

**FLOOD AND EROSION CONTROL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 8, 2014**

The Flood and Erosion Control Board held a meeting on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 in Parsons Government Complex, Conference Room A. Chairman Zabinski called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

I. Roll Call

Board Members Present

Michael Zabinski
John Casey
Drew Berndlmaier
Patrick Tokarz
Thomas Bach

Also Present

Ald. Michael Casey, BOA Liaison
Gary Wassmer, City Engineer

II. Public Participation

Julie Reis – 42 Wood Avenue - stated she is Vice President of the Wildermere Beach Association and that she was here tonight with other members of the association. She stated they wanted to start a dialogue with this Board regarding beach replenishment at the beach. She stated they lost a lot from storm Irene and then more with storm Sandy. Ms. Reis stated there is about ¾ mile of beach with 12 access points. She also addressed the drains in that area that was broken during storm Sandy that now has a jagged edge. She also asked the Board what they would be doing with the monies received from the State.

III. Consideration of Minutes – March 11, 2014.

Mr. Tokarz and Mr. Casey made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2014 meeting.

Mr. Berndlmaier stated he wished to clarify (p. 2) of the minutes, there is a Harbor Commission in Norwalk; however, he was not sure if they fulfilled the role of a Flood & Erosion Board. He stated they have contact information on their website and he would follow up.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Correspondence – None.

V. Unfinished Business:

A) Update - Drainage Projects – Mr. Wassmer, City Engineer stated he had nothing to report at this time.

B) Update - Renourishment Programs – Mr. Wassmer reported he received a call from the Army Corp of Engineers regarding the East Broadway and Bayview Beach areas. Regarding Woodmont Beach, he reported

the work would start in the next two weeks with all work concluded by May 10, 2014. Mr. Wassmer also reported the money acquired by FEMA to repair the ends of the streets. He also reported there is a new community block grant which is in the first stage, with the second stage to follow.

Chairman Zabinski asked how the money is assigned to each town and if it was based on how much coastline a town has.

Mr. Wassmer stated it is done through grants. He stated he would be speaking with the Mayor about hiring a coastal engineering firm to help. Mr. Wassmer commented he would be more in favor of a beach stabilization as compared to beach renourishment. He explained with the beach renourishment each time there is a storm, there is a potential for the sand to wash out into the water.

Mr. Bach commented URS is a large consulting firm that does that kind of work. He stated he too would agree that replenishment is not the answer. He stated there has to be a way to get the sand out and keep it there, but that it needed to be a realistic approach. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Casey asked Mr. Wassmer if he was handling the grant applications.

Mr. Wassmer stated the grant applications go through the city's Economic Development Office.

Mr. Bach stated it was his understanding URS could help with grant applications as well.

C) Update – RFQ. Mr. Wassmer stated they received 16 qualifications from various firms. He explained this Board would need to go through the process to whittle down the list of the 16 firms, then set up interviews for up to 6 firms. Mr. Wassmer explained per the RFQ that interviews were to be conducted this week, however, he contacted the purchasing agent and a letter was sent out letting each of the firms know that it would not be for another week or so.

Mr. Casey suggested having a sub-committee of 3 to read through each submission. Discussion ensued as to how to evaluate each of the packets.

Chairman Zabinski suggested the sub-committee be comprised of Mr. Casey, Mr. Berndlmaier and Mr. Wassmer. Discussion ensued as to the evaluation process.

D) Update –adjacent towns regarding their erosion and sand management efforts. Chairman Zabinski reported he spoke with his counterpart in Fairfield and noted he could be a resource if this Board so desires.

Mr. Bach asked if they are doing beach renourishment in Fairfield.

Chairman Zabinski replied no.

E) Update – Storm substantial damage recordkeeping period. Chairman Zabinski asked Mr. Wassmer if he had a formal answer at this point. Mr. Wassmer replied no.

Chairman Zabinski stated he believed that Planning and Zoning may have the information. He pointed out the regulations are based on FEMA requirements.

VI. New Business:

None.

Chairman Zabinski stated there would be a special meeting of the Flood & Erosion Control Board on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 and a special meeting on May 1, 2014 to interview the firms.

Being no further business, Mr. Tokarz and Mr. Berndlmaier made and seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Huber
Recording Secretary