

**Storm Water Board
Work Session
January 10, 2012**

The Storm Water Board for the Town of Cedar Lake held its work session on January 10, 2012. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:04 p.m. Members present were: Norm Stick and Mike DeFrancesco, members. Ian Nicolini, Town Administrator, Greg Parker, Town Council Liaison, James Cornett of Public Works, and Jenn Montgomery, Recording Secretary, were also present. Randy Niemeyer, Town Council President, arrived at approximately 7:30 p.m. Glenn Sechen, member, was not present at tonight's meeting.

- I. **Minutes:** Minutes from the December 27, 2011 Public Meeting were handed out to be voted on at the next Public Meeting.

II. **Town Administrator/Council Committee Comments:**

Town Administrator Ian Nicolini was present at tonight's meeting to discuss the goals and responsibilities of the Board to the new members. Mr. Nicolini provided copies of requisite ordinances and manuals to the members. Mr. Nicolini explained that the Storm Water Board has jurisdiction over matters relating storm water issues, and acts as a sounding board for drainage issues and to analyze and assess storm water conditions within the Town. The Board is funded through the storm water user fee, which is a flat fee for residential and is a calculated amount for commercial locations. Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. is the engineering firm contracted to oversee storm water issues, specifically Don Oliphant and Mark Kaiser. James Cornett is the Public Works Director, and may be the Board's point of contact. Also, when Mr. Nicolini is unavailable, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary Jenn Montgomery may also be a good contact. Essentially, the most important role the Board will have will be handling and recommending projects based on storm water and drainage complaints and issues. The Town Council has enacted a more inclusive committee system, which includes the redevelopment committee. This committee consists of three (3) members, and will take recommendations and policy considerations to the Town Council on behalf of the Storm Water Board. This is one of the changes that will take place with this new Board. Ian Nicolini explained that there are currently three (3) capital storm water projects happening in Cedar Lake: the reconstruction work in Cedar Point Park and Oaks/Shades subdivisions, as well as the second phase of W 133rd Avenue reconstruction, which is scheduled to begin in 2013.

Discussion continued about the responsibilities and goals of the Board. It was discussed that certain drainage and storm water issues will come up, and that is where the Board comes in. The Board will help to find solutions to these issues, and should try to do in the most cost-effective manner. It needs to be understood that many of these issues take time to resolve, and it is important not to become frustrated when they take longer than expected. It was also noted that the Town Hall staff needs to be respected, and that everyone needs to remember to follow the chain of command. At times, the Town Council will need to take immediate action; the Board should not be frustrated when this happens, as it is usually an emergency situation. Discussion occurred what equipment is available to Public Works. Further discussion occurred regarding various drainage and storm water issues around the Town, including problems in Wicker Meadows and along Parrish Avenue, near 141st Avenue.

III. **Public Comment:**

Martha Hernandez of 13315 W 133rd Drive was present at tonight's meeting. Ms. Hernandez explained that a storm drain in her yard had been worked on in the past, and that she is having some problems with flooding in her basement now. The work that was done opened up the storm drain to help alleviate flooding issues Ms. Hernandez was having, but it seems she is still experiencing problems. Norm Stick asked Ms. Hernandez

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how long she has been at her current residence. She responded 22 years, but the flooding problem has only been happening for the last two (2) years. Jim Cornett explained that Public Works opened the basin and installed a 12 inch pipe out to the ditch and opened up the swale. Mr. Cornett also explained that this work was done about 200 feet away from the house. It was explained that Ms. Hernandez granted the Town the easement so that we could work on it. Jim Cornett stated that the Town may have the Town Engineer go look at the property to help determine where the water may be coming from. Norm Stick suggested it might be an old drain tile that has broken. Discussion occurred about installing a larger pipe to drain the water, as water from Lake Shore Drive also goes to that pipe. The Board agreed to take another look at the property to see if there anything that can be done. However, if the problem is plumbing-related, then there is nothing the Town can do. Ms. Hernandez was invited to attend the Public Meeting in two (2) weeks to further discuss the issues at hand.

IV. Written Communication: None.

V. Other Business:

- A. American Legion/CLEA, Washington Street; drainage project. This project is to be done by CLEA this year. Typically, the Town will partner with CLEA and will do in-kind work by providing equipment and labor.
- B. Public Works Projects.
 - 1. Grading and swaling maintenance.
 - 2. Potawatomi Park; responsibility of maintenance of sediment pond. No new information. It was explained that Public Works does occasional work on the sediment pond to prevent sediment from draining into Cedar Lake.
- C. Delinquent Storm Water drainage fees. Property liens were issued to delinquent accounts in late 2011. Remove from agenda.
- D. Edison Avenue and 131st Avenue; drainage concerns. Jim Cornett explained that Public Works has done all the work they can do on the area for the time being. Remove from agenda.
- E. Water's Edge Condominiums, 8125 Lake Shore Drive, and 128th Place, north of Lake Shore Drive; drainage project. This area is included in the capital road improvement projects that Ian Nicolini discussed with the Board earlier.
- F. Parrish Fields; drainage concerns. Discussion occurred regarding the detention pond in the development. Previously, the developer had tried to dedicate the pond to the Town. However, the Park Board and Plan Commission did not accept it. It was then sold and is now owned by a private property, so the Town is unable to access it to fix any potential problems. Mike DeFrancesco asked what water the detention pond holds. Greg Parker explained that this detention pond is supposed to take water from the whole subdivision, but that no water is making it to the pond. It was also noted that IDEM has no jurisdiction in this matter.

VI. Final Public Comment: None.

VII. Board Comment: None.

VIII. Adjournment: The Public Meeting ended at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Attest: Jenn Montgomery, Recording Secretary