

**Stormwater Utility Exploratory Committee
Minutes of Public Meeting
August 1, 2003**

Village of Downers Grove
Public Works Facility Main Conference Room
5101 Walnut Avenue
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Roll Call

PRESENT: Commissioner Martin Tully
Commissioner Marilyn Schnell

STAFF: Jack Bajor, Director of Public Works
Jon Hall, Development Engineer
Mike Millette, Assistant Director of Public Works – Engineering
Kirsten Coulman, Recording Secretary

VISITORS: David Gorman, 5401 S. Fairview Avenue
Marc Lopata, 5419 Grand Avenue
Don Eckmann, 1244 Hawthorne Lane
Greg Kalvinsky, Clark Dietz – 1317 S. Neil St., Suite 100, Champaign, IL 61820
Chuck Johnson, Clark Dietz – 118 S. Clinton, Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60606
Douglas Noel, AMEC – 101 West Ohio, Suite 2000, Indianapolis, IN 46204
Bill Dinchak, Bonestroo, Devery & Associates – 2335 Hwy 36 West, St. Paul, MN
Ismael Martinez, Bonestroo, Devery & Associates – 2335 Hwy 36 West, Saint Paul, MN
Laurel Bowen – 829 Clyde Drive
William Waldack, 1409 Willard Place
Andrew Clark, 1226 62nd Street

Call to Order

Commissioner Tully called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Approval of meeting minutes June 26, 2003

Commissioner Tully asked if anyone had any changes to make to the minutes. Since no changes were made, Commissioner Tully asked for a motion to approve the minutes without correction.

Commissioner Schnell moved to approve the minutes from June 26, 2003.

Commissioner Tully seconded the motion.

Motion passed 2:0

The minutes from the June 26, 2003 meeting are approved without corrections.

Appointment of members to the Stormwater Utility Exploration Committee

Commissioner Tully stated that the next order of business was to appoint three new members to the Stormwater Utility Exploratory Committee. The sub-committee will consist of 5 members including the Commissioners Schnell and Tully. Mr. Tully asked the three members to introduce themselves and give a little background about them.

Mr. Gorman stated he is a professional civil engineer currently working for the Village of Lombard as a Development Engineer and is the Administrator of the Stormwater Ordinance. He has worked for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Office of Water Resources. He stated he has quite a few years working with water resource type work. Mr. Gorman stated he is happy to serve on the committee.

Mr. Eckmann stated he is also a civil engineer with Alvord, Burdick & Howson and the highlight of his career was the design of the Lake Michigan Water Supply, which you are all drinking today.

Mr. Lopata stated he is also a licensed engineer; civil and environmental. His background is marine engineering and landed in Chicago in the construction business. Mr. Lopata lives and works in Downers Grove.

Commissioner Tully thanked the gentleman for coming tonight and asked for a motion to appoint David Gorman, Don Eckmann and Marc Lopata to the Stormwater Utility Exploratory Committee, a sub-committee of the Public Services Committee of the Village of Downers Grove.

Commissioner Schnell moved to appoint David Gorman, Don Eckmann and Marc Lopata to the Stormwater Utility Exploratory Committee, a sub-committee of the Public Services Committee of the Village of Downers Grove.

Commissioner Tully seconded the motion.

Motion passed 2:0

David Gorman, Don Eckmann and Marc Lopata are appointed to the Stormwater Utility Exploratory Committee, a sub-committee of the Public Services Committee of the Village of Downers Grove.

Commissioner Tully turned the meeting over to Mr. Hall.

Mr. Hall introduced himself and outlined the remaining items on the agenda. If there is time after the presentations, Mr. Hall will discuss the Stormwater matrix that will be a project of the Stormwater and Flood Plain Oversight Committee, which will be meeting on a regular basis starting September 10th.

Mr. Hall introduced Greg Kalvinsky from Clark Dietz, who gave the PowerPoint presentation – Stormwater Master Plan

PowerPoint presentation is attached.

