



**Board of Drainage and Flood Control
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 22, 2024
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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, Georgia Awig, James Cleveland, Christina Eavenson, Greg Fanning, JD Gontkovsky, Vince Loparo, Norris Scott, Kenneth Wilson

Board members absent: James Cain, Ray Ford, Cliff Winkel

Mrs. Eavenson welcomed Mr. Loparo to the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Wilson moved, seconded by Mr. Gontkovsky, to approve the minutes of July 23, 2024. Motion approved 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Chestnut Road Bridge Replacement Update

Mrs. Eavenson said the project consists of a complete bridge replacement. In the photo presented, the road is in the forefront and the contractor is making good progress on the project. The contractor is still on schedule to complete the project by the beginning of December. The bridge is owned by the county and the county has their own inspectors out on the job. The 16" waterline had to be relocated to make room for the new headwall for the bridge, which took about a week to complete.

SR 83 Culvert over Fortune Ditch Update

This project is proposed and is located on the south side of SR 83 near the corporation limit, just south of Lorain Road. Fortune Ditch goes under the road and heads east. A recent inspection showed block displacement in the bridge. There are mis-matched materials, including original sandstone blocks and poured concrete with exposed rebar, requiring replacement. The city applied for OPWC funds for the project, which should be received for 2025 construction. A photo was shown of the bridge.

Sugar Ridge Road Bridge over Ridgeway Ditch Update

The City applied for NOACA funds for the project, but the project was not included in the next TIP term. The bridge is owned by the county and the county submitted an application for funds on the city's behalf. The Lorain County Engineer's Office secured funds for the project through the County Engineer's Association of Ohio Local Bridge Program, which will be available in 2029. The bridge has undermining

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of the foundation and exposed rebar. The county instituted a weight restriction for the bridge. Sugar Ridge Road is not a truck route but the businesses located on Sugar Ridge Road are able to use it for their purposes. It is very difficult to keep truck traffic off the bridge. The county is keeping an eye on the bridge more frequently than they were in the past. Hopefully it will not warrant emergency repairs before the funds become available in 2029. The bridge over Ridgeway Creek was last updated in 1991. The other bridge on Sugar Ridge Road going over Cheeseman Ditch was updated more recently. The county owns six bridges in North Ridgeville and this is the last one that has not been maintained in the last decade, so hopefully there will not be more bridge replacements by the county for a while.

Albert Krage, 37903 Sugar Ridge Road, shared concerns regarding overloaded dump trucks going over the bridge illegally. He also recently witnessed a semi-truck going over the bridge at 50 mph. Mrs. Eavenson said the police department tries to have a presence in that area occasionally to help deter the truck traffic. Mr. Fanning said he went out to Mr. Krage's property with another local resident and he thought there was a significant semi presence for the 10 to 20 minutes he was there. Mr. Fanning is concerned that the bridges will be damaged from the truck traffic. He thought a better job needs to be done in the area. Mrs. Eavenson said she would remind the police department.

Maddock Road Culvert Replacement Update

The contract was awarded and the road was closed on October 21st to prepare for the bridge replacement and water line reconstruction project. The road will be closed for approximately 60 days.

Fortune Ditch Update

Mrs. Eavenson spoke with the county a couple weeks ago and the project is still in litigation. Work may not begin until 2025. Fortune Ditch starts around the Ridgefield development and runs west to Eaton Township. The county is cleaning the ditch and dredging the channel. Some of the residents abutting the project have appealed to the courts.

Mills Creek Flood Control Basin Project Update

Mrs. Eavenson shared a presentation that was prepared for a recent meeting with the Army Corp of Engineers a couple weeks prior. The city received a permit from the EPA, which regulates the isolated wetlands. The Army Corp regulates the connected wetlands and the city has been working with them for about 18 months and the city still has not received approval. The final design of the project necessitated disturbing about two acres of wetlands. The city's intent was to recreate, monitor and maintain those wetlands on the park site, but the Army Corps would like the city to pay the in-lieu fee for the disturbance regardless of the onsite mitigation. Because the disturbed area is high-quality wetlands, the Army Corps would charge the city for 2.5:1, equaling five acres. The acres are going for \$70,000 to 100,000 per acre, which would cost the city an additional \$300,000 to \$500,000 for the project.

The project stemmed from the flooding in 2011. Photos showing flooded streets and ditches over-running the culverts were included from that time. A map of recommendations was prepared by Bramhall Engineering of recommendations that the city could implement to remediate the flooding in the northeast quadrant of the city. A major recommendation proposed was the Mills Creek Flood Control Basin, which would take water offline from the interchange/Cypress/North Olmsted area that currently empties into Mills Creek along Lear Nagle Road. The water would be rerouted into a channel going to the flood control basin.

