



VILLAGE OF WILMETTE

1200 Wilmette Avenue
WILMETTE, ILLINOIS 60091-0040

MEETING MINUTES

MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE BOARD

TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2013

5:00 P.M.

TRAINING ROOM OF VILLAGE HALL

Members Present: Trustee Julie Wolf, Chair
Trustee Alan Swanson
Trustee Cameron Krueger

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Brigitte Mayerhofer, P.E., Director of Engineering Services
Jorge Cruz, Assistant Director of Engineering Services
Timothy J. Frenzer, Village Manager

Guests Present: Resident list attached

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Trustee Julie Wolf, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Committee members Trustees Swanson and Krueger were present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES; MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 13, 2013.

Trustee Wolf directed the Committee's attention to the draft minutes of the Municipal Services Committee meeting of May 13, 2013.

Trustee Krueger moved that the Committee approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Swanson and approved by unanimous voice vote. The motion carried.

III. REVIEW OF APRIL 18, 2013 RESIDENT FLOOD SURVEY RESULTS

Brigitte Mayerhofer, Director of Engineering, summarized the report presented to the Committee regarding the Flood Survey Summary from the April 18, 2013

storm event. She reviewed the Village sewer systems which consist of a combined system (east of Ridge Road), a separate system (west of Ridge Road), a storm sewer system, and a sanitary sewer system. A review of storm records maintained by the Village since 1980 shows that four storms within the last five years were classified as a 10 year storm or greater. The April 18, 2013 storm generated 5.56 inches of rain at Wilmette's water treatment plant and approximately 5 inches at the storm water pump station over 24 hours. In addition, the antecedent soil conditions were saturated to April 18, which magnified the overland flooding. Ms. Mayerhofer reviewed the reasons for flooding in residential neighborhoods during storm events which included sanitary backups, street flooding and yard flooding.

Ms. Mayerhofer summarized the data from the 2013 Engineering flood survey results. The data results confirm that the most critical concern is the sanitary backups in basements. She identified the areas that flood in the Village from the flood density or "heat" maps provided to the Committee. Ms. Mayerhofer identified the sewer improvements from 1992 to the present. She also noted the areas of specific concern for flooding which are the Kenilworth Gardens subdivision, the Hibbard Road corridor and southwest Wilmette.

IV. UPDATE ON THE 2013-2015 SEPARATE SANITARY SEWER INITIATIVES

Ms. Mayerhofer outlined the 2013 through 2015 capital sewer program which is aimed at addressing the flooding problems identified in the areas of specific concern. Staff is recommending a sanitary sewer evaluation study to identify the inflow and infiltration sources. Ms. Mayerhofer also reviewed flood control systems for residential homes as well as rain gardens, bioswales, and less impervious surface.

Trustee Wolf noted that the Village Board is in the process of preparing the 2014 Budget and working through the priorities of projects. She asked Ms. Mayerhofer to review the projects and what project would give the Village the best cost benefit.

Ms. Mayerhofer noted that there is a letter in the Committee's agenda packet from RJN, the Village's consulting engineer, that provides technical information on how large the storage component of the Harms Road Project should be. Previous studies have indicated that this is a critical component of improving the efficiency of the sanitary sewer system on the west side of the Village. She noted the Village is limited in locations to provide storage and it is believed that West Park is the best location for an underground storage reservoir to handle peak sanitary flows. She said RJN did an analysis and determined that the optimal volume of storage to be provided for the Harms Road Region to cost-effectively reduce the number of basement backups is approximately 5.5 million

gallons.

Trustee Swanson said he reviewed the RJN report thoroughly and he believes it is a good analysis.

Trustee Wolf noted that a resident asked what the timing would be on building the underground storage.

Ms. Mayerhofer said assuming the funding would be in place, and the Village Board will be considering a bond issue for the project later in the year, the design could be started immediately and the project under construction next June.

Trustee Krueger noted that the project is not funded right now and that building an underground storage reservoir would not solve everyone's flooding problems in the Village.

There were questions from residents regarding flooding in their streets and why the sewer project was just being discussed at this time.

Trustees Wolf, Swanson and Krueger all noted that the agenda this evening was to provide information on all sewer projects. Sewer projects have been ongoing for many years, and every year a different sewer project is addressed and funded. The specific study from RJN was recently completed and the report is being shared with the Committee and the public this evening.

The Committee is in agreement with the recommendation from RJN that a storage reservoir would effectively reduce the number of basement backups and the most feasible location for the storage is West Park.

V. OVERHEAD SEWER COST SHARE PROGRAM

Ms. Mayerhofer said the Overhead Sewer Cost Share Program is proposed for the 2014 Capital Improvement Program. She noted that several neighboring communities currently have a cost share program for sanitary sewer back flow improvement such as an overhead sewer or flood control system. There is a recognition that the Village is not able to build pipes and storage reservoirs big enough so that we can guarantee that no home in the Village will flood. A program such as this is intended to provide some financial incentive for the homeowner to protect their property by installing a flood control system. Staff has contacted neighboring communities regarding what they have in place regarding cost participation. In many cases, it is 50% up to a certain dollar amount. The program would be an operational funded program and would compete with other sewer programs for funding in the Village. She said the program has become more popular in the past few years and staff has received

requests from residents asking for this type of program.

Trustee Krueger said after flooding three times, he installed overhead sewers to eliminate the sewer backup. Since the Committee is just starting to discuss the proposed program he encouraged residents, who have flooded several times, to install a flood system.

A resident asked if there is anything that can be done to improve power outages during a storm. When the power goes out, her sump pumps fail to work.

Trustee Krueger said the progress the Village has made with ComEd during the past three to four years has been tremendous, power outages have decreased dramatically.