Questions

Laurel Bowen, 829 Clyde Drive, asked for clarification about “stakeholders”.

Mr. Kalvinsky, Clark Dietz, 1317 S. Neil St, Suite 100, Champaign, IL 61820, stated stakeholder groups could be citizens, public interested in Stormwater issues. They basically meet on a regular basis to discuss what the public issues are and what the local needs and desires are. It's a non policy making group that just discusses and generating ideas.

Mr. Johnson, Clark Dietz, 118 S. Clinton, Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60606, added that stakeholders could also be homeowner associations.

Laurel Bowen, 829 Clyde Drive, clarified that it's not another committee for the Stormwater group.

Mr. Johnson, Clark Dietz, 118 S. Clinton, Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60606, answered no, it's not another committee.

Commissioner Schnell stated that the need for a master plan or the desire for a master plan is really not contingent on whether or not Stormwater utility is decided upon. The need for a master plan is really that it shows the needs within the community for Stormwater and what needs to be done and the costs identified with that and whether there is a utility or not, those identified costs could be put into a capital projects fund. If the committee, and ultimately the Council, decides not to do a Stormwater utility, a master plan is still needed to determine what the needs are within the community and what the costs are associated with those needs.

Mr. Kalvinsky, Clark Dietz, 1317 S. Neil St., Suite 100, Champaign, IL 61820, commented that it was a good point that Commissioner Schnell made. It's been 30 years since a master plan has been created in Downers Grove for Stormwater infrastructure, so certainly a lot has changed. The community has built up and there are different regulatory issues to consider. It is a utility that needs to be cared for and it certainly is a necessary study.

Commissioner Schnell asked if the study looks at the aging infrastructure, redevelopment and regulations. What can be done with the redevelopment that we're seeing?

Mr. Johnson, Clark Dietz, 118 S. Clinton, Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60606, stated that Clark Dietz is paid to look at the Village's current Stormwater rates and what could be done to help improve control of the redevelopment. The Stormwater master plan will help prioritize the requirements of upgrading the Village's system rather than answering the loudest complaint. The Village already knows where the problems are located and it will be in that master plan, which will include an improvement plan that occurs over a period of time.

Commissioner Schnell stated that the Council needs to decide whether or not the Village needs or wants a Stormwater utility, but the real question is if the utility wasn't done, would there be benefits to having a Stormwater master plan for the community and what you (Mr. Johnson) are saying is yes there are benefits.

Mr. Johnson, Clark Dietz, 118 S. Clinton, Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60606, stated that many communities do a Stormwater master plan or have in the last ten years and had no intention of talking about a Stormwater utility. Today, some of them are coming back and saying that they now need to find a way to pay for these improvements and can they do it through a utility.

Mr. Gorman stated that inventorying, mapping and CFP planning is important for GASB-34. The village is required to look at the infrastructure and plan appropriately to keep a healthy bond rating.

Mr. Hall stated there will be a huge benefit from the master plan in the long term by not only showing what is falling apart in the infrastructure, but what will be falling apart in the next 30 years. Public Works does a lot of these assessments with staff by looking at the needs of the community, but the scope of this is monumental and it will fairly assess all the needs of the community, not just in the next 5 years, but in the future.

Commissioner Tully stated that he has a few questions, but first wanted to touch on the comments Commissioner Schnell made earlier. Obviously, as the name implies, the purpose of this sub committee is to explore the possibility of the Stormwater utility, but long ago, it became apparent that regardless of the outcome of that discussion, there will be a huge benefit from this committee looking at this issue. In order to find out the Village is going to have a utility, the base question is, "what does the Village really need in order to have a responsible and effective Stormwater management program?" Once that question is defined, the next question is, "how does the Village pay for the program?" The Village can pay for it a lot of ways – raise revenue and put it on a line item on the budget and there doesn't need to be a utility in place for that, but the process has really raised awareness of what's involved in having a responsible and effective Stormwater management program. The utility is one way to pay for the program, and it has pros and cons, but there will be recommendations that will come out of this committee that will exist whether there is a utility or not. Now to the questions, 1) what are the administrative requirements documenting NPDES Phase II compliance? How extensive is the documentation requirements?

