

FINAL MINUTES

FLOOD CONTROL BOARD

APRIL 4, 2011

CORTE MADERA TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

DRAFT MINUTES

Boardmembers Robert Bundy, Chair
Present: Bill Carlson
Vaso Medigovich

Boardmembers Stephanie Bennett
Absent: Barry Trailer

Staff Present: 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

Boardmember Medigovich stated it would be helpful and instructive if staff put up two measuring sticks (one NGVD and one NAVD) along Golden Hind (at the sanitary pump station) so people in the neighborhood could understand how to relate to the new policies. Town Engineer Ring asked where the measuring sticks should be located. Boardmember Medigovich stated they should be right on the fence to serve as a visual cue. Chair Bundy asked if he was referring to the culvert on Paradise Drive. Boardmember Medigovich stated he was referring to the corner of Golden Hind at Ebb Tide. He stated it would educate people about the two different data and educate them about what it means to develop some level of flood protection at a certain elevation. Chair Bundy stated it was a great idea. Town Engineer Ring stated it would be an easy thing to do.

Boardmember Medigovich stated he would like to develop a program in conjunction with the homeowner's association that would encourage homeowners to give some type of notification to the neighborhood during a remodel and an explanation about why they were raising the home. Chair Bundy stated the homeowner's association could disseminate that information.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes (February 7, 2011)

M/s, Medigovich/Carlson, and carried unanimously (Bennett and Trailer absent) to approve the minutes of February 7, 2011 as submitted.

4. Old Business

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

Town Engineer Ring presented a staff report. He distributed some recent photographs. The contractors have installed 100% of the underground piping (the network that the curb drains would connect to) and about 90% of the curb drains. The next piece is the paving repair. They have been using temporary asphalt in various areas to allow people to get into his or her driveway. The final phase is the pump station. He presented a Powerpoint presentation and he briefly discussed the process. He explained that they were connecting to an existing drainage inlet or one of the drainage inlets that was installed during the first phase of the project. They had to take off the old grate and reform a new "top" at most of the existing inlets. This would provide a way for staff to come in and clean them out and also provide junction structures for connection to the storm drain system. Some of the pipes leading in or out of these locations have been

replaced. The contractors installed a grate so it does not become a tripping hazard. They will eventually come in and install a new swatch of asphalt. He noted the street itself was in good shape. Maintenance would include flushing out the catch basins with a hose. There were a couple of change orders issued including doing some work in an area that experiences a lot of curb ponding but was not originally included in the project. He stated one of the change orders would not cost anything since the contractor had some extra graded line drain in his stockpile. He noted some of the existing ABS pipes needed to be replaced with PVC pipes. He displayed a slide of one of the new basins that was installed on Tradewind Passage and he noted about thirty feet of the sidewalk would be replaced because it was buckled by tree roots. The curb and gutter must match up with the line of the sidewalk. They just approved the drawings for the vault. There will be a one-week break in the work since it takes about two weeks for it to be poured and cured. The excavation for the pit should begin in about two to three weeks. The pump station would be installed around mid-May. The contractors started cleaning up the spoils in the Nordstrom's parking lot over the weekend.

Mr. Harry Schriebman stated the contractors did nick a gas line that affected service to a couple of houses.

Council Representative Cock asked how they were doing in terms of the actual costs vs. the budgeted costs. Town Engineer Ring stated they were about \$25,000 over budget due to the change orders. They usually include a 10% contingency in the budget which would be about \$50,000 to \$60,000. They are in good shape so far.

Mr. Schriebman referred to the work being done at the corner of Tradewind Passage and Golden Hind, which was not originally included in the project, and he asked if it had a place where it would drain. Town Engineer Ring stated "yes" and stated it would tie into the catch basin that is already on Tradewind Passage. There will be a trench going across Tradewind Passage to the middle of a driveway. This catch basin would form a connection point for more graded line drains.

Chair Bundy noted the graded drains were custom built at a different depth. Town Engineer Ring stated they all have a particular slope associated with them and a beginning and ending depth.

