

**TOWN OF NEWBURGH
STORM WATER MANAGEMENT BOARD
MINUTES, MARCH 16, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dana Grace, J.T. McCarty, Greg Bailey

ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENT: Alonzo Moore, Streets Commissioner; David Hynes, Town Engineer; Lori Buehlman, Town Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Grace called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Bailey moved to adopt the minutes as presented. Mr. McCarty seconded the motion and it carried.

REPORTS

Streets

Mr. Moore said work crews are trying to keep the drains clean during the recent weather.

Staff

Ms. Buehlman said she has fielded several calls to look at holes in streets. She noted that there will be a lot coming up in the next four weeks, such as sewer line work, paving and sidewalk construction. She hopes to have it completed before July 4.

In another matter, Ms. Buehlman said the Township Trustee, Chad Bennett, called her about a pond that backs up to the Forest Park Subdivision that is causing concern. She said Newburgh Police contacted the property owners about the potential danger of the dam breaking.

She showed a photo of a manhole that is impacted by flooding. The sewer department crew put sand bags around the manhole to hold it in place.

Mr. Hynes said the problem has arisen before. He distributed a 2002 letter the town sent the owner, putting him on notice to make it safer. He said that hasn't happened.

Mr. Grace asked why the dam is eroding. Mr. Hynes said there is no emergency overflow for the dam, so it tops its banks during heavy rains. The overflow runs between two properties and into Forest Park.

Mr. McCarty asked what responsibilities property owners have for ponds and their overflow? Mr. Hynes said anything that is 20 foot and above is under the aegis of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). Any time there is a possible loss of property or life, the town can step in and assert control. At the time, he said, it didn't seem too much of a problem but now there are several homes downstream. The property owner is Robert L. Bond. The pond is approximately one acre, Mr. Hynes said.

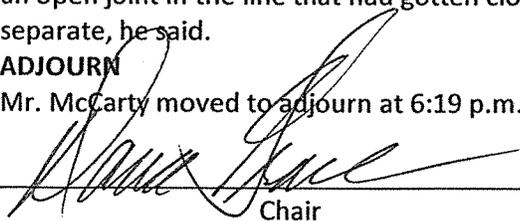
Ms. Buehlman will give the previous letter to the Town Attorney and ask him to update it. Mr. Grace said the board does not have jurisdiction in the matter, at this point, because it is on private property. No easements have been granted on the property and the overflow pipe does not directly flow into the town's sewer lines.

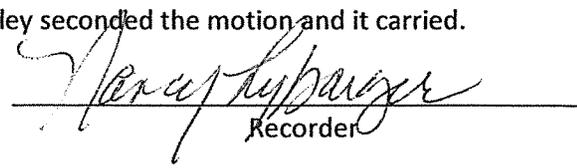
Mr. Hynes said it does eventually reach town sewer lines. Mr. McCarty asked that the Town Attorney or Ms. Buehlman keep the board updated by email so the problem is addressed in a timely manner. Mr. Grace said he has hiked out to the pond. He wants the property owners to recognize their liability if the pond fails.

Mr. Grace also reported the pipe on his property that failed has been repaired. Mr. Hynes said there was an open joint in the line that had gotten clogged with mud. Freezing and thawing can cause pipes to separate, he said.

ADJOURN

Mr. McCarty moved to adjourn at 6:19 p.m. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion and it carried.


Chair


Recorder

4-20-2015