Mr. Kalvinsky, Clark Dietz, 1317 S. Neil St., Suite 100, Champaign, IL 61820, stated that every community who is a NPDES Phase II community will be finding out within the next couple of years. It depends on how closely they follow their notice of intent. There is an annual report which depending on how thorough the Village wants to be can be relatively simple and could require hundreds of hours, but with the education requirements documenting who gets educated and what types of programs are available, that's all paperwork. A lot of the communities don't have a handle on the amount of time it takes because it's all so new and they have yet to do it.

Commissioner Tully explained the reason for the question being that there have been some issues in the past where the Village has not had sufficient documentation so that if an outside agency comes in to check compliance, the Village wants to be able to prove compliance. It can be a very time consuming process requiring a lot of administrative work and what is being said is because NPDES Phase II is so new, we don't know yet.

Mr. Kalvinsky, Clark Dietz, 1317 S. Neil St., Suite 100, Champaign, IL 61820, stated that a lot of communities estimate costs based on the size of the community.

Mr. Noel, AMEC, 101 West Ohio, Suite 2000, Indianapolis, IN 46204, stated that a lot of it depends on how the Village wrote the Stormwater management plan that was submitted. For instance, if it's part of the public education program to placard 250 storm inlets a year, then all the Village has to do is show that it was actually done. It's a very "bean-counting" type of permit for the NPDES Phase II permitting. Particularly the way the IEPA implemented it and they are following exactly the way the USEPA laid it out, so if in the permit the Village had set up very simple objective and measurable goals, then that's all that's required for the reporting is to show what the permit said the Village would do.

Commissioner Tully stated that there has to be some sort of accountability to the residents. In a Stormwater program, how is success measurable? Can a Stormwater master plan be a tool in

measuring success? Whether a resident pays a utility or it's a line item on the budget, where is the money going and is the master plan actually achieving what it's supposed to achieve?

Mr. Kalvinsky, Clark Dietz, 1317 S. Neil St., Suite 100, Champaign, IL 61820, answered that yes and an example would be the five early action projects. These are capital improvement projects that are really high profile in the community. The village should get them in writing, get them done and work with the local press to get good coverage of the project and that will show the good faith of the master plan. If a map is developed of the Stormwater system and identify different sections of storm sewer that needs to be replaced by color code, that is a tangible way of showing progress.

Mr. Johnson, Clark Dietz, 118 S. Clinton, Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60606, stated that the Village will have to do a lot of educating of the public and in addition, the village has to document how many mailings, how much it costs, how many presentations to schools, to the chamber of commerce, etc.. As part of the NPDES, the village will have a check list of things to accomplish. A lot of those costs will be paid for by the utility if the village chooses to form a utility.

Mr. Kalvinsky, Clark Dietz, 1317 S. Neil St., Suite 100, Champaign, IL 61820, stated that it's very important that the Village gets those first few projects underway and publicized.

Mr. Noel, AMEC, 101 West Ohio, Suite 2000, Indianapolis, IN 46204, commented that another way to know your program is working is if the complaint calls diminish. It's a way to measure success.

Commissioner Tully asked if Mr. Kalvinsky can give the committee an idea of how many hours are involved in doing a standard master plan.

Mr. Kalvinsky, Clark Dietz, 1317 S. Neil St., Suite 100, Champaign, IL 61820, stated that for the first two phases the village was probably looking at 400 to 600 hours.

Commissioner Schnell asked how a Stormwater master plan help to identify or relieve the problems that areas have that have been put in over 50 years ago with modern Stormwater management practices and how are those concerns addressed.

