

TOWN OF NAPLES
Monday, April 30, 2007
BOARD OF SELECTPERSONS
Emergency Meeting to discuss May 1st Meeting
Discussion Flooding and Dredging

Pat McGowan called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm. Also present were Rick Paraschak, Dana Watson, Karen Thompson and Town Manager Derik Goodine.

Mr. Paraschak said the Board of Selectpersons found out today that there was going to be a news conference to discuss with lake front property owners and business owners about the high water level and if anything government agencies could do to help people that have had damage. The local marinas would be supplying boats to take the various agency representatives around. Mr. Paraschak stated because of the short notice he will not be able to attend tomorrow's meeting, but he was hoping to get representatives from the Board to attend. Mrs. Thompson said she planned on attending. Mr. Goodine said he would also be there.

Mr. Goodine said he had previously met with local Marina owners to discuss hydraulics in the lake. He said he also received several phone calls stating the reason they believe there is flooding on Long Lake is because of the lack of dredging in the Chute River. Mr. Goodine said in his opinion the Crooked River debris backs up the Songo River and slows up the flow of Long Lake and Brandy Pond. Now the Crooked River is so clogged and the amount of water that is coming down from the north is a lot greater due to development upstream that eventually flows into the river. He said Evergreen Credit Union has experienced flooding in their basement and they believe it is due to the failing seawall on the Causeway. Colonial Mast has also experienced flooding at their campground and cannot get some of there seasonal campers into the campground.

Barbara Clark, Greater Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce was present and stated the water level is so high that the water table cannot go down quick enough and at this time of the year the businesses are trying to open, and it is extremely difficult. Mrs. Clark said Naples Main Street talked to DEP last fall and hopes things will move in a positive direction to fix these problems, one being the Causeway Bridge. Goodine stated that the problem is that the cost would be \$600,000 for dredging. Frank Gerrish and others believe it could be done for \$200,000 or so. Mr. Goodine explained when he talked to Senator Collins' and Senator Snowe's offices today they were not sure they could help because they Army Corp doesn't recommend utilizing their funds because the cost analysis doesn't line up, so he doesn't know where else to go. Mr. Goodine asked them to look at the various problems and maybe they would think of something or do a watershed study to see how this problem can be alleviated in the future; however, he has no definite answer from them, and they were very discouraging. He knows they are currently dredging Casco Bay and believed the City of Portland and Bath Iron Works provided some money for the project and thought maybe some ideas could be taken from that project. He said maybe the approach is to look at it from a recreation standpoint.

Mrs. Thompson said she received a call from a Marina owner last week stating they had contacted the Town Office and the same person contacted Barbara Clark, and they suggested holding a meeting to discuss long-term flooding and dredging. Mr. Paraschak said he received a phone call from the same Marina owner who had previously sent Mr. Goodine an email, and Mr. Goodine replied back via email to the individual basically stating the same response he is giving the Board tonight. Mr. Paraschak said he believes Mr. Goodine has been addressing this issue on an ongoing basis. Mr. Allen said personally he thinks one key person should speak, he suggested Barbara Clark, so the press hears one story and can ask specific questions. Mrs. Clark said she would Chair the meeting. Mrs. Thompson stated she would answer questions. Mr. Paraschak said he feels confident in what the Boards roles will be. John Thompson, Code Enforcement Officer said who ever is speaking may want to bring up the fact that every time there is flooding this creates wet yards and possible overflowing septics, and this is a very serious health and environmental concern for residents.

Mr. Goodine said \$30,000 in revenue comes through the locks every year to the State, but chances of getting that money for dredging is very slim as he has not seen money come from the State to the local level in a while. Mr. Tony Longley, Planning Board member, suggested hauling the sand out and selling it as a commodity. Mr. Paraschak said Mr. Goodine and Frank Gerrish had already looked into this, but DEP said you would have to put the sand in bags and take it to a landfill. Mr. Goodine said the public should know that emergency does not mean immediately, emergency dredging is still a 3-4 month process because you need to take sample along the way, and if they find minerals or phosphorus you need to dispose of the sand.

Doug Bogdan, member of public audience asked how dredging the lower part of the locks would help with flooding in Brandy Pond or Long Lake. Mr. Allen said it is the debris that causes the backup, and once it raises up to the level of the dam it causes flooding in the upper portions and will actually run backwards.

Mr. McGowan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Paraschak seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Derik Goodine
Town Manager