

# Town of Canandaigua

5440 Routes 5 & 20 West  
Canandaigua, New York 14424

## **DRAINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

*Established October 16, 2017*

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018, 11:00 A.M.**

### **MINUTES—APPROVED**

**Meeting Called by:** Charles Oyler, *Chairperson*

**Committee Members Present:** Richard Krebs  
Kathy Page

**Town Representatives:** Doug Finch, Canandaigua Town Manager  
James Fletcher, Highway Superintendent  
Greg Hotaling, MRB Group, D.P.C.  
Chris Jensen, Code Enforcement Officer  
Kaitlynn McCumiskey, Canandaigua Highway Department  
Kevin Olvany, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council  
Kevin Reynolds, Canandaigua Town Board Liaison

**1. CALL TO ORDER BY THE CHAIR**

Mr. Oyler called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2018**

The minutes of the January 9, 2018, meeting were approved as submitted. The minutes will be posted upon the Drainage Advisory Committee web page and will be filed with the Town Clerk

**3. REVIEW OF TOWN DRAINAGE DISTRICTS AND FUND BALANCES**

Mr. Finch provided the following summary of the existing Town drainage districts and 2018 fund balance projections (data as of December 6, 2017) and reviewed the locations of the drainage districts on an accompanying map:

<b>Route 332 Drainage District</b>	
Beginning balance (12/1/17)	\$170,790.12
Expense: Drainage improvements 2018	<u>( 75,000.00)</u>
Projected balance	\$ 95,790.12
<b>Lakewood Drainage District</b>	
Beginning balance (12/1/17)	\$ 26,812.31
Increase: Real property tax 2018	<u>2,053.00</u>
Projected balance	28,865.31
<b>Ashton Drainage District</b>	
Beginning balance (12/1/17)	\$ 12,594.91
Increase: Real property tax 2018	<u>2,000.00</u>
Projected balance	\$ 14,594.91
<b>Fox Ridge Drainage District</b>	
Beginning balance (12/1/17)	\$ 32,132.94
Increase: Real property tax 2018	<u>3,003.00</u>
Projected balance	\$ 35,135.94
<b>Landings Drainage District</b>	
Beginning balance (12/1/17)	\$ 9,423.87
Projected balance	\$ 9,423.87
<b>OB Drainage District</b>	
Beginning balance (12/1/17)	\$ 14,993.64
Increase: Real property tax 2018	<u>2,003.00</u>
Projected balance	\$ 16,996.64
<b>Lakeside Drainage District</b>	
Beginning balance (12/1/17)	\$ 7,990.78
Increase: Real property tax 2018	<u>1,500.00</u>
Projected balance	\$ 9,490.78
<b>Waterford Drainage District</b>	
Beginning balance (12/1/17)	\$ 10,848.12
Increase: Real property tax 2018	<u>5,000.00</u>
Projected balance	\$ 15,848.12
<b>Stablegate Drainage District</b>	
Beginning balance	\$ 18,073.73
Projected balance	\$ 18,073.73

Mr. Finch: Said that most of the existing drainage districts were created at the time of construction of the housing developments in which many of them are located. The district

boundaries do not necessarily follow watershed boundaries. Several of the districts (such as the Route 332 Drainage District) are considerably larger than others.

Mr. Fletcher: The cost to the Town to maintain an existing stormwater retention pond is approximately \$20,000. He said that the cost of labor and equipment use and/or rental is charged back to the individual drainage district in which the work is done.

Mr. Finch: Explained that approximately \$75,000 will be expended for improvements in the Route 332 Drainage District this year to deal with drainage issues along State Route 332 and the stormwater flow into the nearby Blue Heron Park.

Mr. Finch: Discussed the funding of each drainage district, which is based on units (i.e., an undeveloped lot = 1 unit; a developed lot = 3 units). The cost per unit is based upon the number of parcels and the amount of funds to be raised in each district. Mr. Fletcher noted that the drainage district property tax is based upon a benefit basis. Mr. Fletcher also explained that storm sewer work is included when drainage improvements are made within a district.

Mr. Oyler: Asked about the decisions to create new districts. Mr. Finch said that generally the districts were created at the time of approval and construction of the subdivisions. He said that new drainage districts have not been created in the Town in approximately the last 10 years.

Mr. Olvany: Said that the developers and/or homeowners' associations of new subdivisions and developments are now responsible for the maintenance of their stormwater retention facilities and on-site drainage systems. Mr. Jensen said that developers must now submit stormwater maintenance agreements in which the developers accept the responsibility and costs for the maintenance of the drainage facilities on their properties.

Mr. Oyler: Asked about the challenge of administering the individual districts. Mr. Finch explained that there are approximately 30 individual districts within the Town (water districts, lighting districts, drainage districts, and a fire protection district, in addition to the Town's General Fund and Highway Fund. He said that expenses and projected revenues are listed separately for these districts in the Town budget.