Mr. Kalvinsky, Clark Dietz, 1317 S. Neil St., Suite 100, Champaign, IL 61820, stated that the master plan would consider everything within the village to be a part of the Stormwater system because they generate runoff. Certainly those areas would always be considered. As far as identifying which areas, those would be determined by complaint records; hopefully some of these areas have had more complaints than others so we can help determine which areas are really suffering due to lack of Stormwater construction costs.

Mr. Johnson, Clark Dietz, 118 S. Clinton, Suite 600, Chicago, IL 60606, commented that Downers Grove probably has a lot of complaint records to use for basis of troubled areas.

Commissioner Schnell commented that if there are ten complaints from one area, for example, and maybe there is a problem in that area. Would a neighborhood meeting be warranted? After speaking with some of the residents, they may call once or twice and then never call again. So, there may not be up to date records.

Mr. Kalvinsky, Clark Dietz, 1317 S. Neil St., Suite 100, Champaign, IL 61820, stated that's why interviews with citizens in those areas are so important.

Commissioner Schnell stated that the interviews with residents are more directed to problem areas as opposed to just general issues.

Mr. Kalvinsky, Clark Dietz, 1317 S. Neil St., Suite 100, Champaign, IL 61820, stated that it could be both, for example, the stakeholders groups could talk about general planning design issues. Also, when specific areas are identified on the problem area map as having problems, before someone goes out to survey, they need to go out and speak with the residents who have been there for a while. They may have more information than you think.

Mr. Eckmann commented that in his opinion he favors surveys in place of public meetings. Develop a good survey that goes out to everyone and the questions can be categorized very clearly and there would be much better results than a public meeting, in his opinion. It's very simple; the ones that don't have any problems won't respond to the survey.

Commissioner Tully commented that surveying was a good idea and that the village survey is coming up and it's worth a line or two on the survey.

Mr. Eckmann stated that it should be an independent survey of the village survey.

Commissioner Tully stated that an independent survey would be ideal, but it's another cost.

Mr. Lopata asked if the surveys have addresses on them.

Commissioner Tully stated that the village survey is not sent out to everyone, but it is rotated to different segments of the community because it's a cost issue. We could send it out to everyone but it's supposed to be a snapshot of the community's needs. It's supposed to be random sampling.

Mr. Lopata suggested putting a survey in with the water bill.

Commissioner Tully stated that the point is well taken, but again, it all comes back to the cost. It might not be perfect or comprehensive, but at little cost it would add to the knowledge base.

Mr. Lopata asked about bar coding the data and then uploading it.

Commissioner Schnell stated that there is a place on the survey if the resident wants to divulge their information.

Mr. Lopata asked if the complaint log is digital or on hand-written sheets?

Mr. Bajor answered that the complaints are both handwritten and on the Community Response Center log which is digital.

Laurel Bowen, 829 Clyde Drive, commented that she never calls the CRC.

Commissioner Tully has one more question. As part of the master plan, is there any attention to a couple of things we talked about in the past that can be of benefit of the good Stormwater management program and that is reduction in erosion and an increase in stream bank stabilization and will those problems be addressed by the Stormwater master plan?

Mr. Kalvinsky, Clark Dietz, 1317 S. Neil St., Suite 100, Champaign, IL 61820, stated that absolutely those problems would be addressed. Erosion is a major problem in Stormwater quality and stream bank stabilization will be a priority and it will be a capital improvement project. It's just as important as increasing pipe size.

Commissioner Tully thanked Mr. Kalvinsky for the presentation and asked if there were any more questions.

Mr. Hall commented on how the infrastructure ties in to other infrastructure like the sanitary system.

There was a brief intermission between presentations.

Mr. Hall introduced Douglas Noel from AMEC, who gave the PowerPoint presentation – Analysis on Utility Funding.

PowerPoint presentation is attached.

Questions

Commissioner Tully asked if anyone had any questions regarding the presentation.