Trustee Wolf said the Northwest Municipal Conference worked to put pressure on ComEd to have much better communication and response time with municipalities in our area.

VI. DISCUSSION OF NEW CIP STORMWATER INITIATIVE FOR GIS, MODELING AND HYDRAULIC ANALYSIS OF THE SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM.

Ms. Mayerhofer reviewed the report presented to the Committee noting that the GIS system would help staff understand the hydraulics of what is happening during storm events.

Trustee Wolf noted that the information could identify easily locatable areas to be fixed and ideas how to approach the whole issue regarding storm water.

Trustee Krueger asked when the data collection would be complete.

Ms. Mayerhofer said the GIS data would take approximately 3 months to complete.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Trustee Wolf said she would like to update the Committee on the Elmwood Dunes area. The Park District has been staffing the area and said everything is going very smoothly on the property. There has been excellent compliance on the property.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Trustee Wolf said the meeting would now be open to those residents who wanted to address the Committee.

Joan Binder, 2034 Kenilworth Avenue, said she has lived in her home for 30 years. She said her backyard and her neighbors flood regularly and wondered if the Village has any regulations for homes that built additions, as she believes this has caused more water/drainage issues. She asked if homes that have installed flood control systems will cause more water issues for homes that do not install flood control systems.

Ms. Mayerhofer said theoretically if everyone on the block installed a flood system, the volume of water that used to flood their basements will now go back into the sewer. She asked Ms. Binder how long the water lasts in her backyard.

Ms. Binder said the water takes two days to go away.

Ms. Mayerhofer said 72 hours is a reasonable time after a significant rain event for water to evaporate or infiltrate the property. She said in 2005 the Village adopted a grading ordinance that would prohibit any homeowner from building up their property and transferring where water flows but Illinois drainage laws state that if you are downstream, you must accept upstream water as water flows downhill.

Trustee Swanson said many residents believe that the Village controls the locks and stated that the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District controls when the locks will be opened during a storm event. He also wanted to be clear that anyone who lives west of Ridge Road will not be impacted by the locks being opened due to flooding. He noted that there is a graph that shows the measurement of accumulated water during storms since 1980. The Village has been spending money every year to upgrade the sewers in the Village.

Tim Fox, 743 Leyden Lane, asked for clarification regarding the separate sanitary and sewer pipes west of Ridge Road. He has flooded four times due to sewer backup and is in the process of installing overhead sewers.

Ms. Mayerhofer said overtime the pipes crack which cause open joints in the public and private sector. She said there is also inflow due to foundation drains and other ground water sources that are connected to the sanitary.

Kristyn Gibson, 2030 Kenilworth, asked who is responsible for the sewers and maintenance of the sewers.

Ms. Mayerhofer said according to the Village Code, the homeowner is responsible for the sanitary lateral from the home to the connection of the public main.

Joel Kurzman, 243 Valley View Drive, said he appreciates the efforts that the Village has made but he put in an overhead sewer on his property and is frustrated by overland flooding that he still has on his property.

Wendy Crawford Schultz said she has lived on Beechwood Avenue in Kenilworth Gardens since 2000. Her basement experienced sewer back-ups numerous times and so she installed a sewer back-up system and has not experienced a sewer backup since that time. Due to ground water flooding on her street, her foundation is susceptible to ground water flooding. She is concerned that her foundation will be damaged due to the streets flooding and causing overland flooding.

Mitcha Farahati, 2135 Kenilworth Avenue, said she has had frequent sewer backups since she has owned her home since 1992 which has been very costly.

Bill Shapiro, 406 Wilshire Drive, said he has lived in his home for 40 years and his main problem is storm water. He has installed flood control but is not able to control the storm water.

Kristyn Gibson, 2030 Kenilworth Avenue, asked if there was any thought to building a stormwater basin in the Thornwood Park area and would it benefit the area.

Ms. Mayerhofer said they are currently looking at storm water options in that area but at this time staff is gathering data to find out where the water is coming from.

Renee Sexton said she lives at the corner of Kenilworth Avenue and 21st Street. She has previously talked to Ms. Mayerhofer as she has been frustrated with the flooding in the area. She is in the process of installing overhead sewers to prevent sewer back-ups in her home as the loss of personal items was overwhelming. She is concerned with the flooding in the street during storm events as she would not be able to get out of her home in a crisis and does not believe emergency vehicles would be able to navigate her street.

Mr. Frenzer said if there is a medical emergency, emergency vehicles are equipped to navigate the water in the streets and emergency personnel will do their job to the best of their ability.

Denise Kirshenbaum, 2108 Beechwood, said she does not believe flooding in the street is a good thing and would like the Village to address the issue. She has lost multiple appliances and has spent many hours cleaning up the damage from flooding.

Chip McCall, 2116 Beechwood, thanked the Committee for listening as well as

Ms. Mayerhofer for returning his call and discussing the flooding issue with him. He said many neighbors could not attend the meeting and wanted him to stress to the Village Board that something needs to be done with the flooding in their neighborhood as it has become a safety issue.

Greg Stephan, 614 Laporte, said he has lived in his home since 1986 and has experienced flooding for over 20 years. He also believes the flooding is getting worse every year. There is a major problem with flooding at the corner of Laporte and Central and it takes over three days for the water to flow away after a storm event.

Jeff Woodman, 2025 Kenilworth, said he believes his neighborhood floods the worst in the Village. He hopes the Village will remedy the situation.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wolf asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Krueger moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Swanson. No further discussion occurred on the motion. Voting yes: Trustee Wolf, Trustee Swanson and Trustee Krueger. Voting no: none. **The motion carried.**

The meeting was thereafter adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Prepared by Barbara Hirsch.