



MINUTES
Winfield Storm Water Board
Meeting date: Tuesday, June 9th, 2020

Call to order: A meeting of the Winfield Storm Water Board was held in the Winfield Government Center, Winfield, Indiana on June 9th, 2020. The meeting convened at 6:25 p.m., the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members in attendance: Timothy Clayton, Jon Derwinski, and Jim Simmons

Members not in attendance:

Also in attendance: Rick Anderson, Clerk-Treasurer; Attorney David Austgen from Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis P.C.; Engineer, Michael Duffy; Town Administrator/Planning and Zoning Administrator Nick Bellar; Recording Secretary, Kim Wachowski.

MINUTES: Jim Simmons made the motion to accept the Storm Water Board Meeting Minutes of May 12th, 2020. Jon Derwinski seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor 3-0.

CITIZENS REQUESTING PLACEMENT ON THE AGENDA:

Mike Schreiber, 7577 E. 117th Ave.

Mr. Schreiber stated that over Memorial Day weekend the retention pond at 119th Avenue overtopped from the heavy rain. He stated that the street was over flowing during the storm. The storm sewers in the street were overwhelmed and the water was going over the curbs into the pond. He said this is the second time in eight days that this pond has overtopped. He asked if the storm water is of a design to go to the main pond and not the retention pond, the retention pond should just be for property line drainage up against Mr. Wolak's property. He believes there should be a dedicated line for that street's drainage to the large pond instead of it being tied to the rest of the storm drains because it should not go in that retention pond. Tim Clayton said it was an exceptional amount of rain in a short amount of time. Mr. Schreiber said that is what they are always told and they continue to have 100 year rains every few months he believes there should be some criteria for that. Mike Duffy explained there are flood routes mapped out to go over roads because the storm drains do get overwhelmed with these rains and can't keep up with the flow. Mr. Schreiber thinks there should be a better criteria for these designs because this is not the biggest rain storm they've had. Jim Simmons said that is not determined at this level, they have to follow what is required by the State. An audience member stated they could exceed the State criteria. Mike Duffy stated they did change their storm water design requirements three years ago to make it stricter for the developers but there are still sudden and heavy storms that will cause flooding in some cases. Mr. Schreiber asked who is supposed to maintain the retention ponds. Mike Duffy stated this area is still under performance bond and is the developer's responsibility until it is turned over to the town. Mr. Schreiber said there is currently building debris laying around the pond. They recently did some maintenance around the pond and took all the debris and just put it on the outside of the silt fencing and he wants to know who should be inspecting that. It is difficult to see the pond from the street and it overtops to the north. When the flooding occurred, it caused damaged to the ground around it and they did not repair it they only put a seed blanket down over it. He also said when they tried to repair it, they brought equipment on to Mr. Wolak's property. He asked how are they supposed to get machinery back there to work on it. Mr. Wolak does not want them coming on his property. Mike Duffy explained there is an easement back there on the home owners property on the newly developed lots for access. Mr. Schreiber said an excavator was brought on Mr. Wolak property yesterday to work on the fence row. Tim Clayton stated most of these issues are with



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Providence. Mike will get in touch with Doug Ehens of Providence Developers to address these issues.

Rudy Wolak, 7421 E. 117th Ave.

Mr. Wolak provided some background on when he first bought his property in 1967 and how the land was surveyed at the time. He said at one time he saw an engineer from Manhard Construction that said they were going to do work in the area. He asked the engineer then if water was going to come on his property and the engineer told him that not a drop of water is allowed to go on his property, they have to design it so it does not run onto his land they have to keep it on their property. He was shown a site plan of where the water was going to go. According to that plan the water was suppose to flow towards the church property into a ditch. Mr. Wolak asked about the water running towards 117th Avenue and he was told by the engineer that is not his responsibility he is only concerned with working on this design for the subdivision so the town can approve it. Tim Clayton stated they have a time a limit and need to know what his complaint is. Mr. Wolak stated his main complaint is that they changed the water design and filled in areas that they shouldn't have to change the flow. Mike Duffy stated they did design the water to flow towards the north for that area, he has the water flow map he can bring in. Mr. Wolak said it is supposed to flow to the church and they built up the land that then broke and flooded out his property. Mike Duffy believes Mr. Wolak is referencing their first design plan that was presented to the town that was not approved because it was not sufficient enough to meet current town standards. Jim explained they are following the approved plan now. Mr. Wolak expressed his frustration on this continuing problem and threatened legal action against Providence and the Town for approving the design. Tim Clayton stated they will reach out to Mr. Wolak so he can come in to see the plan provided by Mike Duffy.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Hidden Creek Ditch.

