

**MONROE COUNTY
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
3 P.M., NOVEMBER 10, 2020
via Zoom App**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lee Jones (Chair), Penny Githens, Trohn Enright-Randolph

MEMBERS ABSENT: Julie Thomas

STAFF: Donna Barbrick (Secretary), Lisa Ridge (Highway Director), Terry Quillman (MS4 Coordinator), Dave Schilling (Legal)

CALL TO ORDER

Lee Jones called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m. She said October and November minutes will be approved in December. She said we will proceed right to New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Stormwater Expenditure Report – October 2020

Terry Quillman said I sent everyone a copy of the Auditor's appropriation balance sheet. He said I am having continuing issues with the spreadsheet that we have since it does not account for encumbered funds and it is making weird percentages. He said so I am including this Auditor's appropriation balance so that you can see the details and know that I am working through this.

Trohn asked about sharing the screen. Lisa Ridge said we got a new program at the beginning of the year called Charts (County Highway Accounting Tracking System). She said some of the additional, transfers, and encumbrances were not being transferred correctly. She said this is actual numbers, actual expenditures for every single line so you can see what was appropriated and what has been spent. She said this is accurate as of October 23 and shows what has been spent in every line of the budget. She said we will work on a summary if you prefer a summary. She said this is a little bit more to look at.

Jones commented that it said September 30. Ridge said so they ran it through September 30. Jones asked if Terry wanted to go over it with SWMB. Quillman said I can but there are several pages here; I suggest you look at it at your leisure and then shoot me an email if you see anything that jumps out at you and I can try to answer that.

Trohn said the summary and the detailed are two different things. He said agree with Lisa that there is a lot of potential for human error when we transfer numbers from one program to another. He said I like the summary and I think it is easier for the public to consume. He said I know that LOW is adaptable. He said I keep a real time budget and then I go to LOW to see what the Auditor has. He said I think you are going in the best direction. He said it would be good to focus on the category 2s, 3s and 4s and maybe export it from LOW. He said the Auditor's might be able to assist with that. He said thank you for getting us the details.

Ridge said I will work with Ginger and the Auditor's office to see what we can do. She said I'd like to have this all online before Terry leaves so we are all on the same page for a new person.

Jones said we may as well move on to our other new business.

Ordinance to Amend Chapter 766 – Stormwater System Fee and Fund

Quillman said we have talked about increasing the stormwater fee. He said I would like to bring it forward again and discuss an amount. He said at this point we are at \$35.16 for each ERU. He said the City increased theirs to just about double that. He said we are trying to get some projects built and they are expensive. He said I would like to get the SWMB's feedback.

Jones said I guess we should have a motion and a second. Trohn said I can move to officially discuss. Schilling said the guidance that I would give you is that we have done a rate study with Financial Solutions Group and if you decide to increase the fee, I think it should be related to the specific programs and projects that you want to accomplish in the near future. He said there were different levels in the study. He said I think if you pick this program as something that you want to accomplish then you want to give strong consideration to adopting the fee that would support that financially.

Jones asked if it would help to have the consultant's report on the screen. Trohn asked about removing the policy of incremental fee increases from the ordinance. Ridge said Dave Schilling had sent paperwork about that and he had prepared a joint email. Ridge said there has been no action taken on either one. Ridge said that is what I am saying, that they are supposed to be parallel with each other.

Trohn said there is a lot of action that this board has to take to get things moving. He said I know that the other boards, the Council and the Commissioners, will be in those discussions. He said once it leaves SWMB I do not have the ability to be in those discussions. He said I don't think that I have gotten enough public feedback. He said without that ability I am not sure I can get behind it. He said I want to use the public's feedback in determining my decision. He said I will recuse myself if it comes to a vote today because I just do not feel prepared. He said if we can engage the public so I can see their feedback. He said that is where I am at with my position.

Jones said the thing is we need to make a decision on this so that when Terry's replacement is hired we can work together on it.