Mr. Bajor stated that according to the presentation (page 11), there are 450 utilities in place in the United States and AMEC has done 30 of those utilities. Mr. Bajor asked where the data came from for the billing facts slide.

Mr. Noel, AMEC, 101 West Ohio, Suite 2000, Indianapolis, IN 46204, stated the numbers were based on a report done by a consultant firm. The response of a survey sent out to every community that had a utility and about 200 people responded which was about 50% at the time.

Mr. Bajor stated that roughly 17% of the land mass of the corporate limits is unincorporated and they contribute to the problems the Village faces, especially the five streams that contribute to the east branch of the DuPage River. How does the Village govern that area of unincorporated properties?

Mr. Noel, AMEC, 101 West Ohio, Suite 2000, Indianapolis, IN 46204, stated he would have to research a legal answer to the question. The understanding is that the Village probably would not be able to include the unincorporated area.

Andrew Clark, 1226 62nd Street, asked why the Village would want to bill on a monthly basis. What is going to change, there will still be a building, a driveway and a garage. Nothing is going to change from month to month. Why can't it be a constant?

Mr. Noel, AMEC, 101 West Ohio, Suite 2000, Indianapolis, IN 46204, stated that the billing can be done on an annual basis, but most cities do monthly billing because they already have a monthly billing structure in place.

Andrew Clark, 1226 62nd Street, commented that it sounds like the cities are just trying to spend money for the purpose of spending money.

Mr. Noel, AMEC, 101 West Ohio, Suite 2000, Indianapolis, IN 46204, stated that actually, the cities are trying to be frugal by using the existing billing systems. If there's a utility system, then there is

also a property tax system and if the assessors or treasurers are willing to use the property tax system. The problem with using the property tax system is that the revenue comes in chunks. There is no constant flow of revenue throughout the year.

Andrew Clark, 1226 62nd Street, stated that it depends on what the taxing body levies.

Mr. Noel, AMEC, 101 West Ohio, Suite 2000, Indianapolis, IN 46204, stated that annual billing makes a lot of sense. There are benefits to both ways of billing, monthly and annually.

Mr. Lopata asked when AMEC does their rate modeling; there is also a sensitivity analysis also? For both AMEC and Clark Dietz, are there documented success stories of where the Stormwater utilities have been implemented and it's worked out very well for the communities?

Mr. Noel, AMEC, 101 West Ohio, Suite 2000, Indianapolis, IN 46204, stated that of the thirty AMEC has developed, none have been shut down. One was a problem with enabling legislation in Durham, North Carolina.

Mr. Lopata stated he was interested in printed information that could be shared with the committee regarding plans that have been done.

Mr. Noel, AMEC, 101 West Ohio, Suite 2000, Indianapolis, IN 46204, stated that he could provide a list of cities that AMEC has done utilities. There was an instance when AMEC fixed a billing issue with the city of Indianapolis.

Mr. Gorman asked when special assessments are done, the Stormwater portion, storm sewers are not special assessments to the properties. If the street is unimproved, no curb and gutter, no storm sewers, is there a special assessment to bring the area up to the current standards. Normally, the properties would be assessed. How is the Stormwater portion of that handled? Is that still assessed against the property or is it deducted because they are paying the fees?

Mr. Noel, AMEC, 101 West Ohio, Suite 2000, Indianapolis, IN 46204, stated that is one of the policy decisions that has to be made early in development. A lot of cities will put in the ability to have special assessments if there is a project that is not a general benefit to the community.

Commissioner Tully stated that early in the presentation, it was stated that the program has to drive the rate and that's perfectly reasonable and understandable, but one doesn't know what the rate should be until it's determined what the program is to encompass. In order to pay for the study to find out what the program is going to be, one must have a way to pay for it.

Mr. Noel, AMEC, 101 West Ohio, Suite 2000, Indianapolis, IN 46204, gave an example of how another town paid for their utility through interfund loans.

