

The Special Town of Mukwonago Town Board Meeting was called to order at Section Elementary School, W318 S8430 CTH EE, Mukwonago, WI at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman D. Dubey said the meeting was noticed.

Present: Supervisors B. Lawn, F. Leppin, T. Stefanowski, P. Topczewski and Chairman D. Dubey.

Others Present: Engineer S. Sullivan, Attorney J. Macy and Clerk K. Wilson.

D. Dubey requested that the speakers state which option they would prefer and how it should be financed.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING COUNTRY BLISS FLOODING

Pat Crotty, Memory Lane, said he has 17 1/2 inches by his driveway.

He questioned Police procedure regarding a hit and run involving his parked vehicle. He wants the option that will fix the flooding problem.

Matt Murphy, Mark Lane, presented a report entitled "Pinefield Farm Runoff Report" to the Town Board. His conclusion in the report was this is a ground water issue. He prefers option 1 or 2.

Diana Wood, Paul Lane, questioned why 176 homes have to pay for the mistakes of previous Town Boards. She said all the residents of the Town of Mukwonago should pay for the solution and she does not like any of the options.

Ryan Heckman, Mark Lane, distributed a memo with supporting documents to the Town Board. He feels there is a conflict of interest regarding Town Engineer S. Sullivan and Ruckert-Mielke. He questioned if the Town was checking water levels in Country Bliss. He said he preferred option 1 or 2 and the whole town should pay for the solution.

Cathy Ebli, Claire Drive, owns property in the high water table area of Pinefield Farms. She questioned what engineering firm was responsible for approving Country Bliss.

John Macy, Town Attorney, said the stormwater requirements in the 1970's were very different than they are now. It appears that the County took the lead in stormwater control. He said the Town looked into the drainage issue in Country Bliss because there are ponds in Country Bliss which were not used often in the 70's and 80's.

C. Ebli questioned why a utility district would be a good idea.

J. Macy said five years ago the Town was looking into a stormwater utility district. This is not a new idea because of Country Bliss.

C. Ebli said the whole town should pay for the solution and she is not convinced that any of the options will work.

Patty Confer, Jericho Road, said there has been a groundwater issue prior to the heavy snow this winter and the summer rains. They built their home in 1994 and the groundwater level today is 17 feet higher than it was in 1994. She prefers option 5 and all Town of Mukwonago residents should pay for the solution.

Brian Falk, North Oak Tree Court, said he submitted to the Town Board an alternative solution similar to option 4.

Paul Polzin, Country Lane, said he would prefer a combination of option 1 and 2 and the whole Town of Mukwonago should pay for the solution. He questioned how Normandy Green had anything to do with the drainage issues in Country Bliss when Normandy Green was developed first.

Kristen Murphy, Mark Lane, said the options are pumping away groundwater. She said recommending a utility district would benefit Ruckert-Mielke. If this is a groundwater issue, the groundwater shouldn't be pumped away. She suggested that the Town buy the homes and create a retaining pond.

Steve Kowske, Maggi Lane, said option 5 will not work. Our wells are not very deep. There should be a more natural solution. The whole Town of Mukwonago should pay for the solution.

Vince Misia, South Oak Tree Court, said the longer the Town waits, the more it will cost. He said this is a Town problem, so all residents of the Town should pay.

Bob Korslin, developer of Stone Brook Hollow, said he would prefer option 5. The groundwater study showed that option 5 would not impact wells. He said it is a town wide problem that all residents should pay for.

Kate Holzum, Jericho Road, questioned why a developer got the groundwater study before the residents involved. Prior to 2007, there was no water in the retention pond. She said the difference is the development of Stone Brook Hollow. She would prefer a combination of the options and everyone in the Town of Mukwonago should pay for the solution.

Betty Ann Curtis, Kirk Lane, said Pinefield Farms drainage pattern should have been studied more carefully by the Town and County if it is causing a problem for Country Bliss now.

J. Macy said the 176 homes are in the same watershed.

Betty Ann Curtis said Country Bliss had flooding long before Mayflower Hills or Pinefield Farms were developed. She said it is an awkward situation having the Town Engineer doing the studies. She prefers option 1 or 2 and the cost should be paid by everyone in the Town of Mukwonago.

Kathy Usarek, Paul Lane, said her issue is Ruckert-Mielke. She said the Town Board should go to another engineering company. She was disappointed that there was not more information available tonight. She said this is a Town issue and should be paid for by everyone.

Bob Maus, Cherry Lane, said their groundwater runoff goes to the west and not into the watershed. He said the Town should get more ideas from other engineering firms. He said he is in favor of a permanent solution which would be buying the affected homes and creating a pond financed by all the Town residents.

Dennis Tomasik, Mark Circle, said this is a Town issue. He preferred option 1 or 2 and everyone should pay.

Bob Dellemann, Mark Lane, preferred option 2 and it is a Town problem.

Barbara Schultz, Country Lane, questioned the procedure of buying houses. She prefers option 2.

Lyle Boucher, Valley View Drive, said it is our civic duty to have a town wide solution.

Paul Polzein said when you mess around with groundwater tables, you will have problems. He prefers options 1 and 2 and it is a Town problem that should be paid by everyone.

Paul Sadler, Memory Lane, said option 1 would raise the road and flood him out. He suggested to reconfigure the ditches in Country Bliss and he prefers option 2 and wants the Town to buy his home.

Larry Nicoson, Road X, said his family has lived in the Town of Mukwonago for over 160 years. They have flooded in the basement from high groundwater twice, once in the 1970's and then in June 2008. Farmers, in the past, used drainage ditches to be able to farm the land.

