

TOWN OF FAIRFIELD FLOOD AND EROSION CONTROL BOARD

The Flood & Erosion Control Board held a public meeting at 7:00 PM on January 18, 2022 via teleconference only.

A recording of this meeting can be found here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zlaQBxsiQpU>

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Becky Bunnell-Chair, Don Lamberty-Vice Chair, Richard Dmochowski-Secretary, Paul Landino, Peter Wiswell

1. Call to order

Chair Becky Bunnell called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. To Hear, Consider and Act upon minutes of November 16, 2021, and December 14, 2021

Richard Dmochowski made a motion to approve the minutes of 11/16/21 as written. Don Lamberty seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Richard Dmochowski made a motion to approve the minutes of 12/14/21 as written. Don Lamberty seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. Discussion of recent Capital Workshop Details

Richard Dmochowski reviewed the attachments to the Capital Workshop planning meeting held last week with the BOF. First Selectwoman Kupchick presented the 2023 budget concentrating on the next year's capital budget. They listed every project worthy of consideration. The First Selectwoman decided to put everything out there for the town bodies to see and prioritize. They discussed bonding and that they should only bond 8.5%-10% of revenue. In Mr. Dmochowski's original list, FY 2022 includes the Turney Creek/Riverside Drive Tide gate project. In FY 2023, it is not listed. Mr. Dmochowski said there is a line for the Turney Creek Tide gates for \$1.375M as well as a grant line for \$4.125M making the total cost \$5.5M for the Tide gate project. He was unaware of a grant for this project. Bill Hurley was applying for the grant under the new FEMA budget. The South Benson Pump Station (presumably design work) is listed as bonding \$375K and a grant of \$1.125M for a total of \$1.5M. Additional funds for the Pump station and drainage implementation are noted in subsequent years. Along with the Riverside Drive Tide Gate project it is necessary to replace the sanitary sewer siphon under the water. WPCA has that listed in their 2023 capital projects. The projects are linked together. Mr. Dmochowski will recast the FECB list of projects, and he will add columns to include the Capital Workshop projects and their status. Increasing resiliency at the Ash Creek open space to Jennings Beach is on the Non-Recurring Capital Budget. Mr. Dmochowski will speak with Bill Hurley about all their projects and follow up with the FECB.

4. Review next steps regarding Stormwater Authority and Resilience Fund

Ms. Bunnell will to speak with Bill Hurley for assistance filling out the GAR (Grant Authorization Request) before they can apply for a Resiliency grant through CIRCA. The GAR must be signed by the department in charge and administration and submitted by February 1st. Instead of doing a Stormwater Authority grant request, Bill Hurley suggested putting a line item in the operating budget for maintenance. Becky Bunnell would like to fill out paperwork for a grant for the resiliency plan track of the grant. Fairfield can't apply for federal grants until they do a cost benefit analysis for each section of our plan. Becky Bunnell will put paperwork together. Ms. Bunnell would also like the FECB to get on the agenda for a BOS meeting to discuss a Resiliency Fund. She will follow up with that. The Board was in agreement.

5. Additional old or new business as may come before the Board

Peter Wiswell asked Becky Bunnell if she had heard from the Pequot Yacht Club regarding the seawall at Perry's Green. Richard Dmochowski will speak with Bill Hurley about selecting a design consultant for this project. Mr. Hurley is in the process of reaching out to a series of potential consultants. The FECB expects that conversations with PYC will be part of developing the project scope.

6. Public Comment

No public comment.

7. Adjourn

Richard Dmochowski made a motion to adjourn. Don Lamberty seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pru O'Brien
Recording Secretary