Ridge said I do understand what you are saying, Trohn. She said I know that there was an article in the newspaper a few months ago. She said I have a resident on Carmola Drive who would be happy to speak. She said he is completely in favor of raising the fee. She said I think it's just that we are at a point where the major projects that we have invested in will all come to a complete halt. She said we will be at a standstill with those projects if we keep putting it off so to keep it moving to where we can try to get it passed, I think it is in the best interest. She said if anybody wants to see the FSG report, the options that are out there, we would be happy to share that with anyone. She said with Carmola Drive and Baby Creek, we are moving slowly because we do not want to bust the budget. She said once you get to a certain point, it all takes time, figuring out bonds, we will be seven or eight months down the road still trying to get things going.

Trohn said I know as this moves forward there will be public engagement and feedback once it gets to the Commissioners and the Council. He said I know it's been out there and we have tried our best to get things out there. He said I know we have to utilize Terry while he is still here. He said again I don't want to try to dispute this or persuade anyone to not support it. He said ultimately I do support what you are doing.

Jones asked with only three of us here and if Trohn recuses himself, can we make a decision today. Schilling said it takes three to make a decision. Jones said you know there was very little public

acknowledgement of the City's fee increase which was significant. She said sometimes getting public input is very difficult. Schilling said I would say, just looking around the state, most of the counties with populations like Monroe County are in the \$70 range, so it's not out of line. Jones said I would imagine many of those counties do not have the problems with flooding that we have.

Githens said she was trying to get back to the Guerrettaz report to look at the different levels. She said it looks like there has not been a single rate increase since 2013. She said one of the options was for 103.5% increase. She said another was for 151% increase. She asked what Lisa and Terry thinks would take care of county residents. Quillman said after seeing the issues out there, we need more of an effort. He said we have flooding issues, we have projects that we are trying to get done to alleviate that and without getting behind the eight-ball it's not going to happen. Githens said and it could cause further road deterioration. Jones said it's not good for property owners when there is damage and it's not good for the environment to have that flooding going on.

Ridge said when Terry and I first started to look at this and started comparing numbers around the state, it seemed like doubling it was about what other places are doing. She said it was also putting us pretty much into the mid-range of where other places are. She said even before we did the FSG report, doubling the fee seemed like the option at the time. She said when you look at the options that FSB put out such as 103% increase, that gives us options for bonding for those four big projects. She said that having an inspector is a dire need for the county but stormwater cannot afford taking on more personnel and projects and sustain. She said if we tried to do one of those big projects, we would be broke. She said we talked to FSG about how much percentage we should always retain for our budget and as Greg (Guerrettaz) stated, if we don't raise the fee we are not going anywhere. Githens said so in order to do the projects that we have already spent significant money on design work we are going to have to bond and have revenue to do those revenue bonds. Ridge said this is how other entities get their bigger projects done: they bond. She said we cannot bond without the extra revenue. She said the inspector is a dire need for the county with all the development going on. She said we have had the time to evaluate where the need is and now to be able to accomplish those items, it is inevitable to increase the fee.

Trohn said we still have to amend the policy ordinance that we tabled last month. He talked about having a special meeting to take up both of these issues. He said then if no one decides to attend, at the point I feel like I could take a position. He said maybe we will have a full quorum. He said I would love to have some feedback from the public.

Quillman said he would display the report with the bar graph of different fees for stormwater entities. He said we are in the bottom third as far as counties in the state. He said if we doubled the fee that would allow us to do the majority of the jobs that we talked about in the report. He said the amount is something that should be discussed. Jones said keeping in mind that Monroe County has worse flooding than other counties are we are growing. She said I was surprised to hear that we are in the bottom third. She said from what I saw it looks like even Ellettsville has a higher fee than ours. Githens said I agree we need that inspector and we have such a backlog that I do think we need the second crew and I think it would be a misuse of taxpayer money not to do the projects when we have already paid for design work on them.

There was some difficulty displaying pages from the report.

Trohn asked Schilling about taking action on the local policy or ordinance that was tabled last month.

Schilling said the first step would be to decide what amount you are thinking about adopting and then conduct a public hearing on that amount. He said then it gets passed to the county council for approval and then to the county commissioners. Trohn asked so we as the SWMB have a public hearing on this.

