

Drainage and Sewer Control Committee
March 7, 2007 7:00PM, Macedonia City Center
Regular Meeting

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM.
- II. Attendees are as follows:
Members: Amanda Coon, Dennis Mulac, Julia Henderson, Cathy Loya, and Rosemary Filisky
City Representatives: Mike Miller (Council Representative), Fred Tufts (City Engineer), Jim Crevar (Service Director), and Rob Jamieson (Asst. Service Director)
Others in Attendance: Mike Weant (DOES Representative) and Jean Cooper (DOES Rep in charge of Shepard Hills/Crow Dr sewer study project)
- III. Minutes of the February 7, 2007 meeting were approved by unanimous vote.
- IV. **Chairperson's Report**
A. DOES Activity of 3/1/07: Mike Weant was in attendance as the DOES Representative to the committee. He noted that DOES dispatched crews for observation/standby as a preventative measure to keep sewer levels down and avoid basement backups. It was later discussed that the truck that is routinely stationed at Crow and Berkshire is placed there because of the history with that particular manhole. It was noted that there could be several reasons, such as a location with multiple pipes coming together, or a location with historically high levels in the past. Generally DOES stations pump trucks at manholes with the lowest elevation in relation to nearby basements. If a problem were found at that particular manhole, other manholes upstream and downstream would be checked as well. Jean Cooper is with DOES, in charge of surveying sewer line depth in relation to basement depth and home inspections in the Shepard Hills/Crow Drive areas. It was discussed that a letter was mailed on Monday (received by some committee members today) regarding the actual scheduling of home inspections. Please note that members of the committee received the following information from Mike Weant:
1. **Copy of an inspection report that DOES would use when performing home inspections.** It was stated that each home would get in individual inspection report.
 2. **Copy of a map showing homes with backup in 2003 and 2006. Homes marked with orange, approximately 32 homes, were the current study area.**

There were several issues brought up via email over the past several days regarding communications between DOES and the City Administration or the DSCC. Mike requested a single point of contact with the City Administration and a single point of contact for the DSCC. It was also discussed when communication would be required. It was agreed upon

that regular maintenance and routing inspections would require no notification of either party. Notifications will be made to City Administration regarding road closures, and to both the City Administration and the DSCC regarding the Shepard Hills/Crow Drive flooding areas. It was also agreed that communications would not always be possible in an emergency situation. It was decided the Jim Crevar would serve as the city contact, and Dennis Mulac would serve as the DSCC contact person.

Dennis asked about the replacement of the sewer line section on Crow Drive. Mike W. stated that it was originally thought that the line had been cut during cleaning, and upon inspection DOES officials noted a definite change in the color and material at the top of the pipe. The initial conclusion was that the top of the pipe was missing. The only way to truly evaluate it was to dig it up, and DOES found that the pipe had been capped with regular concrete. The flow was metered during heavy rain events, and it was not a source of heavy infiltration. Mike noted that they probably could have left it, but chose to replace it to avoid collapse of the soil into the pipe.

- B. Lack of Newspaper Coverage after Council Presentation:** It was discussed that there was no coverage in either newspaper regarding the DSCC, although the Manor House received significant coverage. Rosemary contacted the editor of the News Leader, who said he would discuss it with the reporter. After discussing it, he called Rosemary back to tell her that the reporter said he was going to obtain additional written information. Then the committee was made aware of the fact that Dennis had provided him much of this information the night of the presentation.

V. New Business

A. Council Work Session questions 3/15/07

B. Questions for Fred Tufts in reference to Council Work Session (Please note that the secretary has combined these two into one note, as the discussion switched between the two several times.)

QUESTION 1: WHY HIRE A CONSULTANT WHEN WE HAVE A CITY ENGINEER WHO IS CAPABLE OF PERFORMING THIS STUDY? Fred notes that he does not have the time available to devote to this study, and it would take him approximately two years to complete just phase I of the consultant's work. Also, a consultant specializes in this field, and has the resources, software, personnel, and time to do the work, rather than placing the entire burden on one person. If Fred were to do it himself, it would take much longer, and the city would be required to spend thousands of dollars on modeling software, survey crews, etc. Fred also notes that there is approximately \$175K in the proposed budget that could pay the consultant's fees for phase I. Fred needs data from phase I to complete some of the EPA Phase II mandates, which council committed to funding 5 years ago.

