

precise in regards to project phasing and the impact of construction inflation.

Ms. Molloy reviewed the Sewer Fund History, noting the Village implemented the sewer user fee in 1990 at 0.22 per 100 cubic feet as it initiated a series of sewer improvements recommended by an appointed Sewer Commission. The Sewer Fund operates as an enterprise fund, meaning that a fee is charged to users of the systems to pay for the associated services, 73% of the existing sewer fee pays for capital improvements. Ms. Molloy said there has been over \$100 million invested in sewer improvements since 1990 and noted the future debt service requirements and the sewer user fees in the charts presented in the report.

Ms. Molloy continued with reviewing the four storm water management project alternatives, the project alternatives average annual debt service and the project alternative construction inflation. Given the cost of the projects under consideration, the Village would need to issue 30-year debt to fund the storm water improvements. The Village would issue General Obligation (GO) Debt, meaning that it would be backed by the full faith and credit of the Village. Moody's has indicated that a large GO issuance for the storm water project would most likely not adversely impact the Village's Aaa credit rating provided the Village has identified a repayment source other than the property tax. Ms. Molloy reviewed the repayment methods for consideration and discussed the sewer user fee, storm water utility fee or property tax options.

Ms. Molloy said there are a number of known, significant projects and obligations that require financial investment over the next 30 years, including; sewer lining and storm water pumping station electrical improvements, Water Plant and distribution system improvements, property taxes-operations and Public Safety pension contributions, maturing General Fund debt. The Village intends to continue lining the sewer systems at an annual cost of \$820,000 to be funded through IEPA low interest loans, the Storm Water Pumping Station will require \$1.2 million in electrical improvements in 2020 and a \$1 sewer user fee increase will be required in 2033. She also noted that 3% water rate increases are anticipated for the foreseeable future to maintain existing service levels, fund previously incurred debt service and finance essential projects.

Ms. Molloy said due to State mandated pension benefits, an additional \$4.4 million in public safety contributions (91% increase) is anticipated over the course of the next 22 years. Assumptions assume low, but consistent growth in operating expenses moving forward in order to maintain existing police/fire/public works service levels. The annual tax levy increase, excluding debt service is projected to be 3-4% which is consistent with the Village's tax levy increases since 2009. The Village

has designated a use for approximately \$3.3 million of tax levy capacity created by declining debt service requirements beginning in 2026. Under a plan considered by the Village Board in 2016, the Village will be able to address the Police Station reconstruction in 2026 and the annual road program without increases or decreases in the property tax levy.

b) Presentation and Discussion of Engineering Alternatives

Joe Johnson, Stantec, said his goal is to present additional information and help everyone to understand what the projects do and how they help the community. He reviewed an O'Hare Airport Rainfall Data report for 1 and 2 day rainfalls from 1958 -2017.

Mr. Johnson noted the Alternative Development Process started in January 2015 with the Stormwater Management Report by Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd, (CBBEL) Stantec Review of Relief Sewer Project, development of reduced cost alternatives, value engineering review of CBBEL Alternative 1 and supplemental analysis of potential alternatives. This has all led to the four alternatives 1) conveyance to eliminate street flooding for the 10-year design storm, reduce cost through blend of conveyance and storage, focus on most cost-effective project elements and distribute improvements among neighborhoods.

The range of alternatives includes the relief sewer, reduced relief sewer plus neighborhood storage, reduced relief sewer and neighborhood storage. The maps presented included the existing conditions for a 10 year storm estimating the amount of storm water inundation in the street and how the four options would address the street flooding. The alternative comparison showed the study areas served, the vulnerable structures protected, vulnerable properties protected, the total project cost range for each alternative and the disruption to parks for neighborhood storage. The cost/benefit comparison showed the total project cost range, cost per structure protected, cost per property protected and the cost per west side Wilmette property.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the flood duration and inundation charts noting they selected locations to represent the geography of the west side to see how the projects performed during different storm events.

Trustee Dodd asked what the ground surface elevation was on the maps.

Mr. Johnson said it is the lowest point on the street.

Trustee Leonard asked how high a curb is.

Ms. Berger-Raish said curbs are six inches high.

