



**Board of Drainage and Flood Control
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 23, 2024
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mrs. Eavenson at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Board members present: Bruce Abens, Paul Balog, James Cain, Christina Eavenson, Greg Fanning, Ray Ford, J.D. Gontkovsky, Norris Scott and Ellis Stevens.

Board members absent: Georgia Awig, James Cleveland, Kenneth Wilson and Cliff Winkel.

Mrs. Eavenson welcomed Mr. Fanning to the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Eavenson moved, seconded by Mr. Ford, to approve the minutes of January 23, 2024. Motion approved 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Mills Creek Flood Control Basin Project Update

Mrs. Eavenson gave an update to the Mills Creek Flood Control Basin Project noting that there were still outstanding issues that needed to be resolved, the first being the USACE resistance to onsite wetlands preservation and recreation. The USACE would rather see the City purchase in-lieu credits into a wetland bank. The City does not want to pursue this as it is an added expense and they do not believe it to be necessary. Further discussions with the Buffalo District may be warranted. The second issue is the utility conflict with TC Energy. As noted in the previous meeting, the City is still working to resolve the utility conflict and the system may need to be lowered.

Fortune Ditch Update

This ditch maintenance project spans from Sprague Road to SR-83. The project is currently on hold while they work through the courts to address the appeal from one of the abutting property owners. This project is being administered by Lorain County Engineer's Office and may get off the ground this year yet.

NEW BUSINESS

Service Department Review of Ditch Maintenance

Board of Drainage and Flood Control
MINUTES OF JULY 23, 2024



Mr. Ford reviewed photos of some of the recent ditch maintenance that the crew has been working on. Mr. Ford showed before and after pictures of the Forest Ridge Ditch (Minor Ditch) which is parallel to Jaycox Road next to the Forest Ridge Condo complex. He noted that the ditch had little capacity left and obstructions including lawn mower ruts and communication lines through the ditch. This is an ongoing project and crews are still working in this area.

Mr. Ford reviewed before and after photos of the Krueger Ditch (Minor Ditch) which runs parallel to South Central Park between the park and Root Road. This ditch drains an area of the turnpike and traverses north across Bainbridge Road. He noted the ditch was significantly blocked at Bainbridge and had many dead trees and limbs throughout the ditch. They also encountered a drive pipe that was mostly blocked that they removed. Mr. Balog inquired as to who owns the property and Mr. Ford noted that this ditch line is in the ROW platted for Krueger Drive.

Mr. Ford reviewed a photo of the Dixon Ditch (Major Ditch) in the area of the proposed bridge replacement on Chestnut Ridge Road just east of Root Road. Besides providing for a temporary emergency access over the ditch for the project, the Service Department crews also dredged and cleaned the ditch line in proximity of the bridge project.

Chestnut Road Bridge Replacement

Mrs. Eavenson showed an aerial of the location of the existing bridge over Dixon Ditch. She discussed the temporary maintenance drive being installed for the emergency services to be able to get to the properties that reside between the closure point and Norfolk Southern Railroad should the railroad be blocked. She presented pictures of the existing bridge noting the various materials that have been added to the bridge over the years with the original material being sandstone blocks. She showed the plan sheet of the bridge replacement which depicted the bridge span being the same width in the proposed section. The new bridge will be a reinforced concrete bridge deck on reinforced concrete abutments with spread footings. This is a county bridge and the construction is being administered by the County's office. The cost of the bridge is over \$400,000 and is mostly being funded with OPWC money.

Mr. Gontkovsky inquired as to the hydraulic design of the bridge. Mrs. Eavenson noted that the proposed span was the same as the existing and there should not be a hydraulic difference to the water elevations of the ditch line.

Maddock Road Culvert Replacement

Mrs. Eavenson showed an aerial of the location of the existing Maddock Road culvert. She noted that it also was in the same situation whereby property owners may get trapped between the closure and the railroad blocked crossing. Therefore, Mr. Ford's crew installed the temporary access drive to be used only for our emergency services. Mrs. Eavenson showed a picture of the existing bridge with the exposed rebar inside the structure and noted its need of replacement. The Engineering Division has already bid this project out and the project was awarded. The road closure has a 60-day maximum limit. The construction cost of approximately \$260,000 is being funded through OPWC.

SR 83 Culvert over Fortune (Phelon) Ditch

Mrs. Eavenson showed an aerial of the location of the culvert and noted that this culvert is less than a ten-foot span so it was inspected by Engineering staff earlier this year. She noted that all ten-foot spans and greater are inspected by ODOT on a bi-annual rotation. She noted that this bridge was an original sandstone block bridge and had been widened over the years. She showed pictures of some of the sandstone blocks being dislodged and indicated the need for replacement. She noted that the City is

Board of Drainage and Flood Control
MINUTES OF JULY 23, 2024



currently seeking funding for this project, but funding is harder to come by when the spans are less than ten feet.

Sugar Ridge Road Bridge over Ridgeway Ditch

Mrs. Eavenson showed an aerial of the location of the culvert and noted that this was also a county bridge and is inspected and maintained by them. Mrs. Eavenson showed some existing pictures of the bridge. She further noted that the county identified structural deficiencies in their recent inspection and have imposed additional weight restrictions to it.

Several board members expressed concern that trucks were still using this route and Mrs. Eavenson noted that she would bring it to the attention of the Police Department.

Review Board By-Laws

Skipped

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Eavenson opened the floor to the board members.

Mr. Abens inquired as to the assistance the City may be able to offer for the older developments that do not have homeowners' associations and are experiencing drainage issues. He noted that many of these older systems need maintenance and no one is taking care of them. He would like to seek advice from the legal department.

Mrs. Eavenson Opened the Floor to the Public.

Mr. Dubecky, 35817 Chestnut Ridge Road, inquired about the ditch at the rear of his property. He noted that it does not drain and often holds water and he cannot tell which way it is supposed to flow. He would prefer to get it to drain to the west to the Hinkley Ditch but Mr. Ford noted that he believes it drains to the east. Mr. Dubecky also inquired about how to get their downstream neighbors to help maintain the swale.

Mr. Russo, 5192 Manchester Circle, inquired as to the flooding in his neighborhood. He noted that the stormwater system is being inundated more than it used to and is flooding the streets in a rain event. He believes that the elevation in French Creek has become higher therefore backing up his development's system. Mr. Russo has a pump he uses to get the water out of his storm sewer in his yard so it does not back up into his house. He also noted that there were discussions historically about adding a stormwater basin potentially to the undeveloped property to the south.

Ms. Flesher, 6300 Eastview Avenue, noted that since 2014 she believes she is experiencing more flooding than previous years. She has flooded several times since then.

Mrs. Eavenson noted that in the six years since she has been with the City, the number of flooding complaints has greatly diminished and she attributes that to the efforts made by the city's service department to dredge and cleaning the city's ditches.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Board of Drainage and Flood Control
MINUTES OF JULY 23, 2024



APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Eavenson", written over a horizontal line.

Christina Eavenson, Chair

10/22/24
Date

Nicole Rambo-Ackerman, Acting Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. Rambo-Ackerman", written over a horizontal line.

The next Board of Drainage and Flood Control regular meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.