

March 25, 2004

Held _____

Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees**OPENING OF MEETING**

This special meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mr. Corman. Mr. Fiedeldey was present. Mrs. Rielage was absent.

Mr. Corman noted that Ms. Mohr, the Clerk, was absent as well. He requested that in her absence, Mr. Reuter serve as acting clerk for the sole purpose of taking the minutes of the meeting.

SPECIAL MEETING

Mr. Corman explained that this meeting was called as an informal work session in order to review the stormwater and septic effluent pooling problems affecting the residents of Susanna Drive and Springdale Road, with Township officers and with representatives of Hamilton County agencies knowledgeable about such issues. Mr. Corman requested that Mr. Chapman lead the discussion.

Mr. Chapman introduced Mr. Rob Caudill of the Hamilton County Health District; Mr. Robert Campbell of the Metropolitan Sewer District; Mr. Jeff Leddy of the Hamilton County Public Works Department; and Mr. Tim Gilday of the Hamilton County Engineer's Office.

Mr. Chapman invited the residents in attendance to describe the existing problems. Speaking from their chairs in a discussion format, the residents indicated that there were problems with pooling of water in the swale at the rear of their yards, which are in the area north of Springdale Road, east of Flattop Drive, and south of Susanna Drive. They wanted the Township and the County to solve the problem by installing a public sewer line at public expense.

Mr. Jim Winters, 3680 Springdale Road, stated that when his in-laws bought that property in the 1950's, they were unaware that there was an eight inch drainage pipe running along the westerly line of the property, which provides drainage from the neighborhood swale to a catch basin in the north line of Springdale Road. There is no recorded easement through his property for the pipe. In the past, he has paid out of his own pocket the expense of cleaning the line, but even when the pipe is clean, it is too small to carry all the water. He stated that there is a persistent odor of septic discharge. He believes the situation presents a health hazard.

Mr. Jerry Hoepker of 3711 Susanna Drive stated that the flooding problem seems to have gotten worse recently, and in heavy rains, the water in his backyard reaches a depth of 3 - 4 feet. Mrs. Georgette Hoepker, 3711 Susanna Drive, added that when the water is deep, their septic system does not work, and they must curtail activities in the house which produce waste water, such as washing clothes. Occasionally, during long, heavy rains, the Colerain Township Fire Department has assisted the residents by pumping out the accumulated water.

Mrs. Cheryl Davis, 3705 Susanna Drive, said that the soil has a high clay content, and the septic effluent and storm water ponds on the clay instead of being absorbed. Mr. Lester Clark, 3725 Susanna Drive, disagreed about the soil problem, and stated that runoff from his property is absorbed into the ground.

Mr. Rob Caudill, Hamilton County General Health District, stated that the septic systems for the properties along Susanna Drive appear to be working satisfactorily. He stated that the lots in this area are too small for all the effluent to be absorbed entirely into the soil on the owner's property. Most of the odor is coming from the septic systems for the properties along Springdale Road. Those

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

SPECIAL

Meeting

BARRETT BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS, SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

Form 6101

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owners will not be required to upgrade their systems because they will be required to connect to the sanitary sewer main when it is extended down Springdale Road in the near future.

Mr. Tim Gilday, Hamilton County Engineer's Office, stated that the existing eight inch pipe draining the swale, and running along the west line of the property at 3680 Springdale Road, is not shown on the subdivision plat, was never dedicated to the County as a public storm sewer, and is a private line draining private property. Therefore, the County and the Township have no responsibility for it, and in fact there are legal constraints against spending public money on private property. To solve the problem, the residents could either work together to hire a plumber to design, size, and install a new drainage pipe through 3680 Springdale with the permission of the owner, and maintain it as a private line. In the alternative, the neighbors could petition the County to install a public storm sewer, which would be installed to current engineering specifications for public projects. This would be considerably more expensive than the first option, and all of the costs would be assessed against the properties benefitted by the public sewer, and would appear on the property tax bills.

Mr. Jeffrey Leedy, Hamilton County Public Works, stated that if the owners decided to work together to install a new private line, a drainage pipe as large as ten inches could be installed without the need for a permit from Public Works. A permit would be needed if the pipe terminated in the right of way of Springdale Road. He also stated that the septic system effluent lines could not terminate in the storm water basin. Such lines would have to be shortened so that they would terminate on the owner's property, allowing the effluent to run over open ground.

Mr. Reuter suggested that, given the high cost of having the County design and install a public sewer to public specifications, and given the fact that the problem appears to only be getting worse, the residents consider working together to obtain a formal easement for a private sewer line from the owner of the property at 3680 Springdale Road, and to establish a private drainage easement across the back of their yards, defining the existing swale. It would be advisable for the adjoining owners to enter into a maintenance agreement to share the costs of keeping the swale in the drainage easement clear and the drainage pipe open. Such a plan would require the benefitted owners to retain a surveyor/engineer and an attorney, but it would finally put in place a solution to the problem that has persisted for so many years.

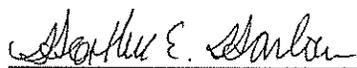
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fiedeldey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Corman seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

Mr. Fiedeldey: "Aye"

Mr. Corman: "Aye"

Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.


Clerk


President