Trustee Sullivan said in one of the flood duration charts during a 50 year and a 25 year storm event, why does the neighborhood storage spike, drop significantly and spike again.

Mr. Johnson said the neighborhood storage has multiple facilities in it and how the two storage facilities fill up and work together will give different peaks.

Trustee Dodd asked what the issue is regarding the length of time that water sits on the street.

Mr. Johnson said the answer depends on what type of flooding is occurring. The difference would be water that sits in the street versus water that is coming from the street, over a property and into a home.

Trustee Kurzman said he believes the water duration issue gets into more economic and public health consequences.

Ms. Berger-Raish said standing water in the street means the storm sewers are surcharged and we know that there is cross infiltration between storm water and sanitary water.

Mr. Johnson said the next steps for the village are looking at the projects and making a selection, the financial aspects, public comment from residents and the final decision of how to proceed.

Trustee Plunkett noted we have seen the coverage and the cost regarding the proposed projects and asked if there was information regarding disruptions to the parks and Lake Avenue.

Mr. Johnson said all of the projects involve some new storm sewers for conveyance so traffic lanes would be disrupted on streets. For neighborhood storage areas, the disruption to parks would be similar to the West Park storage project which took approximately one year to construct. He also noted there are a few major intersections and cross streets that will be impacted and will be complex due to the Edens Expressway and the Lake and Laramie Avenue crossing.

Ms. Berger-Raish noted it would take approximately four to five years for the biggest project involving relief sewers. The engineering design and permitting would take approximately two years to complete for all of the options.

President Bielinski asked for public comment regarding the proposed projects, noting that the Board would like to eventually make a decision on a project and then determine how to finance it and move on to the engineering design.

Bryan Abbot, 2032 Park Commissioner, asked what are the total acres for the proposed park storage, and if the storage for the parks is surface storage.

Sheryl Katz, 740 Lacrosse, said according to the maps, it looks like where she lives is in the 3% that is not going to be helped by any of the proposed projects and she has already invested a large amount of money into her property. What suggestions would the Board have for her property? She said in addition to the flooding issues, her area also has numerous electrical outages which means she is not able to pump out the water. She is in favor of the full relief system.

Wendy Schultz, Beechwood Avenue, said she is in favor of a solution that can not only cover as many homes and properties as possible, reduce the flood water duration on the street and the quickest ultimate solution that can be implemented. She would like to strongly encourage a sense of urgency towards a decision. She is most in favor of the combined proposal and financial solution that can be implemented immediately.

Chip McColl, 2116 Beechwood, said he agrees with everything Ms. Schulz said. The Board has done a great job with due diligence and transparency, but now it is time to do something and take action. He would encourage the Board to do Options 1, 2 or 4.

Bob Davis, Kilpatrick Avenue, thanked the Village Board for providing the charts. He asked if there was a way to spread out the cost of the projects and he prefers Options 1, or 2 or 3 modifications.

Karleen McAllester, 323 Wilshire Drive, said she is primarily supporting Option 1 which is the relief sewer. She said Wilmette is financially well managed so we are in a good spot to handle a project. Residents are frustrated and would like action as fast as possible.

Joel Feinstein, 407 Wilshire Dr. W., said he supports Option 1.

Samuel Lin, 235 Kilpatrick, said he strongly supports Option 1 and asked that the Village do the project quickly.

Reinhard Schneider, 1947 Kenilworth, said he does not believe the consultants have mentioned that due to the leak in the current stormwater system which transmits water into the sanitary system, the sanitary system acts as a kind of relief sewer. He believes the issue on the west side is not so much overland flooding but the predominant issue is sewer back up and believes some of the solutions may mitigate but not solve.

John Henrich, 205 Thelin Court, said he has attended many meetings and he would like to see the problem fixed and is in favor of Option 1 as well as a moratorium on all new building.

President Bielinski noted that there was no one else present to speak.

President Bielinski asked for answers to questions asked by residents.

What is the total acres for proposed storage and was there consideration of surface storage.

Mr. Johnson said the projects proposed are 10-12 acre feet. He said there was some early talk of surface storage but they have been using below grade storage to be conservative.

President Bielinski said there was a conversation at the Village Board level of surface storage at the Community Playfield but the Board rejected having a pond in that area.

