

**Storm Water Board
Work Session
August 9, 2011**

The Storm Water Board for the Town of Cedar Lake held their regular Work Session on August 9, 2011. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. Members present were: Jerry Wilkening, Vice Chairman, and Walter Crissey. James Cornett, Public Works Director, Greg Parker, Town Council Liaison, and Jennifer Montgomery, Recording Secretary, were also present. Greg Wornhoff, Chairman, was not present at tonight's meeting.

- I. **Minutes:** Minutes from the July 26, 2011 Public Meeting were given out for vote at the next Public Meeting.

II. **Public Comment:**

- **Shirley St. Germaine of 14723 Reeder Court** was present at tonight's meeting. Mrs. St. Germaine stated that she would like the Town of Cedar Lake to determine and evaluate the proper drainage for the property located at 14727 Reeder Court and all adjacent properties. Mrs. St. Germaine stated that the owners of 14727 Reeder Court, Joe and Heather Ponziano, have brought in a sizable amount of fill and elevated their property, which is now preventing rainwater to drain properly in the neighborhood. Pictures were submitted evidencing same. It was stated that standing water has never been an issue in the area, even in heavier precipitation, and that these problems only started occurring once Mr. Ponziano began changing the elevation of his property. Mrs. St. Germaine asked the Board if the Town can please investigate and maybe have an independent engineer view and remedy the problem. Mrs. St. Germaine also stated that other neighbors said they are now experiencing the same problems. Jerry Wilkening stated that the Town Engineer will investigate the area to see if the issues currently in the area are due to the elevation change at 14727 Reeder Court.
- **Joe Ponziano of 14727 Reeder Court** was present at tonight's meeting. Mr. Ponziano approached the Board to explain the photographs which were submitted with his fill permit application in July 2011. Mr. Ponziano explained that the site plan submitted with his fill permit application contained proposed elevation changes, not existing. Mr. Ponziano explained the way the water currently flows on the property. Mr. Ponziano stated that the pictures he submitted were taken after the last heavy rainfall, which was approximately June 2011. Mr. Ponziano stated his intentions with the fill permit are to redirect water to the creek that runs behind his property. Jerry Wilkening reiterated that the Town Engineer will investigate the whole area to assess the issues being discussed tonight.
- **Carol Bauer of 14825 Reeder Court** was present at tonight's meeting. Mrs. Bauer inquired to the Board about permits. Mrs. Bauer stated that Joe Ponziano came into the Building Department on July 6, 2011 with a topo report and was approved the same day for a fill permit. Mrs. Bauer questioned if that is the way it is supposed to work. Mrs. Bauer questioned why all the questioned on the application were not answered. Jerry Wilkening stated that the Board does not have anything to do with permits. Jim Cornett stated that he went out to the site and that everything looked ok and the permit was granted. Since then, Jim Cornett has not been to the site to check on the work being done. Mrs. Bauer stated that she has a police report from June 30, 2011, where Joe Ponziano stated he had permission from the Town of Cedar Lake to landscape. Mrs. Bauer also stated that he has been bringing fill onto his property for over a year. Mrs. Bauer stated that nothing has ever flooded this bad. Mrs. Bauer stated that the house is five (5) feet above grade. Joe Ponziano responded that his house is only eighteen (18) inches above grade. The Board again explained that the Town has experienced a significant amount of rain this year, 31 inches so far, and that everyone is experiencing unusual flooding and that the Engineer will be out to investigate the area.
- **Joe Ponziano of 14727 Reeder Court** stated that his home elevation is not five (5) feet above grade. Mr. Ponziano stated that the building inspector at the time came out and that everything was done in accordance with Town Code. It was stated that water will naturally go downhill and that one of the neighbors in attendance tonight is 28 feet below top of street. Only four (4) loads of fill have been brought in since the expiration of the original building permit for the new home on the property. Mr. Ponziano stated that he technically didn't even need a fill permit to do the work, as he was not grading more than eight (8) inches from the existing land. Mr. Ponziano also stated that he has documentation of every load that was taken to and from the residence during and after construction of the residence. Mr. Ponziano also stated that he is more than willing to make adjustments based on the engineer's recommendations.
- **Carolyn Conley of 14818 Reeder Court** was present at tonight's meeting. Ms. Conley stated that the way the water flows come straight down her property. Mrs. Conley pointed out different areas around the property at 14727 Reeder Court that hold water and what areas tend to flood. Mrs. Conley also stated that flooding in the area has never been so severe until the residence was built at 14727 Reeder Court. Mrs. Conley stated that she understands that her residence is lower than others in the neighborhood, but she would like to see the site investigated and possible recommendations be made.
- **Frank Bauer of 14825 Reeder Court** was present at tonight's meeting. Mr. Bauer stated that in the twelve (12) years that he has lived at the residence, the drainage has not been as bad as it is now. Mr. Bauer stated that there have been heavier precipitation events in the past, and the resulting drainage was never as severe as it is now.

