

**TOWN OF HOLLAND
PUBLIC HEARING**

August 26, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	Chair Steve Michaels, Supervisors Ben Filter, Jeff Herlitzke, Steve Mieden, Jerome Pedretti
PLAN COMMISSION PRESENT	Bryan Nindorf, Jared Noffke, Kathy Warzynski
STAFF PRESENT	Clerk Marilyn Pedretti
PUBLIC PRESENT	Amanda Lindvig, Brad Booth, Steve Schaefer, Betsy & Steve Lindvig, Jeff Lindvig, Benjamin Gappa, Mark Kloss, Barbara & Gary Spangler, Larry Warzynski, Rick Paulson, Dawn Simcakoski, Chuck Kastello, Marcel Konter, Bill Favre, Jerome Johnson, Mike Hoffman, Ivy Noffke, Jim Magnuson
PUBLIC PRESENT VIA ZOOM	Robin Jacobs, Chad Monty, Lou Kalis, Tyler Pongratz, Jenna Sanchez, Curt Edwardson

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Michaels called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Notices were posted and published.

HEARING PROCEDURES & BACKGROUND

Michaels explained the format for the evening was to gather citizen input and any questions will be written down and answered on our web page at a later date. He introduced the engineer.

Lukasz Lyzwa, Project Manager, General Engineering Company (GEC), explained the purpose of the hearing was to seek input. He outlined information from his draft report and noted he estimated future budget needs to be around \$65,000 per year to cover maintenance, create infrastructure, and provide for future flooding issues. Lyzwa reported on three categories and tentative fee schedule: (1) \$35 per residential, developed land; (2) \$8.75 per farmland parcel and (3) \$35 non-residential, commercial parcel. He noted the Town will hold future meetings/workshops that the public is invited to attend, with the next one most likely taking place mid-September.

CITIZENS' INPUT

Bill Favre, W7949 August Avenue, did not have any specific questions but wanted to hear the discussion.

Larry Warzynski, W7728 Meadow Way, was also present to hear the discussion and understand what this is about.

Marcel Konter, W8069 Prairie Meadows Street, was also present to understand what this is about.

Chuck Kastello, W8057 Prairie Meadows Street, had no specific questions. He stated he is in a newer subdivision and they have spent money and time grading and getting their ditches where they are supposed to be and wondered if the money collected would be used to take care of areas other than his.

Jeff Lindvig, N8869 Moen Road, wanted to see how this will affect the rural parcels. He stated what goes on in the residential part of town is different than the rural.

Mark Kloss, W7917 August Avenue, stated that with a quick look at the draft report, it looks to be mainly about maintenance but was hoping the Town would look at the winter issues when impervious areas create flooding and ice.

Steve Schaefer, W6303 Folkert Road, noted in the brief time he had to look at the draft report, he was not clear on the \$8.75 ERU for agriculture land. Engineer Lyzwa explained the billing would be per parcel and that buildings would be separate. Schaefer asked about section 2.2.1 and yard management facility and asked if the money collected would stay in a pool used only for stormwater. Lyzwa stated that the stormwater utility would look at all aspects of right-of-way maintenance so brush chipping would be part of that as well as culvert maintenance, road improvements and any other infrastructure requirements and that all fees collected would be used for stormwater needs only.

Barbara Spangler, W7971 Old NA, stated she has not had time to read the draft report but stated this will impact the larger parcels with farm land and did not think this is the way to proceed. She stated the people who have drainage problems need to fix them on their own.

Gary Spangler, W7971 Old NA, asked where this started. Chair Michaels reiterated the Board was hear to listen, not answer questions. Spangler questioned the fees of residential versus farmland, asked why they have to pay when water does not leave their farm, and noted the subdivisions around them used to be farmland and should have been designed to hold their own water and that anyone building in the bottom of a bowl should have planned for flooding. He gave background from the spring flood two years ago and noted he often has to pump water but never asked the Town for help. Spangler did not understand why the Town should pay for someone who built in a low spot or who built a walk-out basement that is prone to flooding.

Benjamin Gappa, W7997 Maple Street, noted he lives on the back-end of the farm just discussed. He reported they have had water issues and they built a walk out that has had flooding issues, but they fixed the issues and did not ask the Town for help. He noted they own land near the Black River, which floods often but they knew that when purchasing the land and accept it.

Mike Hoffman, W7814 Park Avenue, stated that as a group the Town may be headed in the right direction but asked that they look at farmland and roof top run-off that is being sent directly to the ditches, rather than infiltrating throughout the lawn. He also suggested that if the Town maintains the culverts better there would be less flooding issues. Hoffman did not think it appropriate to charge farmers for cleaning out his neighborhood culverts.

Steve Lindvig, W6248 County Road V, questioned why they should pay for something that will never be utilized for his property. He also suggested the Town should have residents remove any fill they added to their ditches.

Brad Booth, N7133 Elizabeth Drive, was curious where all this came from. He asked how much study was done on people who have culverts, who is not keeping them clear, and how many culverts are in the Town. He noted his neighbors' culverts are often plugged which causes flooding of his yard. Booth did not think farmers should pay for issues in subdivisions. He later noted he owns land in the industrial park in the Village of Holmen and pays \$500 but does not know how that money is spent and he does not see any improvements to their stormwater issues.

Amanda Lindvig, N7133 Elizabeth Drive, stated she was here to listen.

Betsy Lindvig, W6248 County Road V, stated she was also here to listen.

Ivy Noffke, N7105 Bice Avenue, stated she felt it important to start maintaining the drainage ditches and fields and being proactive in those areas that flood. She gave background on the flooding to their property and noted that the drainage field in their back yard is receiving thousands of gallons of water from the neighborhood, which they could never manage. Noffke stated she understood the farmers and appreciated the boards forward thinking in trying to solve these problems.

Jerome Johnson, N7450 County Road HD, noted the Town looked at a stormwater fee 6-7 years ago and that the Village of Holmen has been taxing people for years with very little accounting for where that money goes. He asked if the Town would be transparent on how the money is spent and what is reasonable maintenance. Johnson reported there is no stormwater leaving his property as he built a drainage system 20 years ago and, that if the Town implements a fee, the ordinance should have a provision to allow for credit to pro-active property owners like himself. He is not interested in paying this tax.

ZOOM ATTENDEES:

Robin Jacobs, N8368 McWain, stated she is not interested in paying this tax. She stated the Town should be enforcing the ordinances that already exist that address drainage issues and ditching. Jacobs used an example of driveway sloping regulations that she adhered to (the requirement that water does not run into the street but rather slopes into her yard) but her neighbors did not. She also noted many residents have filled in their ditches and the Town should enforce removal.

Chad Monty, W7963 August Avenue, asked about the process. He would expect that the creation of a stormwater utility would be responsible for enforcement of existing ordinances and property owners and that the utility would be the arbiter of problems that exist. Monty asked if the utility would look at impassable roads due to flooding because of design and safety issues with impassable roads and winter roads with the freezing. He said this was a step in the right direction.

Lou Kalis, W8083 August Avenue, came to listen but hopes this moves forward. He suggested this could be used to show property owners best practices and that if more people participated it may solve our issues. Kalis said stormwater credit should be added in.

Tyler Pongratz, W7950 August Avenue, came just to listen.

No other public input given.

CLOSING

Michaels thanked those attending and noted the list of questions will be answered and posted on the Town web page. He noted this is a process that will not happen overnight and the public is invited to the next step, which will be posted to the web page.

Adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn J. Pedretti, Town Clerk