Linda Dykus, North Oak Tree Court, said a Short Drive farmer said the water flowed southerly in the past. She asked that the Town Board check into the drain tile system that was possibly on the Lueck property (Country Bliss). She suggested to have the ditches in Country Bliss retrenched. She questioned how the temporary ponds would affect homeowners in option 5. She does not think buying out the homes is the answer. She encouraged the Town Board to solve the flooding problems at today's standards. She supports option 5 with a modified gravity system and thinks all Town residents should pay for the solution.

Teresa Romdenne, Kirk Lane, questioned what were the other options besides the five options. She said based on Jahnke and Jahnke's letter of 1976, the Town has exposure to litigation.

J. Macy said the Town Board directed S. Sullivan to come back to the Town Board with viable options. He said when a municipality is threatened with a lawsuit, their insurance company says to do nothing further and deal with the litigation in court.

Judy Spaight, Short Drive, suggested that the Town have a different engineering firm figure out a solution. She questioned who is going to plant their field when water is being diverted through their property.

Don Cramer, Isabelle Drive, said he is against everything that has been done. He would be willing to spend \$20-\$30/year for a solution to the flooding problem.

Eric Boman, North Oak Tree Court, said his lot is directly north of Stone Brook Hollow. He said the water north of him stops at his place and does not go south, even though the elevation of Stone Brook Hollow is lower than his. It seems as though the land in Stone Brook Hollow drains the water better than the land in Country Bliss.

Motion by T. Stefanowski, seconded by F. Leppin, to close the Public Hearing at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried.

P. Topczewski asked if the elevations of the homes that were pumping was available.

S. Sullivan said there is a map that shows the elevations of the basements. He said there were 54 homes that pumped during the summer.

P. Topczewski questioned the feasibility of removing one to four homes and creating a detention pond.

S. Sullivan said the groundwater level is so high that if you dug a pond 10 feet deep, the pond would fill up with six or seven feet of groundwater.

P. Topczewski said many people during the Public Hearing commented that Stone Brook Hollow could handle more stormwater. The Town would have to get permission from the owners to have that happen.

S. Sullivan said during the construction of Stone Brook Hollow he did not see any evidence of drain tiles on the property.

F. Leppin said he is not convinced that any option will stop people from pumping.

T. Stefanowski said the sump pumps may continue to run with any solution.

B. Lawn said if we choose option 5 to set up a water district, what happens to the other 2800 homes in the Town of Mukwonago? Is the Town willing to make that investment for the whole Town? What happens if wells go dry? Does that become a Town responsibility?

P. Topczewski said there were two natural conditions, high groundwater and excessive snowfall and spring rains, which combined to cause the flooding. He said he feels for the residents affected by these conditions. He said as an elected official he has a duty to do what is right for this community as a whole and not for any single individual. He said whatever decision the Town Board makes, it will not satisfy everyone. Surface water was pumped out to fulfill the Town Board obligation of Police, Fire and Ambulance Service. Residents are still pumping out groundwater. Country Bliss was not the only subdivision affected by the groundwater. If we do more for Country Bliss, how can we deny fixing another subdivision. He said philosophically he can't dewater the groundwater. He said groundwater is a precious commodity. He said we are in hard economic times and option 5 could cost two million dollars and it is just one project.

T. Stefanowski said Country Bliss has had problems in the past. In his subdivision there were six or seven houses pumping. He agrees with P. Topczewski. There were a lot of people helping the residents of Country Bliss.

F. Leppin said the Town has large bills for the solutions. He wants the Town to stop doing work in Country Bliss. He suggested that Town right-of-ways may be used as naturally flowing ditches.

D. Dubey said he would prefer option 4 or 5. Option 4 would keep the groundwater in the same area. He said when people buy their property, it is their responsibility to find out the soil conditions of their property.

B. Lawn asked if the Town has the ability to utilize the ponds in Stone Brook Hollow?

J. Macy said the ponds are on private property.

P. Topczewski said the Town Board has done all it can at this point. The Town does not have the money to do the pumping.

S. Sullivan suggested checking with K. Moore about the possible drain tiles in the Country Bliss subdivision and surrounding area.

F. Leppin said Country Bliss has flooded in 1993 and 2008.

Motion by P. Topczewski, seconded by B. Lawn, to suspend any further activities in regards to any engineering solutions to the Country Bliss flooding problem.

Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING COUNTRY BLISS FLOODING

Brian Falk, North Oak Tree Court, questioned what the motion means.

D. Dubey said he is in charge of the Town Board Agenda and if any new information is available he would consider putting it on the agenda.

B. Falk said he has some personal information about drain tiles on the property but needs more time to confirm the information and map it.

Kate Holzum, Jericho Road, said the flooding in Country Bliss in 1993 was caused by the development of Jericho Ridge. She said now another subdivision is being developed that is closing off the natural flow of groundwater. She questioned why monitoring wells weren't put in Stone Brook Hollow.

Eric Boman, North Oak Tree Court, said he would like the rate of flow through Country Bliss and Stone Brook Hollow to be checked.

S. Sullivan said Stone Brook Hollow accepts more water than it was designed for.

Paul Sadler, Memory Lane, said water has historically gone south from Country Bliss. He suggested to scrap the ditches in Stone Brook Hollow and let the water flow naturally through Stone Brook Hollow to Jericho Creek.

Motion by B. Lawn, seconded by T. Stefanowski, to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. Motion carried.

Katherine W. Wilson
Town Clerk
Town of Mukwonago