



1200 Wilmette Avenue
WILMETTE, ILLINOIS 60091-0040

MEETING MINUTES

MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE BOARD

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

7:00 P.M.

TRAINING ROOM OF VILLAGE HALL

Members Present: Trustee Cameron Krueger, Chair
Trustee Daniel Sullivan
Trustee Julie Wolf

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Brigitte Berger, P.E., Director of Engineering and Public Works
Russ Jensen, Village Engineer

Guests: See attached attendees list

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Trustee Cameron Krueger, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Committee members Trustees Sullivan and Wolf were present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES; MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 25, 2015.

Trustee Krueger directed the Committee’s attention to the draft minutes of the Municipal Services Committee meeting of March 25, 2015.

Trustee Wolf moved that the Committee approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sullivan and approved by unanimous voice vote. **The motion carried.**

III. REVIEW OF STUDIES FROM CHRISTOPHER B. BURKE ENGINEERING LTD FOR ADDITIONAL WORK RELATED TO THE SEPARATE SEWER STORMWATER STUDY.

Brigitte Berger, Director of Engineering and Public Works, said that there would be a presentation this evening by Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd.

(CBBEL) of three follow up storm sewer studies:

- 1) Refinement of alternatives developed in the original stormwater report to lower the 10-year hydraulic grade line to the back of sidewalk instead of below street level.
- 2) Above ground stormwater storage at Community Playfield.
- 3) Glenview stormwater connection for drainage improvements in the Lockerbie Lane and LeClaire Avenue areas

Ms. Berger reviewed the process of the studies since 2014 presented in the report to the Committee, noting that the Village has spent \$77 million addressing flooding in the Village.

Ms. Berger introduced Darren Olson from Christopher B Burke Engineering Ltd who would be providing the report and presentation this evening.

Mr. Olson reviewed the report presented to the Committee regarding the Village's current storm sewer system and how it is pumped and discharged to the Chicago River. He said the limitations of the existing system are the highly developed residential areas which were developed prior to modern stormwater management practices, no significant detention basins, storm sewers that were constructed decades ago that are undersized compared to modern practices, no overland flow routes and limited open space to safely store the water.

Mr. Olson said the three follow up storm water studies, as identified previously by Ms. Berger, were designed to reduce the 10 year HGL to the back of the curb by decreasing proposed pipe sizes and storage volumes identified in the Report. The following is a description of the design changes for each alternative:

- Alternative 1A – Relief Storm Sewer System: Under this alternative, the proposed storm sewer sizes decreased an average of 6 inches in diameter from Alternative 1 as shown on Exhibit 10A. The engineer's estimate of probable cost is \$65.8 million in 2014 dollars.
- Alternative 2A – Centralized Storage at Community Playfield: Under this alternative, the underground stormwater storage decreased by approximately 10% to 50 ac-ft and the storm sewer sizes decreased an average of 6 inches in diameter as compared to Alternative 2. This is shown on exhibit 11A. The engineer's estimate of probable cost for this alternative is \$63 million in 2014 dollars.
- Alternative 3A – Neighborhood Stormwater Storage: Under this alternative, the underground storage decreased by approximately 10% at Thornwood Park, Centennial Park, Community Recreation Center accompanied by associated storm sewer size decreases as compared to Alternative 3. This is shown on Exhibit 12A. The engineer's estimate of

probable cost for this alternative is \$39.1 million in 2014 dollars.

Mr. Olson summarized the projected costs, benefits and the impact of disruptions and conflicts to the community for each alternative as detailed in the report. He also noted that they looked at Alternative 2 in more detail and revised it to create Alternative 2.1 and 2.2 to analyze two additional options for above ground storage at the Community Park.

Mr. Olson said he has met with staff from the Village of Glenview twice regarding current improvements to their storm sewers and a proposed connection from Wilmette into the Glenview system. Glenview's system, however, is limited by their existing and proposed system and new pump stations.

Trustee Wolf asked how the water from the Community Playfield retention from Alternative 2.2 would drain out of the area.

Mr. Olson said the new trunk line that will run on Locust Road would back feed into the flood storage area that would then drain out by gravity when the water levels in the two trunk lines on Lake and Wilmette Avenues got back down to lower levels.