Mr. Johnson said the neighborhood storage proposed would be slightly smaller than the West Storage project that has been completed.

Village Manager Timothy Frenzer said if the Board would like to pursue neighborhood storage, staff would need to contact the Park District to start discussion regarding which areas in the parks would be appropriate for underground storage.

Mr. Johnson said with any of the alternatives as they go into detailed design they will review all the areas and streets to pick up any more relief for flooding that they can.

Trustee Dodd said there will probably be a small percentage that will not be served by any of the alternatives so are there options residents can do on their property to help with flooding.

Mr. Johnson said yes there is a whole series of methods called flood proofing and this applies to all types of flooding that impacts the home.

Mr. Johnson said in regard to questions about the Edens Plaza and flooding, he was not positive if Edens Plaza was included in the study and he will check on that and get back to the Board with an answer.

Ms. Berger said if there were some type of blockage in the sewer around Edens Plaza they would know about it as they do routinely test and maintain the sewer system.

President Bielinski said there was a question from a resident that while we are doing the project would we look to do other improvements that have already been scheduled in the capital improvement projects.

Ms. Berger-Raish said yes, we would look at it as a comprehensive improvement.

President Bielinski said there was also a resident comment on working with the MWRD for funding.

Ms. Berger-Raish said they are aware of MWRD's funding opportunity.

Ms. Berger-Raish said to clarify the timeliness of getting the design done, she believes they can be more aggressive on storage options, especially if they were to pick one, it could be 12-18 months with cooperation from the Park District.

President Bielinski said he would like to clarify that new developments have required stormwater containment so it is not accurate to say they are pushing water onto other properties.

President Bielinski declared a recess at 10:22 p.m.

President Bielinski called the meeting back to order.

President Bielinski said he believed it would be helpful to review a ten year storms for five of the areas that were highlighted in the maps and charts provided in the report to the Village Board.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the charts that showed how the four alternatives would affect the flooding on Thelin, Beechwood, Greenleaf, Meadow and Orchard/Locus/Hawthorne streets. If you build infrastructure directly in an area to address that area, it works very well. If you do not have a project the directly addresses that area, there is some variability.

Trustee Kurzman said these are just points in the Village and if we know what the most vulnerable point for flooding is, why aren't we looking at what the impact would be for that area.

President Bielinski said they reviewed the "hot spots" during storms which were the worst areas for flooding.

Mr. Johnson said if there is not an area in the maps that has been addressed, they can generate a map and chart to provide the detail for the area. He said their ability to map the area is limited to the topography they have.

President Bielinski asked to review the 25 year charts in the same five streets as you begin to see the divergence in the alternatives in the maps.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the 25 year event charts showing how the four alternatives affect the flooding in the same five street areas.

Trustee Plunkett asked how long the water is kept in storage before it is released.

Mr. Johnson said he would expect the storage to hold water longer than we have water standing on the surface because it drains off the surface into the storage facility but he believes it would be less than a day.

Trustee Plunkett asked if the storage facility could hold water from two storm events one day after another.

Mr. Johnson said only if the storage water had drained down from the facility so back to back storms can create an issue for neighborhood storage. He noted that Kenilworth Gardens area is affected both by local capacity and lack of downstream capacity.

President Bielinski thanked Mr. Johnson for his review of the map and chart data provided in the report to the Board. He asked if there were any other questions for Mr. Johnson.

Trustee Leonard said he has read the Winnetka has been able to solve their flooding problems to the 100 year storm level. He asked how they achieved that and how it is different than Wilmette's flooding issues.

Mr. Johnson said there are several factors to Winnetka's issues. The current project they are looking at is a combination of storage and conveyance on the west side of Winnetka. One of their drivers is the tributary area which is approximately 1100 acres, noting that the west side of Wilmette is about 1700 acres so there is about a 50% difference in tributary area. Winnetka's current project relies very heavily on surface storage so the cost of surface storage in the Forest Preserve and Duke Childs Field is on the order of 25% the cost of underground storage that Wilmette is looking at. Winnetka is also assuming the spoils can be put in their landfill and not hauled off to a disposal site, which is a huge driver in cost.

Trustee Leonard said he was looking more at the science of the issue. If there were a method Wilmette could get to the 100 year storm level at a cost, he would like to hear about it.

