

Town of Fort Branch
Storm Water Project
(Boyles Ditch & Central Drainage System)
Public Hearing // May 19, 2016 // 6:00P.M.

Carol Hagedorn: Good evening. I'm Carol Hagedorn with the Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana, and I have with me Karen Conia, also with the Coalition; and Karen is currently passing around a sign-in sheet.

Our reason for being here this evening is to conduct the second of two required public hearings for the CDBD storm water improvements program application that the Town of Fort Branch will be submitting to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs on or about June 10th. So the purpose of the public hearing is actually to ask for feedback from the community about the program, the need, the concerns, questions about so that's why we're here to share the information with you.

The community will be asking for \$500,000.00 from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs and these are actually HUD...Federal HUD funds that come down and filter through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs to communities who compete for the grant awards to execute projects. As I mentioned the sign-in sheet is going around. If everyone could sign-in and also we do have an agenda up here. Did everyone get one? Would it help for me to maybe pass those out? If everyone could take one and pass them around that way everyone can keep up.

In that pocket that's coming around right now we'll be reviewing some information so until we get to that information I want everyone to get a copy of the packet; I would ask that if you don't mind silence your cell phones. As you see I'm holding a recorder. We have to record these meeting notes verbatim. So when it comes time to receive your comments if you could do me a favor raise your hand and when I come to you with the recorder if you could state your name that way we can correctly record these so they can be submitted with the grant application to the state office. Okay. Is that coming around? It looks like several of you have them. Okay. I that packet, of course page one is your agenda; the second page...we're just going to do a brief review of the budget for this project.

The community is applying to receive, hopefully, \$500,000.00 in CDBG funding to install storm water improvements. Part of the requirement for that is there is local match and when looking at the overall budget according to this budget that you see before you which breaks it all out, there is a total of \$456,050.00 that is coming from the local contribution to this project for a total project cost of \$956,050.00. There is one change. When we presented this budget earlier this year we did mention that and actually we presented that March 16th; we had a slight difference in the break down between what was construction cost and what was the professional fee. At that time, we noted that the local obligation toward construction cost was \$179,250.00. It is now \$233,550.00, whereas the difference in that originally we had professional fees at \$218,800.00 it is now at \$164,500.00. So basically, there were some items that we realigned from professional fees into construction fees. But ultimately it did not

impact the local commitment not did it impact the total project cost. And as you can see on the bottom half of that budget sheet, the source of the local match funds is actually coming from two locations, the Gibson County Redevelopment Commission has contributed toward the project if successfully awarded \$100,000.00 and then the town has applied for and will pursue securing a loan in the amount of \$356,050.00. And the repayment of that will be coming from the Storm Water Fund which is where the current monthly storm water user fee goes. Does anyone have any questions about the budget? Okay.

Then we'll move along to the next page in the packet the Project Completion Timetable. Everything is listed there, the steps needed to execute the process for applying and actual completion of the installation that we are pursuing. Procuring engineer is completed. The income survey, actually there is an error there, that's not ongoing; we have now received the certification so the income survey is complete. The environmental review process is ongoing. We conducted the first public hearing March 16th with submitting the Letter of Intent on April 8th. The PER that you see there that is the Preliminary Engineering Report, that is also complete. And then we get down to the second public hearing which is tonight followed by actual submittal of the application on June 10th. Notice of Grant Award in July of this year. Grant award documentation documents received by the town as well as submitting permit applications and signing and returning the grant agreement are all to occur in August of this year. The grant administrator can be secure in September of this year. The environmental release should be received in October of this year. The project design and hopefully obtaining the construction permits will be complete in November of this year. The town will be able to then advertise for the construction bids in December of this year with receiving sealed bids for construction in hopefully, January, 2017. Then we would pursue release of funds hopefully, in February, 2017. The town will have release of funds and will then be able to award construction contracts in February, 2017. Then a pre-construction conference would be held hopefully in March, 2017 with start of construction to follow in April, completion of construction to occur in October of 2017, receive and disperse the final drawdown which is the final draw from the state of the balance of the grant award in November, 2017 and the submission of close-out documents in December, 2017. So as you can see these projects take quite a bit of time to implement, but hopefully by the end of December, 2017 we'll see some storm water installation complete for the areas in which they are intended. Does anyone have any questions about the Project Time Table? Well, if not I will then ask Eric Smith to come up. Eric is with H. W. C. Engineering, and he is going to give a brief overview of the actual project.

Eric Smith: Thanks, Carol. I've got some graphics here I'll try to stand so the Council and the town can see them, but we did a study about six years ago. Some of you if you lived in the town will remember that we sent out surveys to try to determine where drainage problems were in the town. To try to determine what areas flood, it asked you a lot of different questions about where standing water was, which way it flowed from your property from that we got a lot of good information that tried to tell us where the problems were and that helped drive our study to determine where storm water handling improvements needed to be made. Obviously, there was more needs identified than money available. So we had to do some prioritization so

this project is kind of aimed at doing two things; its addressing flooding in two of the higher priority areas, as well as trying to reduce the volume of storm water that gets in the town's sanitary collection system.

Even though the town has a separate sanitary and storm system meaning sanitary and storm water are not combined, the system is not leak-proof and when storm water stands in areas its gets in the sanitary sewer system and when the water can't get away it infiltrates through cracks in the pipe. All that water combines with the sanitary waste gets to the treatment plant and overloads it because it's sending more water there than it's designed to treat which makes Glenn's job harder. So the areas we've targeted are going to hopefully do two things; they are going to address flooding areas in the Central Drainage area down here along Rail Road Street, along Coal Mine Road and then also the park area which we've called the "Boils Ditch System." There's a lot of flooding that occurs around the ball fields, around the park and this infrastructure will help get that water away to the ditch which eventually drains to the north west. I have some blow ups of those two areas to give you an idea.

