

**FINAL MINUTES**

**FLOOD CONTROL BOARD  
CORTE MADERA TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**JANUARY 10, 2011**

Boardmembers Robert Bundy, Chair  
Present: Stephanie Bennett  
Vaso Medigovich  
Barry Trailer

Boardmembers Bill Carlson  
Absent:

Staff Present: Public Works Director/Town Engineer Dan Ring  
Council Representative, Vice Mayor Alexandra Cock

1. Call to Order

Chair Bundy opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

2. Open Forum for Public Expression

Mr. Harry Schriebman asked if anyone heard the siren today. The Board responded “no”. Mr. Schriebman stated he would call Fire Chief Sprehn.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes (November 17, 2010)

M/s, Trailer-Medigovich, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of November 17, 2010 as submitted.

4. Old Business

A. Update on Golden Hind Storm Drain Pump Station & Improvements project (09-001)

Public Works Director Ring presented a staff report. He noted he placed a reduced copy of the plans in the Board packet. Staff selected Bay Pacific Pipelines as the contactor for this project. Staff met with them to go over the pre-construction meeting agenda. AN West will be used as the construction/field engineering group. Bay Pacific Pipelines is in the process of getting together various submittals for staff and AN West prior to construction. This could include construction materials, types of pipes and drains, etc. They are ordering the pumps. They submitted an alternative for the trench drains but agreed with the staff recommendation on a particular brand. Their team includes an engineer who is dealing with the more technical aspects, a construction manager, and a field superintendent. Staff will be employing a half-time inspector from AN West (the same individual who did the inspection on the High Canal Pump Station). Fabrication of the control panel started about a week ago. He discussed a system that would allow them to acquire data and control the pump station from a remote location. At this point in time they have an auto-dialer that alerts staff to any problems. Staff decided to get this station ready for the new system but hold off on installing all of the equipment to a later date. A base station would have to be established which would probably be located at Town Hall. The new system requires a dedicated computer. The cost to implement the new system would be about \$30,000 to \$40,000. The equipment will be in the panel ready to go and there would be a place to mount the antennae. Chair Bundy asked if the base station could control numerous pump stations. Public Works Director Ring stated “yes” and it could control all the pump stations in town. Boardmember Medigovich stated the Board had discussed this at the last meeting and he felt the idea of placing an antennae on top of a control panel was not something he would like to see. He encouraged staff to place one antennae on a nearby power pole and one on the top of Summit Drive

where there are other antennas. Boardmember Trailer agreed and stated they should hold off on installing the antennas. Boardmember Medigovich stated they would benefit more from a monitoring system as opposed to a control system. Boardmember Trailer stated the idea of monitoring the stations from a remote location was appealing but the idea of pushing a couple of buttons to move things around was a different situation. He thought they had put this issue "to bed". Public Works Director Ring stated the issue keeps coming up in an attempt to reduce staff, workload, etc. Boardmember Trailer stated the number of incidents might not justify the cost. In addition, the town is probably small enough that it does not take staff a lot of time to get to any particular location. Public Works Director Ring agreed. He stated staff has not received a precise schedule from Bay Pacific Pipelines but their first item of work would be the storm drain line that runs down Golden Hind Passage from the pump station to about Trade Wind Passage. They would then start on the network of curb drains. The shallow gutter work would probably be done during the rains with construction of the pump station around March. They will probably start in the next two to three weeks. Staff is sending out general notification to the nearby residents. The contractor will send out a notice with more specific information at a later date. Mr. Schriebman has agreed to distribute the notices via the homeowner's association. He briefly discussed the photographs of the trench drain and the grates. Boardmember Trailer asked if they crossed the driveways. Public Works Director Ring stated "yes". Boardmember Bennett asked if the rolled curbs would be removed. Public Works Director Ring stated "yes" and added installation of the drains would include new curbs and gutters. There is some money in the budget to replace damaged sidewalks. Boardmember Bennett asked if that included the entire neighborhood or just the project area. Public Works Director Ring stated staff could talk to the contractor about that. Boardmember Trailer stated it would make sense to do the sidewalk work during the other construction. Chair Bundy stated some sidewalk work was done in the 1990's with the town splitting the cost with the property owners.

Mr. Schriebman asked if the work would go down both sides of Golden Hind. Public Works Director Ring showed Mr. Schriebman the map and noted the black lines indicate the locations of the curb drains. Boardmember Trailer stated the map should be included with the notification letters.