Commissioner Tully asked how long for a community of 50,000 residents, the size of Downers Grove, does this process from start to finish, outlined in the presentation, take? Also, how many hours is this typically?

Mr. Noel, AMEC, 101 West Ohio, Suite 2000, Indianapolis, IN 46204, stated the process can be done in as little as 9 months. Most cities plan on it taking a year because they are not sure how long it will take council to approve the ordinance when it's ready. It depends on the quality of the data for the

second phase of the program. Also, if the most of first phase is done without a stakeholder group, it's a lot quicker, but there is no endorsement from the community that the utility is the right thing to do.

Commissioner Tully stated that Mr. Noel mentioned earlier in the presentation as an addition to assisting communities with implementing Stormwater utilities as well as funding analyses. What is a funding analysis? Is that something separate and apart from the utility?

Mr. Noel, AMEC, 101 West Ohio, Suite 2000, Indianapolis, IN 46204, stated that yes, a funding analysis is separate from the utility. What several communities have decided to have a Stormwater utility and some decided to pass on the utility. AMEC did a cursory or general look at the existing programs with staff, not the stakeholders. A questionnaire was developed and sent out to the stakeholder group so AMEC could get an idea of what are the needs for the community.

Commissioner Tully thanked Mr. Noel for the presentation and asked if there were anymore questions.

Stormwater Project Matrix

Mr. Hall handed out the project matrix. A copy is attached to the minutes.

Mr. Hall stated that the matrix is something the Stormwater and Flood Plain Oversight Committee will be formalizing at the next meeting which is on September 10, 2003. There actually is a ranking system that the Village uses to prioritize the projects. Mr. Hall went over the list and how it was ranked currently and what can be done to make the matrix more effective.

Commissioner Tully commented that the matrix does demonstrate the concurrent needs of the Village demonstrated by the matrix. Commissioner Tully asked a follow up question directed at Mr. Kalvinsky, from the first presentation. Are there any standards of how often a community should update their master Stormwater plan?

Mr. Kalvinsky, Clark Dietz, 1317 S. Neil St., Suite 100, Champaign, IL 61820, answered that the communities that Clark Dietz has worked with generally see an update of the master plan every 20-25 years. Usually that's done because of some major change in the regulatory environment or design standards and that usually occurs over a quarter of a century.

Commissioner Tully commented that 30 years sounded like an extraordinary amount of time, but it seems like a good time to update the master plan. It's long overdue.

Commissioner Schnell commented on the amount of hours it would take to produce a Stormwater plan, what does that translate into regarding monies?

Mr. Kalvinsky, Clark Dietz, 1317 S. Neil St., Suite 100, Champaign, IL 61820, answered around \$100,000.00

Commissioner Schnell asked Mr. Noel of AMEC, within the confines of the Stormwater utility, we, as the council, have purchased properties that are in a flood plain that we know would help the flow of the stream. Can those kinds of costs be included in the utility or are the funds for the utility simply for Stormwater projects?

Mr. Noel, AMEC, 101 West Ohio, Suite 2000, Indianapolis, IN 46204, stated that it depends on how the master plan is defined and what the village wants the program to accomplish. If it's a general benefit to the community with regards to flooding, then maybe something like a discretionary type of fund might be helpful for purchases like that.

Mr. Kalvinsky, Clark Dietz, 1317 S. Neil St., Suite 100, Champaign, IL 61820, commented that when documenting the creation of the utility and the master planning, as long as that's put in as a priority and put that in writing, then it's clear to the public that it's one aspect of the Stormwater infrastructure and that property purchase may be part of the plan.

Commissioner Tully thanked Mr. Greg Kalvinsky, Mr. Chuck Johnson and Mr. Doug Noel for coming today and providing the group with information, we do appreciate it. It's been very helpful and very informative.

Commissioner Tully asked the committee members to think about the following questions:

- What additional information, we as a sub-committee, think we need in order to engage in intelligent discussion of whether or not a utility is a good idea and should it be explored further or not?
- When can the committee start discussions?