Trustee Sullivan asked if there would be any early benefits to flooding in the phased-in plan.

Mr. Olson said yes, in the early phases the Village would begin to see benefits.

Trustees Sullivan and Wolf asked if there would be any benefits for flooding in the Kenilworth Gardens and Thornwood Park area.

Mr. Olson said the new trunk and lateral sewers that would feed into two of the basins would benefit the area.

Trustee Krueger asked if there was anyone from the public that would like to ask the consultant a question.

Karlene McAllester, 323 Wilshire Drive, asked for clarification regarding the cost per structure for a 100 year event.

Mr. Olson explained the process for calculating the cost per structure for a 100 year event from the report presented to the Committee.

Ivan Sheldon, Meadow Drive, asked how deep the water would get in the proposed Community Playfield retention area and what safety measures would be taken.

Mr. Olson said the maximum amount of water in the retention area of the Community Playfield would be approximately 8-9 feet. He said other parks that have used a retention area have used a slope and/or railings for safety measures.

Brad Bogan, 2120 Beechwood, said with all the water accumulating on Beechwood, as it is the bottom of the basin on the diagrams in the report, what in the solution design will help the water dissipate on Beechwood.

Mr. Olson said they have proposed a storm sewer system in addition to the one that is already there to pick up additional water and also suggest improving the system downstream more efficiently.

Joel Kurzman, 2615 Greenleaf, said compared to Alternative 1 how well do Alternatives 2 and 3 address the state of the overall conditions of the pipes that are known to be the root of the problem of overland flooding in west Wilmette.

Mr. Olson said Alternative 2 is not putting in as many linear feet of trunk line as the water is being brought to the underground storage facility.

Mr. Kurzman said if we proceed with Alternatives 2 or 3, would the Village still have to anticipate making future investments in improving or maintaining the condition of the pipes that are not replaced.

Ms. Berger said yes, we will always to have maintain and improve the pipes.

Glen Ventrell, 2525 Greenleaf, asked how long it would take for the Community Playfield retention area to fill up and then drain away.

Mr. Olson reviewed the report noting the different types of storms and the drainage times. He also said currently there is no underdrain system in the Community Playfield, so the anticipation is that it would dry out quicker with a drainage system.

Mr. Ventrell asked how long it would take to excavate and make the Community Playfield usable again and what was the input from the School and Park Districts regarding water retention in the Community Playfield.

Mr. Olson said going on experience from other parks that have completed retention areas, the parks have been out of commission for 6 to 12 months depending on the project.

Ms. Berger said Village staff met with the School and Park Districts and they were open to discussion of the issue but also brought up safety concerns, how long the playfield would be under construction and the practical usage after each rain event. Staff feels the issues can all be addressed but it will take some time.

Al Patel said he lives on Beechwood in Kenilworth Gardens and asked about the viability of water being piped to east of Ridge Road to alleviate some of the flooding in the area.

Mr. Olson said bringing storm water into the combined sewer system east of Ridge Road is not allowed.

Chip McColl, 2116 Beechwood, asked if it is feasible to combine some of the alternatives and what would be the effect of that.

Mr. Olson said they looked at centralized storage and neighborhood storage and combining those would be more costly.

Barbara Schoenfeld, 328 Wilshire Drive, asked how the storage system in Alternative 2.2 would gravity drain in a multiple rain event.

Mr. Olson said the water elevation would go up and slowly drain back down over 10 hours. If there was another 10 year event within that 10 hour period, then there would be more water flowing into the basin and it would take longer to drain.

Julie Lipford, 2132 Beechwood, asked what the resulting scenarios would be for Alternative 2.1 versus 2.2 regarding the amount of water in the street.

Mr. Olson reviewed the risk of flooding from his previous presentation and the flood level reductions for each storm event. He will review the report and provide Ms. Lipford with the specific amounts of water for each flood event.

Kevin Williams, 4068 Fairway Drive, asked if the Village had future costs for each of the Alternatives presented as that may be material to a decision.