Nick Bellar stated they have been working with Merrillville on getting the culvert crossing under 101st Ave. upsized, they have a meeting with Merrillville next Wednesday. Mike Duffy added he has run the numbers over the cost for the project so they will be prepared for the meeting. Tim Clayton gave a brief background on the flooding issues and needed cooperation with Merrillville to work on a solution for the issue to have the water properly flow in that area. Merrillville has been working with Winfield to get drainage issues in the area resolved. Most of the work is taking place out of town which poses certain challenges. Putting in a larger culvert will allow them to make needed adjustment to the area around 104th Court. He lives in the area and he also had a river flowing through his backyard during the most recent rain event. Jim Simmons explained they have to work from the north end to properly manage the water. They have had good communication with Merrillville so far and have been able to make progress. An audience member asked what their plan was. Tim stated they want to increase the size of the culvert from a 24 inch pipe to a 54 inch pipe and then they can work on the creek. Mike Duffy stated the size of the pipe will also depend on the land on Clay Street and the function of elevation in the area. The same audience member asked what if Merrillville does not agree. Mike stated they do have a secondary plan of what they can do depending on what Merrillville agrees too. Nick Bellar stated they are fairly optimistic on their response. The audience member again asked what the plan is if



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Merrillville says no. Mike explained there is not just one solution they will have to determine what they will be allowed to do and if they can't do one part it will have to be compensated for in another part of the design. He can't commit to a response because it all depends on the outcome with Merrillville. Tim said they should know more by their next meeting.

2. Update on 117th Avenue Culvert Replacement Project.

Mike Duffy stated the bid has been awarded and he has been provided the notice to proceed. They need to decide when they can close the road for the work. With 109th also closed by Crown Point until September people will have to use their detour around Iowa. Mike asked if any of the Board members would like to attend the preconstruction meeting with the contractor. Jon Derwinski said he will attend.

3. Update on Tree Lot 53 Stormwater Project.

Mike Duffy stated they are going through the contracting process right now they have their notice of award and he is waiting on their bond and certificate of insurance right now. Once that comes in, he will issue their notice to proceed. The resident was in contact with him today and he provided a status update.

4. Dan & Connie Kerner, 10652 Green Pl., Standing water between their home and neighbor's.

Jim Simmons stated this is just standing water from the residents discharging their sump pump water to the south that has gotten saturated. Indiana American Water tested the water and it was not treated water so there is no break in the water line. The town has no lines in that area. Right now, its just nature with the flat elevation the ground is staying saturated any time it rains it just causes a puddle to form. Tim said he will work on a letter to inform them. Mike Duffy asked Jim if he visited Mr. Poulin who had the yard blister. Jim said he did not go to his property yet he only spoke with him. Mike said to inform Mr. Poulin to check his sump pump discharge as it might be trapping the water if his pipe is cracked and pumping the water between the grass and the dirt.

5. Carey Gouvert, 6081 E. 117th Ave., Drainage issue in front of house near street.

Mike Duffy stated the issue is due to there not being a culvert under the driveway. Tim Clayton will have a letter issued to them.

6. Tammy Coros, 10828 Park St., Excessive standing water/flooding in backyard.

Mike Duffy stated this first came up awhile ago. They reviewed it then to see where they could take the water then with the options in the area. They discussed intercepting the pipe with some sort of structure to move the water because it seems to get trapped in the one back corner of the property. Jim Simmons would like to authorize Mike to move forward with engineering a catch basin to intercept the line. He was discussing this with Mike before the meeting and they estimate it will cost around \$20,000. Tim asked Tony Clark, Public Works Director, to work with Mike on that. Mike said it might be better and more cost effective to see if they could do a swale instead. Tony will also inform the residents of the update on their issues.



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NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of Recent Heavy Rain Event and Related Complaints.

Nick Bellar stated there is a backlog of complaints. They have been inundated with stormwater complaints and they are working their way through them internally first. They will try to handle them via email so residents do not have to wait for the meetings to be addressed. Mike Duffy stated they are reviewing all of them and the problem was that it was a lot of water in a short amount of time. They will respond to everyone’s complaint. An audience member asked when they can expect a response. Tim said he could not give them a definite answer but said most likely by the next meeting.

2. Discussion on the Storm Water Master Plan.

Rick Anderson stated they last adopted their Storm Water Plan in 2009. Since then they have been able to complete a handful of projects but the remaining projects need to be reviewed and reprioritized and possibly add new projects to the plan. Rick stated the next step is to have DLZ draft a new plan. Direction was provided for DLZ to submit a proposal to provide an update to the new Storm Water Master Plan.

An audience member asked about a complaint his neighbor submitted. Tim stated they just received that complaint today and they will review it. Mike Duffy stated they have looked at this area before and he has an idea of where it might be coming from. Tim stated they will come out to look at the situation.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Rick Anderson presented the Treasurer Report through May 31, 2020, and noted the unusual claims. The total amount of claims is \$15,979.36 Jim Simmons made the motion to approve the Storm Water Board claims in the amount of \$15,979.36, Jon Derwinski seconded the motion, the motion carried with all in favor 3-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next Storm Water Board Meeting Tuesday, July 14th, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Tim Clayton entertained a motion to adjourn. Jim Simmons made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Jon Derwinski. A voice call vote found all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Tim Clayton
Stormwater Board President

Richard C. Anderson, Jr.
Clerk-Treasurer

Kim Wachowski
Recording Secretary

Date of Approval