

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 2011
VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Wolter called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Chairman Wolter, Trustees Ewert, Hughes, Kaminski, Vanderheiden, Wing and Zabel. Members absent: Trustees Baum and Werderman. Also present were Administrator Schornack, Attorney DeStefanis and Deputy Clerk Lofy.

CREATION OF A STORM WATER UTILITY

Public Works Director Ludwig and Village Engineer Bischke appeared before the Committee to present information and answer questions on the proposed creation of a storm water utility. The creation of a storm water utility has been discussed at previous Public Works & Highways Committee meetings dated May 4, 2010 and February 8, 2011. It was also a referendum item in 2002. Little maintenance and no inspections of storm water basins are being performed at this time. There is about \$95,000 currently in the budget for storm water issues.

Discussion:

- Need to educate the public on maintenance of storm water basins
- Funding a storm water utility minimizes tax increase
- Cost collected through utility, not general fund

Trustees Baum and Werderman arrive at this time (6:17 p.m.)

- Work is being done for storm water issues through other departments such as engineering and highway
- Engineering is reviewing performance of certain ponds
- Storm water projects have been put off due to lack of funds and staff
- Need to achieve 40% suspended solids removal by 2013
- TIF money cannot be used for maintenance of ponds
- Utility money would be used for Village ponds, possible private pond use if special assessed back to the Village
- Would need ordinance specifying regulations on private ponds

Trustee Werderman left at this time (6:30 p.m.)

- Ponds degrade without maintenance
- Requirements for sampling and content of samples will get stricter
- Storm water utility fee could be added to water/sewer bills
- Special billing for people not covered by water/sewer bills
- Either money comes from the general fund or from fee to fund a storm water utility
- Village is required to enforce regulations on private ponds
- Engineering receives many calls about storm water issues

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Discussion continued:

- Storm water utility would charge back residents fairly, taxes could fall
- Other communities have created storm water utilities without binding referendums
- There are 70 private ponds according to the Village map
- Meadow Creek issues with storm water are currently being addressed
- Projects need to be developed and budgeted for in order to address problems
- Storm water dollars have been removed from the budget in the past
- General fund dollars have been used for increased employee benefit costs in the past, Village needs should come first
- Storm water utility would take cost off of residents and charge businesses which have higher usage
- Money needs to be found for this, do not neglect like roads
- Utility would need to collect fees for about a year before the utility would be funded
- Current staff members would perform the work for the storm water utility
- Village could be fined or charged back for work done if they fail to meet requirements
- Pond requirements continue to change, becoming more costly
- Germantown has been on the forefront of storm water system requirements

Motion by Zabel, second by Baum to not create a storm water utility this year.

All voted aye. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christa Lofy
Deputy Village Clerk