Chair Bundy noted that construction oversight has been a significant cost and he asked if it was as extensive in this phase of the project. Town Engineer Ring stated they anticipated that they would not need quite as much oversight in the later phases of the project. It has tapered off to half time and will probably go back to full time when they install the pump station. He agreed that this has been a significant cost but he noted staff has not received one telephone call about the project.

Chair Bundy asked Mr. Schriebman if there has been any talk among neighbors about doing some berming behind houses to keep the tides out. Mr. Schriebman stated he has not heard a word. Chair Bundy stated a system that included a check valve would give them a certain reservoir for the rainfall. He asked about the cost of the check valve system that was recently installed. Town Engineer Ring stated it was about \$40,000. Boardmember Medigovich asked about the cost of the curb drains. Town Engineer Ring stated they cost about \$125 per foot, which includes tearing up and replacing the gutter as well.

Council Representative Cock asked that they look at Marina Village as a possible location for new drainage systems. She noted ponding in the street is a problem. Town Engineer Ring stated that area would probably need a pump station because the drainage is so flat it would be very difficult to get the water back to where it needs to go. Boardmember Medigovich stated the AN West report indicated this area was priority #2 and would be done next. Town Engineer Ring agreed and stated he planned in bringing more information about this to the next meeting.

B. Update on Potential Grant funding Sources for Flood Control Projects

Town Engineer Ring presented a staff report. He stated staff has started a conversation with the North Bay Watershed Association which was created to help local and regional agencies work cooperatively on water resources issues and promote stewardship. It is a combination of sanitary and water districts who work cooperatively to try to coordinate issues in the area, including flooding, wastewater treatment, reservoirs,

etc. They serve as a clearinghouse for projects and they have certain projects that are earmarked for funding. The majority of them are in the realm of providing and treating water as opposed to flood control. The Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) is a member agency. They interface with the Bay Area Integrated Regional Management Plan which looks at the entire Bay Area and all watershed resources. Their goal is similar to those of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). They have a segment that deals with flood protection and storm water management and already have certain projects that have made it into the plan. Staff plans to contact them even though they deal more on a regional basis. He displayed a map prepared by PBSJ that shows existing levees in Corte Madera. Chair Bundy noted it was not entirely accurate. Boardmember Medigovich agreed and pointed out several inaccuracies. Town Engineer Ring stated staff was still in the “information gathering” stage.

Chair Bundy stated the Marin Conservation League was interested in bay restoration projects and perhaps they could partner with them or some other agency to excavate and then get permission to add to the existing levees. Town Engineer Ring pointed to an area owned by the Golden Gate Transit District and stated they might want to reclaim it as a wetlands area and perhaps allow the Town to do something with its levee at the same time. Chair Bundy stated the Town could use the spoils to add to the levee. In addition, there was a real opportunity for marsh restoration.

Chair Bundy asked if there was a different standard for levees that are meant to deal with tides as opposed to river cresting that could go on for three or four days. Town Engineer Ring stated “no” and noted they run into this all the time with the FEMA Flood Hazard Maps. FEMA needs to have a set of regulations that they can apply uniformly across the country and it was difficult to make special cases for certain areas. Chair Bundy stated there should be different standards for different events.

Council Representative Cock stated she was going to Washington D.C. this week and has requested a meeting with Senator Boxer and Congresswoman Woolsey to discuss flood control issues and funding. She stated it was important to keep this conversation going. Boardmember Medigovich stated Congresswoman Woolsey has always been very supportive of the proposed tidal barrier project. Chair Bundy noted it might be better to focus on the tsunami issue.

5. New Business

A. Report on flood control system performance during recent storm

Town Engineer Ring presented a brief staff report. He received a report from Public Works Superintendent Kramer indicating that the Town weathered the most recent storms very well aside from a few flooded streets. The crew was on stand-by during the early mornings during the high tides and were cleaning out drains and removing fallen trees. In general, everything performed the way it should. Boardmember Medigovich stated the rain gauge at the top of Christmas Tree Hill indicated the area received an inch of rain in one hour.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.