Some other recommendations were done by the Service Department before the Mills Creek Flood Control Basin project started. The Lear Nagle outlet structure was revised to allow for more storage. An existing 72" pipe running under the interchange was rerouted to go west into French Creek. The channel

to Robinson Ditch was opened up during the Lear Nagle Road widening project. After these improvements were made, there was still flooding. The city decided to proceed with the Mills Creek Flood Control Basin project.

Mrs. Eavenson reviewed some of the exhibits that were prepared for the Army Corps. An exhibit titled "Mills Creek 100-Year Flood Limits Under Existing Conditions" shows the FEMA 100-year flood delineation compared to Bramhall Engineering's re-analyzed 100-year delineation. The exhibit titled "Mills Creek 100-Year Flood Limits Under Proposed 4 Basin Design" shows the projected 100-year delineation if the Mills Creek Flood Control Basin is installed. The Army Corps required proof showing the city looked at different options to minimize the amount of wetlands impacted. All of the areas the city looked at had wetlands, but they chose the channel going north from Cypress Avenue to Chestnut Ridge Road. Another challenge for the Army Corps was the proposed impact to about 1.5 acres of the pristine wetlands that would be impacted. The city had to prove they would not be taking too much water from Lear Nagle Road so the existing wetlands would not be negatively impacted.

The city has received funding commitments from ODNR and Lorain County. Approximately \$915,000 has been spent on land acquisition, \$450,000 in surveying, engineering and right-of-way acquisition and \$175,000 in construction. The estimated all-in construction costs including the park amenities is \$8,500,000.

Mrs. Eavenson shared some of the park amenity ideas, including a pavilion with restrooms, playground equipment, interactive signage and walking paths that would engage children and the community.

NEW BUSINESS

Service Department Review of Ditch Maintenance

In addition to the ditch maintenance, the full-depth concrete replacement project has been making improvements in the Main Avenue and Jason Drive area. In conjunction with this project, the Service Department has been camera-ing any storm sewer systems under or near the construction area to identify broken or shallow pipes that need to be repaired or extra caution needs to be taken to avoid the pipe.

Mrs. Eavenson shared a site plan of the development being constructed on the east side of SR 83 called The Crossings at French Creek. French Creek was so overgrown that the developer was unable to identify a lot of storm sewer pipes outletting into the creek when they prepared the survey. When construction began and some of the brush was cleared out, they discovered pipes that they were unsure of where they came from. Mrs. Eavenson said they found a lot of right-of-way sewers going through the property to the south and onto the development property discharging into French Creek. This is another example of private drainage where easements or agreements were not secured, so the city is trying to get these situations cleaned up and taken care of in an appropriate manner. The developer has been amenable and gave the city an easement on the south side of the property where a new 36" storm sewer will be installed. The Service Department has been very helpful in identifying these problems and helping get them resolved. The developer is installing a storm pipe on the north side of the property that will also collect water from SR 83.

Mike Russo, 5192 Manchester Circle, asked if the water collected at The Crossings at French Creek would discharge into French Creek. He explained that French Creek is very narrow in Avon and everyone that lives in his cul-de-sac floods every time it rains. He was concerned that the water at the Crossings would add to their problems and would come quicker. Mr. Russo has lived in his home since

1977 and explained that they previously tried to get a retention pond behind their homes. He wants a retention pond built on the property with the high-tension wires since he does not believe Avon will help. Mr. Russo explained the process he uses to pump water from one storm drain to another to prevent his home from flooding. He said the last time the French Creek was cleaned out was in 1980. Mrs. Eavenson said the city is limited on the downstream end. This field was an agricultural field so the runoff was pretty quick. Mrs. Eavenson said the city has been focusing on the Mills Creek area but has also initiated a stormwater master plan and encouraged Mr. Russo to get involved with that process. Mrs. Eavenson showed the stormwater retention basin proposed in the development that will slow the water initially. Mr. Russo is concerned about the impact the construction of new homes is having on the older homes. Holly Swenk added that retention ponds are now required to be installed with subdivisions. Mrs. Eavenson said the city cannot prevent the sale of land or construction of new homes. Mr. Russo believed his stormwater fee charged every month should be doing more and discussion ensued to explain what the fees are. Mrs. Eavenson said the Service Department does a lot with the resources they have available. Mr. Russo wants the city to buy the land behind Manchester Circle to install a detention pond. Mrs. Eavenson said any concerns brought up to staff or the board is being reviewed as part of the master plan preparation. Mr. Loparo thought the field behind Manchester Circle would be an excellent place to store water. He pointed out that the older sections of the city are the ones having flooding problems and he would like to see them have stormwater measures installed like the new developments. Mrs. Eavenson said the Mills Creek project would help the older homes in the area. Mr. Russo asked the city to try to work with Avon to get them to clean up their ditches.

