

Madison County Government
Special Service Area #1
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Committee Meeting
January 7, 2016 – 8:30 a.m.

Art Asadorian called the meeting to order with roll call.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Helen Hawkins, Art Asadorian

OTHERS PRESENT: Scott Weiner, Engineer, William Schooley, Attorney, Ralph Burnett, Superintendent, Robert Falk, Lori Rujawitz, Amy Bailey, Steven Bailey, Bruce Wilber, Mike Scannell, Harry Briggs, Rita Barnett, Randy Brewer, Christy Simmons, Travis Simmons, Keith Brandon, Sandy Brandon and Melissa Wells

Art Asadorian indicated the committee could not conduct business due to there not being a quorum with only two committee members present. However, he did allow those in attendance to speak briefly as to why they were in attendance for the record but again mentioned that the committee could not conduct any business.

Informational

Steven Bailey went first mentioning due to the recent rain, which was over 8 inches, there was flooding. Again, the sewers over on Breckenridge overflowed out of the manholes. He requested an explanation on the rate increases and where the money is going? The rate increases have been very significant and in their area they aren't seeing any improvements or upgrades to the sewer system. They have spent out of pocket almost \$10,000.00 to protect their home from our sewer system. He further mentioned he was angry and disappointed that he doesn't notice any equipment such as a back hoe or any earth moving equipment from the sewer district.

Ralph Burnett, Superintendent explained that money spent on equipment is for our Vacuum truck, crane truck, pumps, etc. The rate increases were due to cost of electricity, mechanical problems, the purchase of generator's that provide backup power to the stations during a power outage, etc. The sewer line and pumping station is built to capacity for that area. Unfortunately, we cannot control the storm water drainage from entering our sewer system, especially during a heavy rain. He further explained money has been budgeted to help relieve that area. He also mentioned that drainage problems are not the sewer districts responsibility.

Helen Hawkins explained the sewer district is an entity within another entity such as the levee district. Due to the low lying areas throughout several districts with flooding concerns she has always voted no for developments within these bottom areas. She presented pictures to show the drainage problems in these areas.

The Superintendent also mentioned due to the heavy rains a small depression was located on the ground at Lift Station 9A, which is located at 700 Old Alton Rd. (rear). Within 2 days it was a sink hole approximately 20' in size. Although there wasn't any interference with sewer service it was so bad that the main power pole began to slide into that hole. We are looking to replace a minimum of 100 feet of sewer line.

Steven Bailey questioned why we allow Glen Carbon more capacity into our sewer system without paying for improvements? The Superintendent answered that Glen Carbon is a customer just like the rest of the customers. We ask Glen Carbon to not turn on all their pumps during a heavy rain and they always seem to accommodate. We do not have pump control over Glen Carbon all we can do is ask them to slow down their pumping.

Steven Bailey asked if a giant retention tank could be built in case of an emergency to hold excess flow until the pumping stations get back to normal. The Superintendent explained Glen Carbon was looking into that as a possibility but looking more into bypassing our area all together.

Helen Hawkins mentioned back in 1980 drainage went into Long Lake and homes were built over the top of the drainage. The ditch was rerouted but the underground flow would not have changed. It remained high with no place to go with homes continually being built in the area. Helen also mentioned the County did a drainage study years ago and were told not to build in certain areas such as the warehouses, etc. but they were built. They got their permits from the levee district and the County. She presented pictures showing flooding and indicated flooding is always going to be a problem. She suggested the residents continue to ask why it was allowed. She indicates the water table is so high and homes should not be built in the wet lands.

Harry Briggs asked if there is anything the County can do to stop these developers. In discussion not much can be done with new developments producing tax dollars, jobs, etc. for the area.

Mike Scannell of Evoqua introduced Bruce Wilber as replacing Mark McQuire. Explained the territories have been realigned and Bruce has been assigned to our area. Basically what they do is treat odor corrosion in different areas of the sewer district.

Rita Barnett of Springfield Estates indicated on Margaret there is a drainage pond and drainage ditches run into this pond. She questioned whether this pond when full would have an impact on the sewer system. Art Asadorian explained there is pressure on the sewer system along with infiltration of storm water anywhere there is water holding in a ditch or pond that is full to capacity.

She believes that drainage pond is the issue in the area of Springfield Estates. She said a homeowner bought that property for taxes and doesn't maintain it so it doesn't hold as much drainage as it should. It cannot contain the drainage properly. Would like to know what can be done to correct this drainage problem which would also help relieve pressure from the sewer lines.

The Superintendent explained when you have a system that is sitting in water and the water is 2 and 3 feet deep over manholes system can only take so much capacity. A resident questioned homeowners putting ground water into the system with drain tile systems and sump pumps. The superintendent mentioned a few years ago the district went into over 4,000 homes and inspected sump pumps. We also smoked some homes and found that their down spouts were running into the system. It also helps to report residents if you know they are illegally pumping into the sewer system.

Randy Brewer who lives at Springfield and Margaret (Springfield Estates) spoke in regards to backing up all the time. He said forget about the 7" rain, he backs up with a 1" rain. Scott Weiner, Engineer explained as far as Glen Carbon and controlling the pumps is that the pumps are automatic so when the flow hits their station the pumps turn on, same as with our pumps. There is not a time on, time off switch. It's based on flow. Everybody's stations were inundated with storm water so the pumps were flowing and pumping faster. He questioned when the new line was put in through there in 2008, was it replaced due to failure and why did it stop at Lenox? The Superintendent answered it had to be fixed and repaired. It stopped at Lenox due to the expense and the hopes that Glen Carbon would bypass our system. He further explained that when we stopped there at Lenox we had the engineering done to continue on but couldn't get an easement to go another 300 ft. That project stopped there because that is what had to be done. Randy Brewer also mentioned there have been several times they have called the emergency phone number and there has been no answer. Art Asadorian mentioned that we need to make sure that all calls are answered and taken care of properly.

Helen wrote a letter to President Obama, our governor came in and declared this flooding a disaster so things can be done at the state level. The big picture here, the federal government has to handle this problem like they did in the 1993 flood. We need federal help, we need to keep this sewer system from backing up into homes. Helen asked that we keep track of these costs to be submitted and ask for help.

Art Asadorian mentioned we need to possibly contact the levee district with our concerns and address how we can try to improve drainage within our sewer district.

Christy Simmons mentioned they built their house in 2006 and that in 2008 they backed up. They installed 2 check valves and they still back up. Anything more than an inch and they are backing up. Travis Simmons asked the sewer district to meet with Glen Carbon along with residents and whoever else needs to be present to address these problems. The sewer system is not working properly to accommodate the residents in Springfield Estates. The Superintendent indicated the sewer system is working and that he would cooperate in attending a meeting with Glen Carbon to address issues.

Keith & Sandy Brandon who live at 717 Margaret indicated they have a check valve that cannot hold pressure. Everything they try cannot withhold the pressure. They bought their house in 2010. With the sewage backups they are concerned with health factors because of family living there with health issues. Requests something be done to fix the problem with backups during rain.

Melissa Wells who also lives in Springfield Estates (735 Chouteau) has a plug in her bathroom and cannot use it. When it rains sewage shoots out of the toilet approximately 2 feet high. Has been advised by her insurance company to not use until the sewer district fixes the problem. She indicated when she bought the home that the realtor along with the homeowner did not disclose any problems with sewers backing up.

Meeting was adjourned.