Commissioner Tully stated the charge of this committee as directed by the council is to come back with a recommendation whether or not this is something to do or not. If so, what is the plan supposed to look like.

Determine Action Plan and Next Meeting Dates

Commissioner Tully asked the committee members their thoughts on an action plan.

Mr. Eckmann commented that he's heard a couple of times that the utility could be perceived as a tax. Mr. Eckmann asked for an investigation as to what is required to assure, in the future, that the funds collected would be so used by the utility for its intended purpose.

Commissioner Tully commented on the dollars that had been allocated, and based on the information given on the last eighteen months, insufficient funds have been allocated to Stormwater projects and then the money that is allocated usually gets reallocated to something else that becomes a crisis, like a snow plow breaking down. If the funds are not going to be allocated to Stormwater, then there's no reason to do this. That's an absolutely fundamental pre-condition to this utility.

Mr. Gorman would like to have a discussion at the next meeting about the project matrix be put together as a comprehensive matrix with other capital improvement projects. It seems that the Stormwater projects are not rising to the top when it comes to funding. What are the other options for funding besides doing a utility? The priority needs to be known.

Mr. Millette offered his insight into the comprehensive matrix and offered to discuss it with Mr. Gorman after the meeting.

Commissioner Schnell commented about the importance of public education to the needs of Stormwater and the projects that need to be done as well as staff educating the council.

Mr. Millette stated he does have a comprehensive matrix.

Commissioner Tully asked what tools are needed to lead to a discussion for the next meeting. Is there an identified need that can be addressed by the Stormwater utility or some other funding mechanism? Is there additional information anyone wants before discussing that question?

Commissioner Schnell commented that the pro side has been heard through the presentations. We need to look at other communities who chose to look at it differently. Is there a way to get the information? It might be interesting to get another perspective.

Mr. Lopata stated that he did not need any further information and the utility is worth exploring.

Commissioner Schnell commented that there is a need, but the needs are not known. As part of the discussions that will take place over the next several meetings should be how the committee determines what the needs are and that should be a direction from the Council. Should a consultant be hired to do a Stormwater management analysis or does staff do it?

Mr. Gorman reiterated his desire to see a comprehensive matrix.

Commissioner Tully suggested the next meeting be scheduled and come prepared to discuss or debate the pros and cons of a Stormwater utility.

The next two meeting dates are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday August 13, 2003 – 6:00 pm at the Public Works in the Main Conference Room
Monday September 15, 2003 – 6:00 pm the Public Works in the Main Conference Room

Public Comments

William Waldack, 1409 Willard Place, suggested that the public comments should not be at just the end of the meetings, but maybe another time like earlier in the meeting. Mr. Waldack stated that he has a few comments to make:

- Just a quick thought on the survey, why not put a question in the village corner every week or in the papers and they could be clipped out and returned to the village by mail or have the survey on the village website. A lot of topics could be covered by multiple surveys in multiple locations.
- A comment on public education requesting money. It's agreed that there has to be public education on general Stormwater, but there is an added cost in public education for a Stormwater utility. Citizens expect the village to do village work; Stormwater work is technically village work, so why have public education? If the question comes up, it's answered. Typical citizen comes home and sees a flooded property, they want the village to fix it, they don't want to get into the utility business, and they just want it fixed. Creating a bureaucracy will only cost more; the education will take additional time and effort.
- Third item, let's say there is a \$100,000.00 project that needs to be done and there is a utility in place. Does the utility increase the cost, decrease the cost, does it cost the same or does it save the taxpayer money?
- Fourth item, with a utility, is the village just adding a bureaucracy to customer service? Right now, if the sun is shining and the yard is flooded, the Village Manger will be called, Public Works will be called. If there's a utility, who does the resident call?
- Fifth item, what communities decided not to go with a utility? It would be nice to have that list.