Ms. Berger said currently the Village has a network of pipes that has to be maintained with cleaning, televising and fixing broken pipes. All the Alternatives will have the same method of maintenance for underground infrastructure.

Paul Berglund, Lockerbie Lane, asked if the Glenview connection would help with the flooding in his area.

Mr. Olson said the Glenview connection would not significantly help Mr. Berglund's area.

Mr. Berglund asked if the Village of Wilmette was going to go forward with the Glenview connection.

Trustee Krueger said a decision has not been made on any of the Alternatives at this time.

Juan Parra, 2148 Beechwood, noted that there seems to be more 10 year events happening and wondered what the cost would be for a 25 year event.

Mr. Olson said based on the feedback they received from the Village, they only provided detailed information to deal with the 10 year event.

Doug Hart, 2133 Beechwood, asked if the School and Park Districts would be involved in making a decision regarding which alternative to use.

Trustee Krueger noted that the Village, School and Park Districts are all separate entities and have always worked together to find a solution that is good for the community.

Mr. Hart asked if there is a typical life expectancy for the sewer and water pipes in the Village.

Ms. Berger said theoretically the life expectancy of a pipe is 50 years but some of the Village's pipes that are over 50 years are still doing well and we only replace pipes when we need to. She noted that most of Kenilworth Gardens has had their sewer pipes lined which increases the life of the pipes for another 50 years.

Joel Feinstein, 407 Wilshire Drive, asked if there were any discussions with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) or any other agencies such as the county.

Mr. Olson said in addition to meeting with the Village of Glenview, the Wilmette School and Park Districts, they also met with MWRD to let them know that the Village of Wilmette was studying the flooding on the west side of Wilmette and are generally looking at projects that involve storm sewers and storage.

A resident asked if the Village phased in Alternative 1, would there be an overall benefit to the Village.

Mr. Olson said that is the large storm sewer system and if the system is upsized, there would be benefits along the way to certain areas as storm sewers are tied in.

Mr. Olson said in response to Ms. Lipford's earlier question regarding water in the street in Kenilworth Gardens, for Alternative 2.1, the existing ten year flood elevation is 1.6 feet and that would be reduced down to no flood on the streets, for the 25 year flood event, the existing flood elevation is 2.2 feet, that would be reduced down to 1.6 feet, for the 50 year event, the existing flood elevation is 2.5 feet, that would be reduced down to 2.2 feet and in the 100 year event, the existing flood elevation is 2.9 feet and that would be reduced down to 2.6 feet.

Trustee Krueger said he would now open the meeting to public comment.

A resident said from questions he has heard, he believes other residents want the Village to be comprehensive in the solution design choices. He would like the Village to be sure that the models are correct so there is not a failure in the design of the model.

A resident said he believed the alternatives were way too expensive and suggested Kenilworth Gardens' residents talk to the golf course about accepting some of the water in their area.

Doug Hart said with current flooding in his area, he does not believe police and fire can get their vehicles down his street and it is difficult to get to work or school when the streets are flooded.

Wendy Schultz, 2130 Beechwood, provided a demonstration with water bottles that showed the amount of water accumulated on her street for each option. She asked if it was possible to consider more than one solution due to the amount of water that her street accumulates.

Yamin, 3022 Highland Avenue, said he has water in his basement during rain events but the worst storm was in 2013 which caused a large amount of flooding in his townhouse development. He hopes the Village will do something to improve the flooding situation.

Frank Schleicher, 638 Lavergne, said he has flooded five times at his home. He would like to see the numbers regarding how many houses were involved in flooding and what the cost per house is. He also believes the Village should get a second opinion from another engineering consultant firm as the costs of the projects are so high. He also asked that the Village determine the root cause of the flooding so that everything is done the right way to fix the flooding issues.

Bob Davis, 227 Kilpatrick, said since 1950 when sewers were put in, there have been many more structures that have been added but have any sewers been added to accommodate those structures.

Karlene McAllester, 323 Wilshire Drive, said she believes the engineering consultant seems to be saying that the problem is not enough pipes or large enough diameter pipes so that would lead her to think that Alternative 1 is the option to go with. She believes the Village should do something about the flooding issues and believes there is concern among residents.

