

Berne Storm Water Utility Management Board
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 21, 2018
Berne City Hall 5:00 PM
Minutes

Kent Liechty- Present
Ron Sprunger- Present

Ernie Steiner- Present

The Storm Water Utility Management Board met in council chambers with Board Director Shannon Smitley, City Attorney Dave Baumgartner and Secretary of Record Becky Sprunger according to the posted notice.

Ron called the meeting to order and verified a quorum.

Re-Organization of the Board On a motion by Kent and a second by Ernie, the board will remain the same as last year. President Ron Sprunger, Vice President Kent Liechty and Secretary of Record Becky Sprunger.

Comments by Citizens if not on the Agenda None

Approval of Minutes On a motion by Ernie and a second by Kent, the minutes of August 10, 2017 were unanimously approved as written.

Update on Storm Water Bond and the LTCP: Shannon reviewed the status of the bond that was issued in 2006 for mandated the storm water projects. The bond will be paid in total in July. It is unlikely that there will be a reduction in rates because of the recently IDEM approved Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) that mandates the city to continue to do separation projects according to the plan. It is hoped that rates do not need increased since there will now be time to build the Storm Water account back up with the bond payed off. Kent asked if there would be any issues with State Board of Accounts is the city kept collecting the monthly storm water fees without spending that money. Shannon replied that this should not be an issue since there is a plan of mandated projects in place.

Center/Nussbaum Streets

Shannon reviewed a project submitted by Ben Adams, Commonwealth Engineering, for the Center Street/Nussbaum Street area. The estimated cost the of project is \$ 47,500. Shannon further explained that if the project were to be extended 600 feet, the area would be prepared for any expansion and adding this to the Center/Nussbaum project would be less expensive than doing the 600 feet later. Shannon recommended that the board allow him to ask Ben to prepare a proposal for the project with two options. This would be considered for approval at a Storm Water meeting in April meeting. The board asked Shannon to contact Ben and have him prepare the proposal as discussed.

EP Graphics

Shannon advised the board that he asked Ben to draft an engineering review on behalf of E.P.

Graphics to address the ongoing issue that have had with their dock flooding. The review will be forwarded to EP Graphics.

Pizza King Shannon reported to the board that it has been discovered that the Pizza King in Berne, 587-US 27 owned by SBK, had not been paying a storm water fee of \$85.00 since 2011. This was due to a clerical error when the strip mall at US 27 and County 500, also owned by SBK, was annexed into the city and the storm water bills were merged. At that time the Pizza King fee was deleted from the record. Shannon would like the board to instruct Dave, as the board's attorney, to write a letter informing SBK that they will be assessed the \$85.00 storm water fee for the Pizza King building effective as of the date of the letter. Ron made a motion instructing Attorney Baumgartner to draft a letter concerning the storm water fee as discussed with Ernie making the second, the motion was unanimously approved.

Assessing New Construction: Shannon advised the board that he would like a policy in place that as soon as a water meter is installed and service turned on at a new construction site, a basic storm water fee of \$21.00 be charged with a re-assessment in six months from that date. Shannon said an alert can be triggered on the account as a reminder. This would keep new construction from falling through the cracks, but it would also avoid incremental assessments as the new construction is being completed. Dave asked Shannon for more background information on how the storm water fees were established and then he will advise the next steps that the board will need to take.

Attorney Comments None

Board Comments Ernie asked about the area of US 27 and Poplar that always seems to flood and have standing water. Shannon advised that the city does use the Vector Truck there, and it does help, but there is a problem with the drainage.

On a motion by Kent and a second by Ernie the meeting was adjourned.