



CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE

Engineering Department
Daniel Rodriguez, P.E., City Engineer



DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL BOARD

Minutes for Tuesday, January 29, 2019 Meeting

Meeting called to order by City Engineer Daniel Rodriguez at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance were:

Eugene Kleinholz	John Vrtachnik	Rick Szalkowski (non-member)
Martin DeVries	Douglas Bolden	Carol Blaser (non-member)
Mike Gillespie	Dennis Boose	Jim Attinoto (non-member)
Mike Borow	Ed Dunham	Asst. City Engineer Christina Eavenson
Bob Chapek	Brendan McCool	City Engineer Daniel Rodriguez

Old Business

A. Minutes for October 23, 2018 Meeting

City Engineer Daniel Rodriguez asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 23, 2018 meeting. Board Member Mike Gillespie made a motion to approve the minutes. Board Member Eugene Kleinholz seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

New Business

A. Stormwater Utility Update

City Engineer and Chairman of the Board of Drainage and Flood Control Daniel Rodriguez explained that the stormwater utility fee went into effect January 1st, 2019. The fee is \$3.88 for residential property owners and a multiple thereof for the commercial properties.

City Engineer Rodriguez noted that Eric Brown, an engineer in the Engineering Department, has been fielding most of the calls regarding the stormwater utility fee. There may have been a hundred calls so far and the Engineering Department is doing their best to address all property owners' questions and concerns.

B. Proposed Projects

City Engineer Rodriguez explained that some of the revenue from the Stormwater Utility Fee will be used for ditch maintenance. He noted that about half of our ditches need maintenance. He showed some slides of examples of ditches in need of maintenance with large fallen trees across the channel, sediment buildup and overgrown brush in the channel.

Board Member John Vrtachnik asked how much of the maintenance is caused by natural conditions versus property owners impeding the channel with dumped debris and garbage. City Engineer Rodriguez noted that

the City knows that does happen but we can't police all of these areas. He also noted that most of the maintenance is caused be natural conditions.

Board Member Eugene Kleinholz asked if permission is obtained from property owners prior to proceeding with the ditch maintenance. City Engineer Rodriguez noted that the Service Department does the ditch maintenance work and typically they knock on property owners' doors prior to initiating the work.

City Engineer Rodriguez stated that Ordinance 1028.02 establishes the maintenance area of all the minor and major ditches in which the City has the authority to clean and repair these areas.

City Engineer Rodriguez also noted that the City would like to get all of the major obstruction areas done first and then the ditches can be easily maintained with routine lawn maintenance.

The first capital improvement project that the Service Department will be addressing is the Robinson Ditch area near Pitts and Gina. In this area the Mills Creek channel floods the Robinson Ditch creating a backwater/flooding situation.

City Engineer Rodriguez noted that the Mills Creek Flood Control project will install a stormwater basin on property bought by the City north of Boulder Drive. The property cost approximately \$750,000 but the City will be reimbursed the full amount with grant money. Stormwater runoff will be conveyed from the Turnpike area north to this basin through easements obtained from property owners. The entire project will cost about \$4M. Rodriguez noted that the City will apply again this fall for another grant in which the City will ask for the remaining balance. If the grant can't cover the costs, the Stormater Utility Fee can be used to make up the difference.

City Engineer Rodriguez stated that historically the Service Dept. had been putting the debris including the trees, stumps and brush along the side of the bank onto the abutting land. Going forward, the City will be hiring a tree clearing service to remove all the trees and stumps from the area.

Board Member Dennis Boose asked if the clearing could adversely affect a homeowner's view, for example the residential property along Robinson Ditch just south of the Rini's commercial property. City Engineer Rodriguez stated that their house is approximately 100 feet from the ditch and it should not affect their view. He further stated that in the future, all abutting property owners will be notified by certified letter prior to any tree clearing.

City Engineer Rodriguez explained that the Stormwater Utility Fee will generate approximately \$800,000 annually and that Council has the right to increase the rate if they so choose based on national average factors. He further noted that the amount will increase as additional homes and businesses are built.

Board Member Bob Chapek noted that there was concern from residents near the Mills Creek Basin area that the park may attract unwanted groups of people to the area. City Engineer Rodriguez noted that the design includes a driveway to a small parking area and he doesn't foresee the park attracting people other than naturalists.

Board Member Brendan McCool inquired as to what the timeline was for the Mills Creek basin area. City Engineer Rodriguez noted that the City may have the remaining engineering done by this fall and that construction could possibly start after that. He further noted that any tree clearing is subject to the no clearing dates between April and October due to the endangered Indiana Bats. He also stated that the intent of the design is to limit the amount of trees to be cleared to keep the park in its most natural habitat as possible.

C. Items from Committee Members and Audience

Resident, Ms. Blaser (32376 Chestnut Ridge Road), noted that her neighbor, Mr. Lawson, has impeded the waterway in her backyard and has caused flooding issues. City Engineer Rodriguez stated that the Engineering Department has investigated this situation and has found Mr. Lawson accountable for some

impeded flow in the ditch lines. The Department has contacted Mr. Lawson to try to remediate this situation. Rodriguez also noted that these ditches are not ones that the City has authority over and if the ditches are not flowing as good as they once were, the abutting property owners should get together to clean them out.

Board Member Eugene Kleinholz noted that there is a resident on Ridgeview south of Mildred that has complained about the surface runoff from their neighbor. The neighbor's structure is only approximately seven feet away from their structure and is about one foot higher. City Engineer Rodriguez suggested they try to work with their neighbor to create a swale or drain to help alleviate this problem. He further noted that all new residential sublots are required to control runoff on each site through the use of swales and rear yard drains to collect and convey run-off.

Board Member Eugene Kleinholz asked if the Stormwater Utility Fee could be used to address roadway drainage problems. City Engineer Rodriguez stated that the Ordinance that instituted the fee is very specific as to what the funds can be used for. He further noted that the funds could be used for catch basin repairs.

Board Member Brendan McCool asked if there would be a public notice of the areas to be addressed with the Stormwater Utility Fee. City Engineer Rodriguez stated that the City will have a public information webpage to announce the planned projects as well as the projects completed with pertinent updates.

Board Member Brendan McCool asked how many miles of ditch maintenance will the Service Department be able to do in a year. City Engineer Rodriguez anticipates that they will be able to do one to two miles a year.

Board Member Brendan McCool asked if the City has reminders for residents to maintain the ditches on their property. City Engineer Rodriguez noted that there are reminders in their water bill and information provided on the North Ridgeville website.

City Engineer Daniel Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Eavenson, P.E.
Assistant City Engineer