle Removal

The committee discussed removal of a traffic circle/central feature because the area is now apparently under ODOT jurisdiction and the existing configuration does not provide sufficient room for vehicles to maneuver.

Additional concerns included:

- Emergency-vehicle access.
- Trash and delivery trucks damaging curbs.
- Maintenance difficulties.
- Sewer infrastructure beneath some of the existing landscaped areas.
- Difficulty accessing sewer infrastructure when trees or other landscaping are located above it.

Several alternatives were discussed, including replacing the existing feature with a smaller concrete structure, planter, or other design that would preserve some visual character while improving vehicle maneuverability. No final design decision is reflected in the transcript.

3. Leaf Collection and Landscaping Services

The Village has selected **GroundMaster Landscaping** for a new three-year landscaping contract. The transcript gives the following amounts:

- **2026:** \$35,000
- **2027:** \$36,000
- **2028:** \$37,000

The contract was still awaiting final execution at the time of the meeting. Once completed, the Village planned to publish the scheduled pickup information for residents.

The committee also discussed difficulties with scheduled service providers occasionally canceling or failing to appear. Possible explanations discussed included staffing, health issues, and operating costs, but no definitive cause was established.

4. Recreation and Parks

The pool season had concluded, and officials planned to schedule an October Parks and Recreation meeting.

Topics identified for that meeting included:

- Pool concessions for the following season.
- Pricing for next year's operations.
- The pool building.
- Site maintenance and mowing.
- Future landscaping needs.

The pool building was subsequently incorporated into the broader project discussion later in the meeting.

5. Manhole Covers and Emergency Infrastructure

The Village has experienced problems with manhole covers in the roadway. Approximately **11 locations** had been identified for attention, with some grates reportedly moving and creating safety hazards. Emergency repairs had already been required.

TJ Excavating was scheduled to meet with Village officials on **September 30** to discuss repair options and pricing. The committee also wanted the contractor to address potential covers or protective measures for sewer openings with unusually large gaps.

Officials discussed purchasing heavy steel plates that could be kept on hand to temporarily cover dangerous sewer openings rather than waiting 24–72 hours for an outside vendor to respond.

There was also discussion of whether replacement manhole covers could eventually be customized with the Village's name. The matter was framed as something to investigate rather than a decision to proceed.

6. Salt and Snow Removal

Blendon Township is increasing the Village's cost for salt services. The increase discussed was **\$1,800**, raising the amount specified in the Village's current legislation from **\$20,000 to \$21,800**.

The updated legislation was expected to come before Council at the next meeting after review of the language.

The Mayor and Police Chief both indicated that, based on their experience, Blendon Township's snow-plowing and salting response has been effective. Particular attention was noted for Minerva Lake Road, where conditions can become hazardous.

7. Upcoming Street Project

An upcoming street project was discussed with an estimated start date of **October 5–14**, subject to weather and potentially shifting by approximately one week.

Key points included:

- A pre-construction meeting was expected to occur the following week or shortly thereafter.
- Residents would receive information regarding access and vehicle movement.
- The affected intersection was expected to reopen during non-working hours.
- Closures would occur while construction crews were actively working.
- Village officials intended to keep residents informed as the schedule became more definite.

The committee requested that a representative attend the pre-construction meeting if possible or that a summary be circulated afterward.

8. Pavement Markings and Traffic Safety

The committee discussed a proposal involving additional pavement markings near an intersection, including potential double-yellow lines, stop bars, and pavement markings such as “**SLOW.**”

Members expressed a desire to understand exactly how the proposed markings would look and function before committing funds. Concerns included:

- Whether markings could confuse drivers.
- How drivers approaching from different directions would interpret the markings.
- Whether the proposal would improve or inadvertently complicate traffic flow.
- Whether the proposed paint was sufficiently durable.
- The need to see a visual representation before implementation.

A temporary chalk or other visual representation was suggested as a way to evaluate the proposed configuration before making it permanent.

9. Pool Building / Capital Project Timeline

The meeting included an update on legislation and the timeline for a project involving the pool building.

The stated schedule, assuming approval of the necessary legislation, was:

Milestone	Target
Begin procurement process	Currently underway
Go out to bid	Week of October 19
Bids due	November 9
Construction	Approximately six months, subject to bidder schedules

The transcript notes that the six-month construction period would need to be evaluated against the schedules submitted by bidders. The timing is important because the Village cannot open the pool without the necessary building/bathroom facilities.

The amount referenced for the project was **\$94,260**, compared with an earlier expectation of approximately \$90,000. Officials also discussed ensuring that the final project scope reflects the modifications previously discussed, including widening the project.

10. Police Presence and Resident Concerns

Near the conclusion of the meeting, a resident concern regarding police presence was raised. Officials noted that increased police patrols had subsequently been observed throughout the Village.

The discussion specifically acknowledged patrol activity beyond Cleveland Avenue and expressed appreciation for visible police presence. Chief Delp was present for this portion of the meeting.

Overall Meeting Focus

The meeting was primarily operational and planning-oriented. The most substantial areas of discussion were **stormwater/sewer maintenance, upcoming street work, landscaping and seasonal services, snow-and-salt service costs, traffic-safety improvements, and planning for the pool-building project.** Several items remained in the information-gathering or pricing stage rather than being finalized during this meeting.

Jeffrey Wilcheck, Fiscal Officer

Tiffany Southard, Mayor