

**Valparaiso City Utilities
Board of Directors
January 22, 2008**

The Board of Directors of the Valparaiso City Utilities met at the Valparaiso Department of Water Works Board Room, 205 Billings Street, Valparaiso, Indiana on Tuesday, January 22, 2008 at 5:00 P.M.

Members present were President Brad Dolezal, Ken Luther, David Bengs, Jack Barkley and Kathy Luther. Also present were staff members: Utilities Director John Hardwick, Attorney Mike Langer, Controller Dick Freeman, Administrative Assistant Cathy Fejer, Water Reclamation Manager Steve Poulos, Water Operations Manager George Brown, Distribution Manager Chuck McIntire, Customer Service Manager Shaun Shifflett, Water Conservation Manager Jim Pingatore, Stormwater Engineer Matt Kras, Alina Thompson and Times Reporter Phil Wieland. There were three citizens present regarding the flooding in their homes. They were: Barb Carter – 304 Powderhorn Drive, Russ Barone – 3904 Hemlock Drive and Kelley M. Jones – 3702 Bloomingdale Avenue.

The minutes of the January 8, 2008 were reviewed and approved.

The Board reviewed and approved the claims submitted.

Update on Green Acres – Water Reclamation Manager Steve Poulos reported since June of 2007, the WRD has been exploring the Bloomingdale sewer watershed for inflow. Steve summarized the manhole rehabilitation that was done at Green Acres and Bloomingdale, and the cleaning and televising that has been performed since the April 2007 rain events. The Green Acres watershed faired very well during the heavy rains in August of 2007. Steve explained that the Bloomingdale sewer is a relatively small watershed yet it discharges into the same manhole with Green Acres. The VWRD has noticed that the Bloomingdale watershed experiences the same type of surcharging as does Green Acres. A flow meter was placed within the Bloomingdale sewer main to totalize daily flows. The goal was to assess the daily normal dry weather flows with wet weather days to determine the amount of inflow and infiltration. If these higher flows can be reduced within the Bloomingdale watershed then it will have a positive hydraulic benefit to the Green Acres sewers.

The Bloomingdale area was a demonstration test project. What we learned here can greatly facilitate how we proceed in the Green Acres watershed. Data was collected from September 26, 2007 through January 9, 2008. Precipitation was very low during this period and the City experienced only one heavy rain even on January 7th, 2008. The rain event showed excessive flow during the initiation of the rain event on the 7th, manhole surcharging, and a surcharge within the system for over 24 hours. Steve provided multiple graphs illustrating the inflow during this heavy rain event. The VWRD will provide a final recommendation to the board on how to proceed in this watershed.

After Steve's update Barb Carter, Kelley Jones and Russ Barone commented that they have never experienced water backup in their homes for as long as they have lived there and the longest resident is 22 years (Russ Barone). The home owners present asked if it could be caused from all the new subdivisions hooking up to the lines and it may not be handling it properly. Steve Poulos said the plan of attack is to add more flow meters in the area and monitor closely. At a near future meeting, Steve will have a recommendation to the Board to purchase new flow meters to line the areas of the city for monitoring.

Russ Barone asked about filing claims for damage to the homes. Poulos said to send in the damages and he will submit to the insurance company and see what they have to say. Barone also asked about FEMA guys knocking on the doors wanting to get into the house to investigate the water problems. Utilities Director John Hardwick said yes that is who they were and that they are looking for a way to seek Federal Funds. Hardwick said just like anyone and ask for ID.

Sanitary Sewer System and Storm System Acceptance for:

- Blum Industrial Park
- Porter County Business Center
- Masters Phase II

The Board approved the acceptance of the above developments for Sanitary Sewer System and Storm System subject to a one-year warranty against defects in workmanship and or materials.

Utilities Director Hardwick Report:

- Update on Telephone Survey – Utilities Director Hardwick copied the Chauser Consulting customer survey summary to the Board. (Copy attached) The survey will begin in 10 days. A News Release will be printed in the Times paper informing the citizens of the survey that will take place. (Copy attached)
- Customers Bills, Accounts and Locations Report – Customer Service Manager Shaun Shifflett reviewed the charts explaining the customers billing cycle, opened and closed accounts and locations and the shut-off and/or tagged customers. (Copy attached)

Meeting adjourned.

The next Board Meeting is February 12, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

Brad Dolezal, President

Kathy Luther, Secretary -Treasurer