Mr. Schriebman asked if they would need approval from the FCC for the antennas. Public Works Director Ring stated "yes".

Boardmember Trailer stated when the Board discussed the project it seemed more extensive. Public Works Director Ring stated this is just the first phase. This phase includes the pump station and will cost close to \$600,000.

Chair Bundy asked Public Works Director Ring to walk them through the design. Public Works Director Ring stated the pump station is designed for a 50-year storm. The drainage from the tributary area accumulates at this one point. They broke the subdivision into separate drainage areas and each area will be connected to a drainage outlet. Anything beyond this area drains to another outlet point. The pumps can handle a particular flow rate. There are two pumps for redundancy and for low flows vs. higher flows. The pump station will not be used if the tide is low. During high tide, the check valve will close, water will build up, and the pump will turn on to discharge the water. There is an existing line that discharges to the bay. There were discussions about replacing that line or having two lines- one gravity line and a separate force main. They will end up using the old line due to environmental permitting purposes. They moved the check valve closer to the pump. The Public Works Superintendent has installed a new type of check valve on several outlets near the High Canal. They are plastic drainage boxes that have plastic flap gates inside. They cost about \$700 and are really intended for draining irrigation trenches that do not have a lot of debris going through them. These could take the place of the existing tide flex valves.

Boardmember Bennett asked if the project would look unappealing in the cul-de-sac areas. Public Works Director Ring stated they were trying to find a practical solution. Boardmember Bennett asked if the rest of the cul-de-sac area could be added to the project. Public Works Director Ring stated it was about \$10 to \$20 per linear foot to remove and replace the curb and gutter. Council Representative Cock stated the Town could offer to do the work if the property owner would pay for it. Chair Bundy stated they were trying to get the most "bang for the buck" and the intent of the project was to keep the water off the street. Council Representative Cock asked if there was enough time before the project started to contact the

homeowners. Public Works Director Ring stated “yes”. Boardmember Bennett stated it would be a good idea to give the property owners that option. Boardmember Medigovich agreed.

Mr. Schriebman asked if the bottom of the gutter would be removed and replaced with a grate. Public Works Director Ring stated “yes”. Mr. Schriebman asked if the water drained to the existing system. Public Works Director Ring stated “yes” and added there would be a long, continuous, thin grate in the gutter so that water can enter wherever it wants. Mr. Schriebman asked what was underneath the grate. Public Works Director Ring stated there was a trough. Chair Bundy stated there was a drawing on page C-6. Boardmember Medigovich stated the troughs were four-foot modules that are designed at different heights. Public Works Director Ring stated they are set at a constant slope.

Chair Bundy asked when the pumps shut off due to the tide vs. the rainfall. Public Works Director Ring stated AN West determined the control strategy levels. There are multiple settings within that pump station and at a certain point the pumps are inactivated because they are just pumping back the bay water. Chair Bundy stated inactivating the pumps could send a message to homeowners that there are measures they can take to help the problem (berming, etc.). Boardmember Medigovich disagreed and stated the pumps should stay on so homeowners are aware that the pumps can only do so much. Boardmember Trailer stated when the tide was very high they were basically pumping the entire bay- this was a no-win situation. Chair Bundy was concerned about keeping the pumps on, the wear and tear on the pumps, the cost of electricity, etc. Public Works Director Ring stated he would research this issue.

Public Works Director Ring stated PG&E would need to relocate a 2-inch gas main before construction of the pump station. This would occur sometime in January.

## 5. New Business

### A. Flood control system performance during recent storm

Public Works Director Ring presented a brief staff report. He stated Public Works Superintendent Kramer had given him the following highlights: 1) the Golden Hind area experienced some flooding; 2) the Casa Buena area (near the Volvo dealership) experienced some flooding due to an inlet flooding on the CalTrans right-of-way; 3) a pump on the High Canal was briefly out of commission but was quickly put back in service; 4) the crew was doing a lot of street sweeping and making sure things were in order. The Public Works Department has a list of “hot-spots” that they continue to monitor. They also have a list of all erosion control permits outstanding in Town due to grading operations and they monitor those sites. He referred to the corrosion that occurred at the San Clemente Pump Station and stated the staff was looking at the cathodic protection systems and manifolds at all the pump stations. He noted they weathered the most recent storm fairly well. There was a bit of flooding in some backyards on Tamalpais Drive that could have been a result of a recent sanitary/sewer project. It is possible that some dirt was moved around or they inadvertently covered up something that was allowing water to get into the sewer system.

