

FLOOD AND EROSION CONTROL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2014

The Flood and Erosion Control Board held a meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 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, Chairman
Patrick Tokarz
Thomas Bach
John Casey
Drew Berndlmaier

Also Present

Mayor Ben Blake
Gary Wassmer, City Engineer
Chris Saley, Public Works Director
Michael Casey, BOA Liaison

II. Public Comment

Mayor Blake shared with the Board Milford Open Space, Conservation & Coastal Resiliency Initiatives for 2014. Discussion ensued.

III. Consideration of Minutes – August 12, 2014

Mr. Tokarz and Mr. Casey made and seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2014 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Correspondence

Mr. Bach shared letter he was copied on from Carol Klingele dated August 18, 2014 that was sent to Mayor Blake. Ms. Klingele included photographs of the Wildemere Beach area following severe rain on August 13, 2014.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Update – Drainage Projects - Mr. Wassmer reported 6 months ago this Board went through a request for proposals. He stated since that time the Board has been deciding what direction to go in. He stated the Public Works Director felt some of the proposals were high.

Chairman Zabinski asked if any of the proposals had been approved.

Mr. Saley stated they are hold pending some grants the City applied for. Mr. Saley apologized stating he thought this Board was aware of the flood control grants that the city had applied for.

Mayor Blake spoke of his discussions with SCCOG and explained how the funding works. He also spoke of the monies that have been applied for and the lengthy requirements that go with it. Mayor Blake stated they continue to look for funding sources. He stated his office has been told they may hear about the grant sometime in late October or early November. He stated there were also some bonding monies approved by the Board of Aldermen to get this committee started.

Chairman Zabinski asked about the financial and design concerns of the Public Works Director and asked Mr. Saley if he could explain.

Mr. Saley stated he felt with some of the projects there was a simpler fix. He cited as an example the Point Beach Drive area. Mr. Saley also commented the question that also comes to mind creating solutions and the best way to stop the way the high tide comes in. He also spoke of the total exposure on these projects is higher than the expenditures available.

Mr. Wassmer stated that was part of his discussions with the mayor, but that they knew they needed to get started and thus the proposal phase began. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Saley spoke of some of the projects that were on the table but that it was agreed the smaller projects could be done in-house. He stated he is looking for the most cost effective way to get the projects done. Mr. Saley stated in some instances it is not a capacity issue, but rather a problem with the outfall, broken pipes.

Mr. Bach stated during the proposal phase one of the components in seeking a contractor was discussing the outfall. He stated it was his understanding this Board was looking for more of a permanent fix. Mr. Bach asked about the design of each of the proposed projects and if the city has the technology and equipment for each of the projects.

Mr. Saley spoke of the Bayview area project. He stated in speaking with the residents in that area that they are looking to resolve some of the issues. If the patterns continue as they have, unless they are to raise the lower section, which is not practicable the situation would not be corrected. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Zabinski suggested the Board go project by project so they could be more organized in their discussions. He stated the first project on the handout is Bayview Beach with a design cost of \$52,000 and the selected consultant Fuss & O'Neil

Mayor Blake reiterated he has been told they should have a response late October early November as to whether or not Milford will be awarded the grant.

Mr. Saley stated the amount applied for was \$1,768,200. He stated the application process is complex and continued with an explanation of the grant application.

Mr. Casey pointed out this Board has already gone through the selection process.

Mayor Blake stated there is an approved list of designers and contractors. He stated unfortunately it is a wait and see until they hear on the grant application.

Chairman Zabinski asked what this Board needs to do now and if the money arrives how they will proceed.

Mr. Tokarz commented it felt as though this Board was going backwards because they have already done most of the selection process.

Mr. Saley stated unfortunately when you add up the numbers there just isn't enough.

Chairman Zabinski asked what this Board can do before November so they are ready to move quickly. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Saley stated it is important to know whether or not Milford will get the funding.

Chairman Zabinski reiterated he wanted to be ready to move. Discussion resumed.

Mr. Bach asked the timeframe.

Mayor Blake stated he has been told they should know whether or not they will receive the award by late October or early November.

Mr. Saley explained the findings with the Merwin Avenue project and the concern with the neighbors in the area. He stated it does not appear to be a capacity problem, but rather a problem with the headwall. He stated some research and investigation needs to get done before proceeding. Mr. Saley also commented a lot of the work may be able to be done in-house.

Chairman Zabinski asked if the Merwin Avenue project is essentially on hold.

Mr. Saley stated they are waiting to do more observations in that area during a major storm, and that they continue to send crews out to monitor the area.

Mayor Blake commented this project is also one for the LOTCIP funding. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Casey stated this Board wants to make sure of the process to proceed.