Mr. Oyler: Asked about the availability of grant funds for drainage projects. Mr. Hotaling said that there are few drainage project grants. He said that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers some grants for flood and green infrastructure projects and that Community Block Grants are generally for low- to moderate-income areas. He said that the use of the overall Town census data would not provide the necessary documentation for approval for a Community Block Grant. He said that application for Community Block Grant Funds would be for localized individual projects where the income of the properties within a specific could be calculated and would be within the grant income limits.

Mr. Olvany: Said that grant applications for projects such as water quality improvements or flood resiliency are more apt to be approved. He said that drainage work often could be included in these types of applications.

Mr. Olvany: Asked about Town-funded maintenance of existing drainage ponds when no stormwater maintenance agreement has been provided by a property owner. Mr. Finch explained that stormwater maintenance agreements have been required since approximately 2015 but that the Town is unable to enter upon private property to maintain existing drainage ponds or make drainage improvements.

#### **4. UPDATE ON REPORTED DRAINAGE PROBLEMS AND MAPPING**

Mr. Oyler: Asked Mr. Finch about the Town's charge to the Drainage Advisory Committee. Mr. Finch suggested that the committee select a project from among the nearly 40 drainage-issue locations which have been reported and identify a solution to begin the process.

Mr. Hotaling: Suggested that the committee prioritize the identified drainage issues and solutions as follows:

- Issues which could be resolved by private property owners with advice from the committee and/or the Town staff.
- Issues which could be resolved by the Town at a low cost.
- Issues which could be resolved with funds currently available in a specific drainage district.
- Issues which could be resolved by the extension of existing drainage districts or the creation of new districts.
- Issues which could be resolved by Ontario County or by joint County/Town cooperation.

Mr. Oyler: Explained that the majority of the identified and reported drainage issues are somewhat localized along County Road 16 on the west side of the lake and along State Route 364 and adjacent properties along the east side of lake in the vicinity of Finger Lakes Community College (*see* attached updated map prepared and distributed by Mr. Jensen at the meeting).

Mr. Oyler: Noted that drainage work along County Road 16, which is a County road, would require in some cases the approval and cooperation of the Ontario County Department of Public Works. He said that he has extended an invitation to William Wright of Ontario County to attend a future committee meeting.

Mr. Fletcher: Said that Ontario County is planning to repave a portion of County Road 16 from Wyffels Road to Route 21 this summer. Mr. Oyler said the drainage concerns which have been identified by the residents and the committee should certainly be reported to the County and taken into the County's consideration prior to the repaving of the road.

Mr. Jensen: Explained that the correction of a number of drainage issues face a hurdle if they are located on private property. Mr. Hotaling suggested that perhaps the committee could meet with property owners to advise them on what needs to be done and determine if the property owners would be willing to fund the projects on their own properties. Mr. Jensen said that property owners often indicate that the drainage problems are caused by stormwater runoff down the steep slopes above their properties and that it should be the Town's responsibility to correct the problems.

Ms. Page: Noted that some residents along County Road 16 have asked what the Town can do to correct their drainage problems. Mr. Jensen said that the creation of a drainage district in that area could be considered. He noted, though, that some property owners along County Road 16 have no drainage issues and do not wish to pay an additional tax. He said that it is his experience in speaking with some property owners that they do not wish to pay higher taxes when they do not have this problem. He also said that most property owners would be willing to allow the Town to have access to their properties for drainage work as long as this work is at the Town's expense, and not their expense.

Mr. Finch: Discussed the possibility of adding an additional line item to the Town's General Fund specifically for drainage improvement work.

## **5. NEXT STEPS**

Mr. Oyler: Suggested that the Committee begin to consider recommendations for presentation to the Town Board for drainage improvement projects and associated costs and funding. He also noted his previous suggestion for holding a public information system in the spring with interested residents.

Mr. Olvany: Said that the Ontario County Department of Public Works would be a key player in any drainage improvement work on County Road 16. He said that the flow of stormwater across (under) the road and into the lake would be the County's responsibility. Mr. Olvany also noted that the County now seems to prefer the installation of concrete culverts rather than metal or plastic pipes. Mr. Jensen said that concrete culverts often require a larger area for installation and may not be supported by residents who own prime real estate along the lakeshore.

Mr. Finch: Explained that funding the drainage improvement projects would be easier by including drainage work as an additional budget line in the General Fund.

Mr. Hotaling: Said that the Town of Pittsford eliminated all of their individual drainage districts and now fund drainage work through a line item in the General Fund budget. He



**E-mail distribution:**

Krebs, Richard  
Oyler, Charles  
Page, Kathy

**cc. to:**

Amon, Michelle  
Bloom, Tina  
Brabant, Lance  
Chrisman, Jean  
Cooper, Eric  
Davis, Gary  
Dworaczyk, Lindda  
Fennelly, Terry  
Finch, Doug  
Fletcher, Jim  
Hotaling, Greg  
Jensen, Chris  
Marthaller, Joyce  
McCumiskey, Kaitlynn  
Olvany, Kevin  
Reynolds, Kevin  
Reynolds, Sarah  
Schwartz, Tom  
Westbrook, Greg