QUESTION 2: FUNDING. The committee agreed that we need to point out that grants or other alternate funding generally cannot be obtained without a

specific project in place. The consultant would give us a priority list of projects, and also advise on funding methods.

QUESTION 3: TIMELINE AND OUTLINE OF PHASE I ACTIONS:

Dennis noted that John Lund from CTI is working on a timeline for the committee, and that he provided council with the outline of actions during the presentation to council. He will be sure that they receive another copy of the outline on the 15th.

QUESTION 4: HOW WILL NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AFFECT THE STUDY RESULTS? It was brought up that new construction projects are required to consider storm water runoff, and must control that runoff. Most new projects already have retention/detention basins in their site plans.

QUESTION 5: WHY SHOULD WE DO THIS NOW? Fred noted that council committed to action to reduce flooding in June of 2006 to those homeowners that were flooded. Flooding will continue to get worse until something is done to help control the storm water. This is a safety issue for the city, since road closures make it impossible for safety or emergency crews to enter areas that are flooded. It also makes it nearly impossible to get in or out of the city, making evacuation impossible should it be needed.

QUESTION 6: WHY DID WE CHOOSE CTI FOR THE CONSULTANT? CTI was chosen based on their proposal and the fact that they have demonstrated a commitment to the DSCC and the City of Macedonia. They also have exhibited a working relationship, providing much information to the committee when asked. They have already committed time to this project, when they could have spent their time elsewhere where they were getting paid to do the work.

QUESTION 7: WILL THIS FIX ALL OF THE FLOODING PROBLEMS IN THE CITY? No, this will not “fix” all of the problems. This is simply a plan to reduce the risk of flooding during storm events. There is no way for any city to create a plan to completely eliminate flooding.

QUESTION 8: WHAT ABOUT THE STORMWATER UTILITY FEE? For this particular presentation, we are more concerned with obtaining funds to begin Phase I of the storm water study. However, we did discuss some information regarding this question. Council without a public vote approved the water line maintenance fee that is currently charged once yearly. Council is trying to make this a tax, but in reality it is a utility, such as cable, telephone, electric, gas, etc. The figures that were presented to council were illustrating the formula, although the committee agrees that this funding would make an excellent start to funding necessary infrastructure improvements and we have no plans on increasing the fee at this time. Vacant land was agreed to be exempt, since it does not have any impervious surfaces. Residential properties would all be charged as one unit. The formula clearly shows how to determine the amount of units to charge for business and industrial properties, therefore charging them more for their larger impervious surfaces. The fee will help to prevent problems in the future, by paying for

preventative maintenance and for improvements that will be determined by the storm water study itself.

ADDITIONAL NOTES: It was discussed that we would request a third reading and a passing vote to hire the consultant for Phase I at the March 22nd council meeting.

VI. Old Business

A. Website and Public Announcements: Cathy indicated that Tom was under the impression that he had provided all of the necessary information to the website designer, but there is still no website as of yet. Dennis will contact the designer to find out the status.

B. Member Input, Comments, and Suggestions: Cathy noted that she had spoken with the Army Corp of Engineers as well, and they weren't even aware that there were flooding problems last summer in the City of Macedonia. They also stated that a group of residents would not have luck getting the Corp involved, that we would have a much better chance with city-wide involvement. Mike M. also noted that the showed interest because of the number of water features in the city and the road closures that occurred within the city.

It was also discussed that the property at Ledge and Bedford was donated to the city because it was impossible to develop. The city posted a sign calling it a conservancy, but no actual paperwork was filed. There is a possibility of putting some kind of retention basin there, although it would not hold much water because of the level of the land in the immediate area.

VII. Calendar

A. Presentation at Council Work Session: March 15, 2007, 6:30PM in the council work room.

B. Next Regular Council Meeting after our Presentation: March 22, 2007, 7:30PM.

C. Next regular DSCC meeting: April 4, 2007, 7PM, Macedonia City Center

VIII. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Minutes taken 3/7/2007 by Amanda Coon

Minutes distributed via email 3/8/2007 by Amanda Coon