- Sixth item, priorities and budgeting. What really needs to happen is the matrix needs to go to the Village Manager. It's the Village Manager's responsibility to make sure the right stuff goes to the top of the priority list.

Commissioner Tully asked if Mr. Waldack wanted answers to any of his questions.

William Waldack, 1409 Willard Place, asked if there were answers to the questions, then one specifically, while the group is still here, would a utility increase the cost, cost the same or save the taxpayer money? From everything said tonight, it would be an additional cost, whether it's 5% or 2% or whatever it is, it's an additional cost and it doesn't appear to be saving anyone any money.

Commissioner Tully stated that it's not getting done at all. It costs the taxpayer nothing to not have it done at all.

William Waldack, 1409 Willard Place, stated that Commissioner Tully convinced him a long time ago that there are problems that need to be fixed and that there is a need to handle Stormwater situations. It's a matter of how it's done. The utility itself either saves costs or it's the same. It seems as if it will cost more if a person has to be added in a bureaucratic level to take phone calls and it doesn't have to be done under the current situation. The money save from that situation could be used to start work on another hole or problem area. Assuming all the work needs to get done and the village is going to fund it, which saves more.

Commissioner Tully clarified that the real question is if additional property taxes were levied covering the \$3.5 million backlog, there would be no additional administrative costs to do that, it would just be another levy, whereas, if a utility were formed to raise the \$3.5 million, there would be additional costs to raise the money through a utility source. It sounds like, yes, there would be administrative costs, but in the long run, would there be benefits that would ultimately cost the community as a whole less? That would have to be pondered.

Mr. Lopata stated that there is a loss of equitable basis of the utility. Only the value of the property is being looked at instead of the impact on the Stormwater system.

Commissioner Tully stated that the money has to be raised and it is up to the committee to determine if it should be part of the property tax because people have commented that it would be better because the property tax can be written off. Other people have commented about it not being unfair because they don't have large houses and feel they are not contributing to the run off.

Laurel Bowen, 829 Clyde Drive, commented that she believed there is an education issue and it goes both ways. It was a concern, that when Mr. Noel was speaking that public involvement was on the outside of everything. That part of the program, as it was explained, was that a PR campaign is done with press coverage and school presentations; don't know why school came into it because the residents, citizens and taxpayers are not in the classroom, the chamber of commerce are not the taxpayers either, so that was an issue. The stakeholder groups are appointed by council which also suggests there is not an objective viewpoint from all parties or a volunteer group that comes out that is very interested. That's also a concern. Bill also referred to this; there's a priority mindset here where it was her understanding that there already is a utility here that was managed by Public Works. Now, it sounds like a utility is being created that the Village didn't have, but it's really a tax. That needs to be clear to the public and it's not very clear in the discussions that have taken place tonight. It needs to be made very clear to the public, because, we as the residents will be paying for it. There are other items that the leaders of the community think are more important at this moment, like the

\$20 million parking garage, which takes precedence over Stormwater issues which is a current issue. A lot of the Stormwater problems stem from development issues. The developer that is approved by Council, or whoever is approving the development that's going in, is allowing the developer to put in as large a property as they can because the village leaders want as much tax base as they can from that development. The teardowns are an issue. We're creating a bigger development and that's water displacement. When a bigger development goes on a smaller lot, then there will be problems. The teardowns and the lot splits are all things the Council has been approving and discussing for a few years now. It just continues. There is no tree ordinance. How many gallons of water do trees suck up? The village is not planting anymore trees. These are basic issues that the public understands, but now talking Stormwater utility and making it a different animal that isn't necessary. Why don't we start at the basics and start controlling things. Less is more sometimes. We don't need to cram as much as we can everywhere. It sounds like that's where the village is headed and it's frustrating.

Commissioner Tully thanked the public for their comments and asked if anyone else had any other comments? Hearing none, Commissioner Tully asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Eckmann moved to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Schnell seconded the motion to adjourn.

Motion passed 5:0.

Meeting adjourned 8:42 pm.