Mr. Berndlmaier asked for clarification regarding flooding issues in that area.

Mr. Wassmer stated many of the pipes involved in all of these projects were put in during the 1950's.

Mr. Casey stated understanding the capacity of the pipes. He stated he is concerned with the reduction of some of the projects and that all options need to be on the table.

Mr. Saley stated it is important his department is doing their investigation of each of these areas. He stated in the Merwin Avenue area it has been scoped out and their findings were that it appears to be with the headway and not the pipes.

Mr. Casey asked the priority regarding the standard level of protection. He stated if we continue to get heavier rainfalls and design criteria is from the 1950's how do we impact the change. He also stated it is important to look at the integrity of the pipes and make sure they are the right size.

Mr. Berndlmaier asked about the continuing assessment of the current conditions in each of the project areas.

Mr. Saley stated he was not ready to sign contracts because he was unsure of the procedure for these grant monies the city had applied for and he wanted to make sure they proceeded properly. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Blake stated it seemed the 1st four projects need to be held in abeyance until they hear on the grant. He stated the Merwin Ave, Woodruff Road, Burnt Plains, Woodruff Road and Red Bush Lane projects could go forward with design at this point.

Mr. Saley stated the golf course project would be done in-house.

Chairman Zabinski asked if it was cost-effective doing it in-house.

Mr. Saley replied yes, in most instances. He stated they are able to be competitive as well.

Mr. Bach asked if Rock Street was ready to go forward and if this Board could give DTC the nod to move forward.

Mr. Saley stated a part of this process is the number of grant applications that are available and that he did not want to jeopardize the process. He stated in moving forward it was important to make the right decisions. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Zabinski asked about Rock Street, Carmen Road North and South.

Mr. Wassmer reported that Fuss & O'Neil had reduced their design costs for all projects and their fees for this one are for preliminary design.

Mr. Saley stated part of the problem was with the preliminary design. He stated he wanted the project to be more turn-key. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Berndlmaier asked about the design cost as a part of the estimate.

Mr. Casey stated it is important to know what the problem is, then fix it or there can be residual effects.

Mr. Saley suggested it might be worthwhile for this Board to look at each of the project areas, perhaps on a Saturday. He stated it is likely more could be done in-house. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Wassmer stated he and Mr. Saley went out to Rock Street and that it appears some of the water is coming from the nearby condominiums.

Mr. Saley stated there is a lot of flow coming back into the pipe.

Mr. Casey stated a tidal gate is the best solution generally. Discussion ensued.

Chairman Zabinski asked for a final summary regarding each of the drainage projects.

Mr. Saley stated the only project on hold is Milford Point Road because of current water company work all the way to Derby Avenue. He also stated the golf course project would be done in-house. He stated barring any unforeseen circumstances he expected that project to take 4-6 weeks.

Chairman Zabinski stated as to the other projects what he heard tonight is that this Board should hear something around early November.

Mr. Berndlmaier stated it is important that the department be aware that maintenance will always be a concern and that the department has the needed support and continues with a team maintaining these areas.

Mr. Saley stated the Mayor and aldermen have been very helpful. He also stated he has crews going into each of these areas on a regular basis. Mr. Saley also stated his department is examining their snow removal efforts for the upcoming winter, specifically the mixture of sand and salt in their snow removal efforts which can have an impact on these areas.

Chairman Zabinski stated communication is the key in all of these projects.

B. Update - Coastal Resilience

Mayor Blake reported Milford received funds for the Morningside project and that the second big project is the Gulf Beach breakwater. He continued with the history of the beach area, erosion, sand replacement, etc. He stated DEEP realized Milford had exhausted all remedies and that it was time to put in a breakwater, something they don't normally approve.

C. Update – Bylaws for the Board – no report.

D. Update – RFQ – Study of Milford's entire oceanfront.

Mayor Blake reported they would be able to conduct a study of Milford's Oceanfront because of the \$700, 000 grant funding Milford had received. He stated Milford, Madison and Branford were awarded an additional \$150,000 for additional studies. Also, there will be a public outreach to give a historical narrative. He stated basically it is for lay people to come in and provide a history of a particular area and give their thoughts. He stated these are some of the things coming down the pike, adding various scenarios come up every day.

Chairman Zabinski asked who would orchestrate each of the grants that come available with so many towns involved.

Mayor Blake stated he has spoken with Bridgeport Council of Government and other councils trying to coordinate that very thing. He also spoke of other large grant opportunities that are available. Mayor Blake stated he also spoke with a gentleman from the Nature Conservatory regarding opportunities. Mayor Blake stated he would continue to keep this Board updated.

VI. New Business – none.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Kennedy Huber
Recording Secretary