Mr. Johnson said there has been an analysis done by CBBEL and they said to get to a 100 year level, it would require larger sewers and storage

in a combination and the cost was estimated at approximately \$150 million.

Ms. Berger-Raish noted that was discussed at the Municipal Services Committee meetings.

Mr. Johnson said a key constraint for Wilmette is the pump station. We have alternatives that maximize the use of the pump station but if we put more water into the pump station than we can pump out to the river, than we have moved the problem from one point to another. The full relief sewer project was to provide conveyance to match the conveyance capacity with the pump station capacity which is the ten year level of protection. To get beyond that capacity we have to store that additional water.

Trustee Wolf said the Municipal Services Committee felt like the issue was similar to the decision process for the West Park storage, they looked at the cost for storing various amounts and there was a point where it became efficient and beyond that point it did not work.

Trustee Kurzman asked if Winnetka would actually be able to achieve a 100 year storm flood protection.

Mr. Johnson said he believed their proposed 100 year presentation includes about 180 acre feet of storage. Winnetka has a significant amount of open space that they have been able to target as storage space locations.

Trustee Dodd asked why Wilmette is considering underground storage, is above ground storage not an option for the parks to reduce the cost.

Mr. Johnson said the option was discussed early on but with the sites that are being looked at now, there should be some discussion with the Park District.

Mr. Frenzer said to the point that the Village would like to explore neighborhood storage, staff has had only preliminary discussions with the Park District. The amount of storage and how it would be constructed would depend on the Park District and their intended uses for the parks. Originally when the Municipal Services Committee looked at storage at the Community Playfield, to have surface detention meant a pretty deep open water area and there were safety concerns. He will have discussions regarding the issue of storage with the Park District to find out their usability of the parks in the neighborhoods.

Trustee Wolf said West Park storage facility had an amazing outcome but the artificial turf for the park was quite costly.

Trustee Sullivan said when the Municipal Services Committee originally discussed storage options at Community Playfield, there was concern from residents not wanting it there because it is in between two schools and the park is active during the week.

Trustee Kurzman said one of the things he finds appealing about Option 1 is that it addresses the problem of conveying the stormwater to the pump station but it does leave as a future option open spaces such as parks for storage in the long term future.

President Bielinski said cost aside, conveyance is better than storage but there is nothing that prevents you from doing storage and then conveyance, either way you are adding to the system if you do the projects.

Trustee Kurzman said it will still leave some residents underserved.

President Bielinski said even the relief sewer project will leave some residents underserved.

Trustee Leonard said if we did storage and then conveyance, won't the money have been wasted on storage because you did not need it on the conveyance program.

President Bielinski said he believes it is still incremental because the point is if you actually get to a full relief sewer and full relief storage project at some point in the future, you have actually achieved a much higher level of protection or in the event you reclassify the storms, you have achieved a level of protection that is more commensurate with whatever the rain events are.

Trustee Leonard asked if we do the full number one option, does the neighborhood storage on top of that, add to the effectiveness.

Mr. Johnson said yes and this is the option that was looked at previously to get to a higher level of protection so the full relief sewer maximizes the capacity of the conveyance system with the pump station and gets us to the ten year level of protection. Adding storage on top of that, would allow water to be held back and allow a higher level of protection.

Trustee Plunkett said the first relief sewer option versus the reduced relief sewer option are taking different routes. Would we be able to build off the relief sewer options in the future if we choose the reduced option and does being on or off Lake Avenue affect that ability.

Mr. Johnson said reduced relief sewer alternatives were really developed as a subset for full relief so basically the project from the pump station back to Laramie and Lake Avenues is the same and going

south to Wilmette Avenue and east on Wilmette Avenue is basically the same, the southern branch of the project is effectively the same. The difference is the reduced relief sewer alternatives do not include new storm sewers along Lake Avenue, so yes you could stage the project to build the section from the pump station back across Lake Avenue.

Trustee Wolf asked how the project engineering would be financed.

Assistant Village Manager Michael Braiman said we would have to bond the \$2 million dollars for the engineering design and we would put it on the sewer fee as we continue our research for the stormwater utility.

President Bielinski asked if there was any comment from the Village Board at this time.