Schilling said that is correct. He said the SWMB will say we want to conduct a hearing on this new rate and you advertise it ahead of time. He said and then the public is entitled to attend and weigh in on the new proposed rate. He said then if the SWMB decides to adopt that new rate, it sends it to the county council and if the county council approves it, then to the commissioners.

Jones said so really the action today would be to establish a public meeting. Schilling said yes, in relation to a specific rate, in other words have a hearing on this proposed rate.

Jones asked if that would satisfy you, Trohn. Trohn said absolutely. He said more to the point that Penny was making is what each of these options give us and how each ties into the long-range strategic plan. Ridge said yes, there is a page that shows the different comparisons and scenarios. Trohn said I apologize for not understanding the process.

Jones asked if these projects were prioritized. Ridge said these were all considered essential but we could prioritize. Githens referred to the first page of the summary about the four alternatives in the report. She said alternative #2 is a \$71.55 fee. She said if it is bonded for twenty years, that gives us the four projects, the additional staff and additional vehicle. Trohn asked we had a recommendation prior to having this analysis done so which way is stormwater leaning to now since we had the report done. Ridge said I am comfortable with the \$71.55 because I think that will be huge for stormwater. She said I think the inspector is a given no matter what and then looking at our major capital improvement projects, I do not really want to bond for twenty years to be honest. She said I would rather bond for a ten- to fifteen-year period. Githens said on page 13, Exhibit I, it talks about a ten-year bond with alternative #2 which would be 151% increase which would kick it up to \$88.25 per year. Ridge said that is why I was thinking we would not be adding extra fleet or increasing it to that level.

Quillman said it is my feeling that we should not be bonding to the point where our budget is so tight that we cannot take care of our everyday needs. He said we might have to cut back on one of the projects once we prioritize them.

Trohn said the only ability to do bonding for ten years is at \$86.25. Ridge said there is alternative #3 with a ten-year bond with less money for projects but keeping the same money for crews. She said you could go with alternate #3 which is \$75.77 and that would be a ten-year bond on three projects and you'd be able to add the additional crew and the inspector. She said besides adding the new crew members and equipment is the fact that the garage has a certain capacity so we have to make sure we have room for any equipment that we purchase.

Githens asked are we talking about moving the rate for \$35.16 to \$75.77 for alternative #3. She asked do we need a motion to do that and then it goes on to the public hearing and from there to the other entities. Trohn said I am completely fine with that and then we have that public meeting and public participation. Jones asked do we need to determine the rate before we set the public hearing or should that be a part of the discussion. Schilling said if you set the amount at \$75.77 then you could decide at the hearing to recommend a lower rate to the Council and Commissioners. He said going with the higher rate gives you more options. Trohn said I feel comfortable with that.

Trohn said I will make a motion that we amend Ordinance Chapter 766 Stormwater Assistance Fee and Fund to \$75.77. Githens seconded. Jones asked Quillman to call the roll: Jones, YES, Githens, YES, Trohn Enright-Randolph YES. Quillman said motion carried 3-0.

Schilling said you would want to schedule a public hearing and if you want it on the same date as your regular meeting, that is fine. He said the hearing could be incorporated into the meeting.

Trohn said I move that we entertain this at our next meeting as an amendment. Githens seconded. Quillman called the roll: Githens, YES, Trohn, YES and Jones YES. Motion carried.

Ridge asked about when the new fee might be on the tax bills. Schilling said if it approved any time before May 2021, then that is it. He said it is not like a tax.

PUBLIC INPUT

Ridge said I just wanted to give a little bit of an update on Terry's replacement. She said we have the job opening posted on four different sites. She said she has received eight or nine resumes so far. She said I am sure interviews could be on Zoom or maybe socially distanced in one of our rooms.

ADJOURNMENT

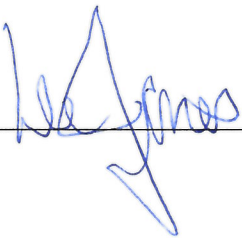
Jones said if there is no further discussion, I think we can adjourn. **Meeting adjourned at 4:11 P.M.**

Minutes approved: 12/9/2020

Signed:

Secretary:

Chair



Donna Barbrick
Donna Barbrick