These are new storm sewers, the red lines, and they are inlets at each intersection and it'll collect storm water along those areas where there are currently no lines. Those storm sewer pipes are anywhere from eighteen to thirty-six inches in diameter, and in this area they will collect all of the storm water and send it underneath the rail road at this existing culvert to where it then has an existing waterway or a ditch to drain away. In the park area, as we mentioned it will drain up to Boils Ditch which flows north-west but it's going to be here on John Street, Walters and Ulen Street, and each of these in our study, there is areas where these areas could be expanded and then there's also storm sewer networks planned in other areas. You know the town has a storm water utility, that if you live in the town you're paying a user fee per month. The goal is you know this is the first area that will be attacked, but over time that money can help leverage to get additional funds to try to attack other areas in the future. So if you don't happen to live in these areas, hopefully in know in your area if there are problems can be addressed in the future. So that's kind of what the project is aimed to do and where it will be constructed. As Carol said, if all things go well we'll get a bid late this year and really construction will probably be done before fall of next year; it'll likely be done in spring or summer, but that's a conservative effort.

Carol Hagedorn: Thank you, Eric. Um...okay. At this point we are going to open the floor up to you for your comments regardless of what they maybe. And as I mentioned if you could just raise your hand so I can bring the recorder to you I would appreciate that. Does anyone have any comments regarding this project or questions even about this project that you would like to have addressed? Is anyone opposed to this project occurring? So, I can safely assume you are all in favor?

Audience: Yes.

Audience: Yes.

Audience: Yes.

Carolyn Hagedorn: Okay. I'm going to let the record show that lots of heads are nodding and the group seems to be responding in the affirmative. One of the steps we work through in applying for a grant is we do request that photos of areas that have been flooded during storm events, as well as letters of support be submitted. I would like to encourage any and all of you if you've not yet done so if you've got some photos of the area experiencing flooding issues, please submit them to town hall along with any letters of support of the project. And by letters of support that can simply be your story about maybe some of the difficulties you've had as a result of the flooding "I couldn't get to work on time because my street was flooded", or "I've had personal property damage that I've had to replace the gravel in my drive every year for the past" however many years "because of storm water washing that gravel away." So I would encourage all of you to submit those items to town hall if you can by the end of the month that would be great. So with that in mind again does anyone have any questions or comments if you would raise your hand? You sir? If you could state your name.

Ora Williams: My name is Ora "O", "R", "A" Williams and I live at the corner of Willard and John Street on the northwest corner, the first house across from the GB church. Why I'm concerned about being here is the driveway that goes into the park, that's a dangerous place to stop to get up on John Street. There are more and more bicycles, scooters, golf carts coming out that driveway and it is dangerous to be in the park to get to John Street...

Jim McDonald: Sir, sir...can I interrupt you? Sorry to interrupt you but this is a hearing about storm water.

Carol Hagedorn: Is this is a problem during storms?

Ora Williams: Yeah. I'm getting to that.

Carol Hagedorn: Okay. Okay.

Jim McDonald: All right.

Ora Williams: It's about my corner and water.

Jim McDonald: All right.

Ora Williams: And sewer.

Carol Hagedorn: Okay.

Ora Williams: That's the reason I didn't know if it was my time to speak or not.

Jim McDonald: Yeah.

Ora Williams: She did mention...

Carol Hagedorn: Yeah, storm water and you live in the neighborhood definitely.

Ora Williams: So, on John Street the south side there's a tremendous amount of water that comes down on the south side of John Street. There's also a tremendous amount of water on the north side of John Street. There's also water coming from north of Willard on the east side and most of those sewers are pretty well stopped up and like I said it is a dangerous corner and I cannot imagine a mother whose little daughter coming home after falling in that ditch with a pink dress all muddy and it could happen. There's enough water out there on the west side of the sewer you can bring a bar of soap and a towel and take a bath out there now. You could even lay down in it there's that much water that stands there. **Several months ago we had a tremendous rain. That whole area was covered and it reached up within six...seven...eight feet of my house.** But I think if there would be a couple of posts or something there at the park entrance that would help the people navigate that turn and the traffic is getting more heavier. Oh, about fifteen till I was sitting in my front room and I observed three cars who didn't stop at the stop light. I see them going through like some of those on I-90 going a hundred miles an hour so I would for you to consider making that driveway just a little bit safer because the water can out drain from the sewer west because the ground when water comes out of the sewer the ground raises so there's always water there. Another concern I have is the mosquitoes; it's a wonderful place for mosquitoes to come and do their thing and they also come back after that season is over. So, I thank you. If you didn't hear what I said I don't hear half of what I say so...

Carol Hagedorn: Thank you very much for your comments. Are there any additional comments, stories about challenges or questions about the project? Okay. Thank you very much for your comments. Again, we will have these particular public hearing transcribed. It does go in with the actual grant application. Did everyone get a chance to sign the sign-in sheet? Did we miss anyone? No we're good. Okay.

Any the intent again is to submit on or about June 10th so as of June 10th a copy of the application will be available at Town Hall for review by members of the public if you would like to see that. And at this time that is all I have so I'll turn it over to you.

Adam Bledsoe: At this point we are going to adjourn the public hearing right this second.

Respectfully Transcribed:

Carol Hagedorn
May 23, 2016