Trustee Sullivan said he believes they have sufficiently analyzed the issue and are down to four alternatives and they will have to start to discuss one and move forward. It is a difficult to start a debate at 11:30 p.m.

Trustee Plunkett said whatever option they are leaning towards, the residents need to know about it and need to know in advance when the Board will be discussing it and making a decision.

Trustee Dodd says she agrees with Trustee Sullivan that it is difficult to start a debate now but would there be any value to each Trustee expressing what option they are thinking about before the next meeting.

President Bielinski said they have enough information regarding the alternatives but does anyone have any suggestions on how we get all the information out to all the community.

Trustee Kurzman asked how many issues of *The Communicator* has stormwater been discussed.

President Bielinski said there have been articles regarding stormwater for the last four years.

Trustee Kurzman said he believes there has been a good faith effort by the Village Board to engage the community about the Board's discussions of stormwater.

Trustee Plunkett said since the Board has been discussing the issue of stormwater for so long, it may be a surprise when we finally make a decision so if we are getting close to a decision that needs to be relayed to the residents.

Trustee Dodd said she feels that the most important thing to look at is addressing flooding in residents homes, she is not as concerned with flooding in the streets in terms of priorities. She believes that no matter what solution they choose, they are not going to be able to address every single home's flooding issues. She believes that is unfortunate and we will have to look at other things to remedy that for the individual properties. She believes we can get a really good solution with not going with the highest cost solution and is leaning toward the neighborhood storage option or neighborhood storage with relief sewer. This will only be the first stage and we can add to it in the future. She believes the goal should be a ten year storm event. She struggles with spending another \$40 million for approximately 50 homes as it is a significant cost, noting that the lowest option covers 70-75% of the homes affected by flooding.

Trustee Leonard said he is really concerned about what we are not doing and about what we are calling the 10 year storm event. In his mind, we are talking about a moderate flood and if you read the scientific journals, they say storms are going to becoming more frequently and more intense. We are spending a tremendous amount of money and many of the homes are going to flood even if we spend the money and that is what he struggles with.

Trustee Wolf said when they first received the numbers for the projects, they did not like any of the cost numbers. Everything is very expensive and we do not solve the flooding issues for all the properties. She likes the fact that we can do a project option and add on to it later. She said climate change is definitely here and that is why we are having more intense and frequent storms and that is going to continue. She said Wilmette is an older community and we cannot make everything perfect but she is undecided at this time.

Trustee Plunkett said she believes that whatever the Board does to improve the infrastructure is a good investment and we can build upon that. She has not decided which option to do but is leaning toward the reduced relief sewer with the neighborhood storage because she believes neighborhood storage can impact communities faster. It is a little bit less expensive and can be added onto in the future and affects 11 of the 14 areas.

Trustee Kurzman said he is strongly in support of option 1 as he has been around this subject matter enough to form definitive opinions and he is willing to make a tough choice. He really believes the Board and staff has been wise to set a 10 year policy protection for all of Wilmette and believes option 1 gets us there. He believes setting the policy is far preferred to picking winners and losers and option 1 gets us close to not having people left behind. He is comfortable pushing something that is so expensive because he is looking at all angles for stormwater

management where addressing land use and being prudent with new development can really make the most out of this investment. He weighs the increased cost to fees versus the cost of improvements to his home as residents are paying for flooding one way or another.

Trustee Sullivan said he still has a lot to think about before deciding which option to choose. We have heard a lot from the neighbors and even though we will not solve all the problems, he believes we have to do something. He is very concerned with the increase in cost to the Village and that will be a big increase in tax to the residents and he does not take that lightly.

President Bielinski agrees with Trustee Plunkett that any money that is spent on infrastructure is not wasted money as the performance of the system will be better regardless. He believes if we choose option 1 it will never be built because he believes it is too expensive for the community and residents will not support it and that is a real risk. He does not like option 3 because it serves the fewest neighborhoods and he believes we need to be realistic and look at the significant cost. He is leaning more towards the lowest cost because he thinks it can be done and we get more for our dollar.

III. Adjournment

Trustee Wolf moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:03 p.m., seconded by Trustee Sullivan. There was no further discussion on the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Hirsch
Deputy Village Clerk