Joel Kurzman, 2615 Greenleaf, said he supports Alternative 1 because he believes it is a more prudent investment for all of west Wilmette. He believes any investment the Village makes needs to be part of a comprehensive plan that incorporates both grey and green infrastructure.

Eddie McCall, 827 Lake, said he is new to Wilmette and wondered if there was any consideration by the Village to create a new pump station at the corner of Wilmette and Laramie.

Mr. Olson said they did investigate adding a second pump station in that area but it would cost more than Alternative 1 as they would still need to construct all of the storm sewers to the east of that to bring the water to the pump station and more sewers to bring the water to the river.

A resident asked where the process will go from this point and would residents be involved in that process.

Trustee Krueger said every meeting is public and the meeting this evening is also being televised. The agenda materials for meetings are all on the website and the Director of Engineering and Public Works has emailed notices for those residents who have provided email addresses.

A resident hoped there would be some type of short term interim fix for the flooding.

Trustee Krueger noted the end of public comment.

Ms. Berger said staff was looking for direction from the Committee on what to pursue moving forward on the issue.

Trustee Wolf said there has been a lot of work already done to help alleviate water from going into the sewer system. She also noted the Village did receive a grant from MWRD for some green alleys, some are finished and some are under construction now. The Village is also doing some of the first bioswales in the Village. There is no magic fix for the flooding in the Village and the Village will continue to study the issue.

Trustee Sullivan said it seems that Alternative 1 is the preferred option from residents but how do you fund the \$75 million cost. He would like to see some type of retention area in Thornwood Park.

Trustee Krueger said if Alternative 1 is the option to pursue then he did not see a reason to do any type of retention at Thornwood Park.

Trustee Wolf said our design standard was a 10 year flood and we are hearing that it would not solve all our problems so the other thing to look at would be a 25 year flood and that would be more money.

Trustee Krueger said in looking at the cost per house the economics become a challenge to fund.

Trustee Wolf noted that the Village would also have to work with the State and the County as they maintain some of the streets within the Village. She would not mind exploring funding options such as increasing the water rate or a storm water utility rate.

Trustee Krueger noted that a resident suggested a second engineering consult for ideas.

Trustee Wolf said she would be in favor of that before taking any major steps but she does not think the Committee is at that point yet.

Trustee Sullivan asked Ms. Berger if she believed another consultant was warranted to look at other options for flooding in Wilmette.

Ms. Berger said she has spent a lot of time with Christopher Burke Engineering and has the utmost faith in their work product. She has looked at their report in great detail, including their cost estimates which are in 2014 dollars, so every year that we wait, we are looking at a 3-5% increase. She is confident in the product they have presented this evening.

Trustee Krueger said the question for him, is how do you pay for the project and justify it on a cost per structure basis.

Trustee Wolf thanked everyone for attending the meeting and believes that Alternative 1 gives the most benefit for the most people. She would like to explore ways to fund the project and what the effect would be.

Trustee Krueger said the project would be extended over time in different phases so they would have to look at bond funding, flood fees, sewer rates and cash flow in the Village.

Trustee Wolf said she is a big proponent of green infrastructure but the Village does not have much in the way of open space. She would like to explore that and consider it a little more.

Trustee Krueger said the biggest problem is getting the water from one point to another point such as a retention area or pump station.

Trustee Sullivan noted that the cost per house affected is quite high but he believes that something should be done.

Trustee Krueger said there will be a cost for the proposed project and the Committee will have to figure out how to pay for it. He said the cost per structure protected will give them some feel on whether they are making a good recommendation that makes economic sense. If we look at staging the process over time, it does not provide immediate relief but it provides the promise of long term relief. The Village has spent \$77 million over the past 35 years and it has given relief and will continue to give relief.

Trustee Wolf said she agrees that the Village should look at a longer term plan and what it might look like in cost and staging.

Ms. Berger said in summary, staff will look at a detailed schedule and implementation plan, a detailed financial analysis with options on how to pay for the project and a more detailed analysis on cost per structure.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

No Report.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was thereafter adjourned at 9:35p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Prepared by Barbara Hirsch.