Private Drainage Easements

Mrs. Eavenson said Mr. Abens previously expressed concerns about the lack of drainage easements on private property. The Engineering Division met with the Administration, Public Works Department and Law Department to talk about some of the issues. Engineering collected the plats and developer's agreements and the Law Department is currently reviewing them and she is hoping to get some guidance on how to handle the situations that have been mentioned. Mr. Abens believed that what Mr. Russo had been explaining was another situation like this, where the property owners have backyard water management issues where the city does not have easements. He also pointed out that the new developments are responsible for building and maintaining their retention ponds. Mr. Russo said the Crossings have two retention ponds that will be constructed that will collect the water and allow it to be released slower than its current rate. Mr. Russo thought there is still too much water to go down the drain when it gets to Avon, even if it is at a slower rate. Mr. Russo did not think the new homes in the subdivision will get flooded because they will be constructed higher than the other homes. He thought the developers should have to install bigger retention ponds since the existing homes are unable to do so. Mr. Abens pointed out that this development will not add to Mr. Russo's problem and will hold the water back until the system can handle the flow. Mr. Russo thought the city should start at the north end of town since that is how the water flows. Mrs. Eavenson explained that there is a current problem with Mills Creek when it reaches a certain flood water where a backwater condition that goes back into French Creek, so the Mills Creek project could potentially help Mr. Russo's situation.

Sanitary Sewer Master Plan

Mrs. Eavenson said the city is working on a sanitary sewer master plan. It will be difficult to work on the sanitary sewer distribution system without tackling the inflow and infiltration. Inflow and infiltration are where stormwater or groundwater get into the sanitary sewer system, either by illegal connections or by broken laterals. In some cases, a home's sump pump may be tied into the sanitary system. She asked the board to think of ways to campaign to the residents about ways to mitigate the problem and would like to set up a committee to help.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Holly Swenk, Ward 1 Councilwoman, asked about the ditch cleaning by South Central Park to make sure the paper street, Krueger Road, is not being installed. Mrs. Eavenson has not seen any plans to install Krueger Road and said it is routine ditch maintenance.

Albert Krage, 37903 Sugar Ridge Road, grew up on Sugar Ridge Road in the 1970s and he has not seen Ridgeway Ditch cleaned since then. Since the construction of the Waterbury subdivision, Mr. Krage does not think they have been maintaining their stormwater management. He explained that it takes about two inches of rain for the creek to fill up and three inches of rain to get into his backyard. He said Waterbury is four feet higher than his home so they do not flood and the water goes to his property. He did not think Waterbury holds water back on their property and keeps the other ditch from running properly. He thought the retention ponds in Waterbury need to be closed since they are open wider than the ditch. He has missed work multiple times to install sump pumps and hoses to ensure his house does not flood. He thought the ditch needs to be expanded to take in the extra flow of water. Mrs. Eavenson said the Engineering Division does periodic SWPPP inspections and she will put Waterbury on the list to be inspected. Mrs. Eavenson said a roadway project will be happening on Sugar Ridge Road soon and the city can take a look at the ditches to see if any work needs to be done at that time. Mr. Krage said digging the ditch deeper is useless because it is in the water table. He also thought it was comical that he is being charged the stormwater utility fee when he does not have any concrete on his property. Mrs. Eavenson reminded him that the fee is used throughout the city for ditch maintenance and storm sewer work. She thinks the Service Department is doing a good job with its resources and she has received fewer flooding complaints than she did when she first started with the city. The situation is still not perfect but the city is making progress.

Rich Maleski asked the city to have a serious conversation with the police department to enforce the trucks driving on Sugar Ridge Road, Chestnut Ridge Road and Root Road. Mrs. Swenk said she has seen trucks being cited. Mrs. Eavenson would pass along his concerns.

ADJOURNMENT



Christina Eavenson, Chair



Nicole Rambo-Ackerman, Acting Secretary

4-22-2025
Date

The next Board of Drainage and Flood Control regular meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.