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III. Written Communication:

- Memo from Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. regarding Dewey Street drainage concerns.

IV. New Business:

- A. 142nd Avenue and Lauerman Street; drainage concerns. Jim Cornett stated a tree and other debris were removed and more stone was put in to help the issue. Greg Parker stated he would like the banks to have concrete. Jim Cornett stated that Public Works is in the process of doing that. Jim Cornett stated that one (1) more load of stone will be put in. Mr. Cornett stated that they have gone as far as they can go to correct the issues in the area. Discussion occurred regarding pipes in the surrounding area and the effects regarding same.
- B. Maintenance of Sleepy Hollow Ditch. Walter Crissey stated he will speak with Bob Gross about maintenance and items that need to be addressed and/or corrected.
- C. Sandy Brownfield, 11396 W 133rd Lane; drainage concerns. Greg Parker stated that the owner of the adjacent property where the drainage problems are is looking at the property for problems and/or solutions. Mark Kaiser stated that he pulled the plat for the area. Discussion occurred regarding the flow of water in the area and whether or not something can be done until a building permit is applied for on the adjacent property.
- D. Parrish Fields, 9300-9400 blocks of 143rd Place and 143rd Lane; drainage concerns. Mark Kaiser stated that the grade at the middle school is not how it was designed to be. Mr. Kaiser showed the Board where another catch basin was found by Public Works. Discussion occurred regarding the flow of water from the middle school, as well as the flow of water in Parrish Fields. Discussion occurred among the Board regarding issues in the area and ways to reestablish the swale between 143rd Place and 143rd Lane. Greg Parker indicated he will take some ideas to the Town Council and report back for the next meeting.
- E. Jennifer Filar, 14734 Dewey Street; drainage concerns. In progress.

V. Other Business:

- A. American Legion Washington Street/CLEA; drainage project. No new information.
- B. Public Works projects.
 - 1. Grading and swaling during significant precipitation. No new information.
 - 2. Potawatomi Park; responsibility of maintenance of sediment pond. No new information.
- C. Delinquent Storm Water drainage fees. No new information.
- D. Edison Avenue and 131st Avenue, drainage concerns. No new information.
- E. Water's Edge Condominiums, 8125 Lake Shore Drive and 128th Place, north of Lake Shore Drive; drainage project. Mark Kaiser stated that the culvert will be replaced with a larger pipe and that it will be outlet into the existing outlet on the south side of Lake Shore Drive.
- F. 127th Avenue and Cline Avenue; drainage concerns. Jim Cornett stated that some of the water was coming from a broken sprinkler system, which has since been fixed by the property's new home owners.
- G. South side of 133rd Avenue, west of Robin's Nest; drainage concerns. No new information.

VI. Final Public Comment: Joe Ponziano explained to the Board his situation regarding the issues between he and his neighbors. Mr. Ponziano stated he had shown his plans to Frank Bauer before he built his residence. Mr. Ponziano also stated that he explained, at that time, that he was planning to build a second structure in the future. Mr. Ponziano also stated that he is going before the Board of Zoning Appeals next week to get acceptance to construct a barn. Mr. Ponziano stated that no one stated any issues with his plans at the time. Mr. Ponziano reiterated that he is willing to do anything to help alleviate the drainage problems that the neighborhood, including him, is experiencing. The Board explained that they will have the Town Engineer go to the property and make recommendations to fix the issues. Mr. Ponziano also stated he would grant the Town easements if necessary.

VII. Board Comment: None.

VIII. Adjournment: The Work Session ended at approximately 8:58 p.m.

Attest: _____
Jenn Montgomery, Recording Secretary