Boardmember Trailer asked if homeowners had to do a lot of “sand bagging” during this recent storm. Public Works Director Ring stated “yes”. The Public Works Department supplies sand at several locations and they were all used. Chair Bundy stated the bags should be the responsibility of the homeowner but the Town should supply the sand. Boardmember Trailer asked if the Department reduced the number of bags due to decay. Public Works Director Ring stated “yes”. Boardmember Trailer asked about the decision to hold off on flushing out Hidden Lagoon due to the recent sewage spill. Public Works Director Ring stated Public Works Superintendent Kramer decided to wait until the testing of Corte Madera Creek is completed. Council Representative Cock stated she was informed that people should stay out of the creek for six months.

Chair Bundy Bennett referred to the houses that are being raised in the Mariner Cove area and asked if they were being raised to the new standards. Public Works Director Ring stated the Flood Ordinance has not been revised yet and is still in the hands of the Town Attorney. Staff is trying to adhere to the model ordinance put out by the State of California. Staff has had a bit of difficulty giving homeowner direction (base flood elevation plus three feet vs. one foot). The ambiguity would be eliminated once the Town Council adopts the ordinance. He noted that Zone “V” in the ordinance was a wave-action, coastal zone

that would require construction at the base flood elevation plus three feet. Zone "A" was protect by wetlands or the bay margin and would not require the extra three feet.

Boardmember Medigovich asked if the part of Golden Hind by the new pump station was in Zone "V". Public Works Director Ring stated "no" and stated that area was still in Zone "A". Chair Bundy stated the Board had decided not to go above the base flood elevation for aesthetic reasons. Public Works Director Ring stated the current ordinance refers to three feet plus "ultimate settlement". The definition of "ultimate settlement" was ambiguous and they might want to eliminate this term and build some freeboard in the ordinance. Chair Bundy stated the part of the house that is most vulnerable is the garage and most people do not raise the garage. Boardmember Trailer stated the driveway would also need to be replaced. Chair Bundy agreed.

#### B. Discussion of potential grant funding sources for flood control projects

Public Works Director Ring presented a brief staff report. He stated this item could apply to the proposed levee repair and restoration project. There are funds available to perform a study and staff has asked AN West to look at funding sources. Staff has identified two funding sources- 1) Local Levee Assistance Program which is funded through Proposition 84; and 2) Flood Protection Corridor Program which is funded by Proposition 13, the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water and Watershed Protection and Flood Control Act. He does not know whether they qualify since a lot of the levees in Town are simply "piles of dirt" that are used as levees. The intent of these Propositions is to protect something of value and the wetland habitats and the State would like local jurisdictions to partner with environmental groups. Boardmember Medigovich suggested they contact the Marin Conservation League. Chair Bundy stated the league was working on restoring the marsh off of Industrial Way. Boardmember Trailer asked if they might be eligible for some of the funds that were made available for the Delta area. Public Works Director Ring stated those funds were earmarked specifically for that area. Boardmember Trailer noted the levees in that area were not engineered levees. Public Works Director Ring stated that was a very good point. He stated the grant applications had due dates of March or April. Council Representative Cock stated she had been told at one time that this project would not be eligible for Federal Stimulus or Earmark Funding but she thought they should continue to check on this since the nature of the program changes. Public Works Director Ring stated the Transportation of Marin (TAM) has been monitoring the stimulus money and sending information back to local jurisdictions. Council Representative Cock stated TAM's focus was on roads. Public Works Director Ring agreed. Council Representative Cock stated the Stimulus and Earmark are two totally different pools of money and projects and the focus of both changes. Public Works Director Ring stated he would check into that and "stay in the loop". Boardmember Medigovich stated there had been discussions about using the assessment district that was used to buy the gravel lot at Nordstrom's to augment the dyke. Council Representative Cock stated she has brought this up in the past since the project would certainly protect the interests of the Village Shopping Center. Public Works Director Ring noted none of these funds were "free" and they usually have a matching aspect to them that could be beyond the capabilities of the Town. Staff will tailor the proposal to something that is feasible.

Chair Bundy asked everybody to take a walk along the levee (from Martis Marsh to Industrial Way and beyond). Boardmember Medigovich asked if it were possible to walk the trail to the mouth of the creek. Chair Bundy stated "yes" but it is not possible to loop around anymore.

Chair Bundy asked if a representative from Bay Pacific Pipelines could make a presentation in the near future. Public Works Director Ring stated he would ask the Project Manager or Project Inspector to attend an upcoming meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.