

YORKVILLE STORM WATER UTILITY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
October 18, 2023

Chairman Steve Nelson called the meeting of the YSWUC to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Nelson, Sherry Gruhn, Tom Lauber, Clinton Funk, John Vyvyan, Mike McKinney, and Attorney Tim Pruitt.

Minutes from our September 27, 2022, meeting were approved on a motion from Clint Funk, seconded by Sherry Gruhn and carried.

Chairman Nelson reviewed the Racine County Drainage Commission assessment. The assessment that has been determined for the West Branch in Yorkville amounts to approximately \$1.3 Million. This is to be paid to the RC Drainage Commission. One-fifth of the assessment to be paid annually for the next 5 years, with the first payment due in December 2024. Those Yorkville residents that find themselves in the drainage district have received notices from the RCDC indicating their share of this assessment. When the Drainage District was first formed around 1910, the district only included landowners who had land bordering the West branch of the Root River in Union Grove, Raymond, and Yorkville. The District boundaries have not changed since then and when the Yorkville Stormwater Utility was formed in 2010 it was determined that since all Yorkville landowners benefit from the East and West Branches that reside in Yorkville, any and all maintenance fees for Yorkville's portion would be paid via a Stormwater assessment by the all Yorkville landowners. We continue to do maintenance work on the East Branch annually.

The new RCDC assessment is to be shared with Union Grove, Yorkville and Raymond with Union Grove and Yorkville's share at 40% each and Raymond paying 20%. Union Grove has said they will not pay their share and now find themselves in a legal battle. It is hoped that this situation will be determined by the end of the year. Either way, Yorkville is facing their share of the assessment and will be deciding on how this will be accomplished.

Since there was no money paid out in 2023 to the RCDC, there is money in our budget to help us with the first installment of this new assessment. We will need to borrow additional funds to make the entire one-fifth payment in 2024. We will be faced with determining how we will be able to pay back this loan. An increase in the current Stormwater fee is likely to take place in 2024. Once we determine our total payback of the next 5 years, we will determine what the fee would be. This would more than likely be a 10-year fee. As we get more numbers, we will try to come with a number that would be fair to all landowners. We will draw monies from the loan as needed to save interest fees. Interest fees presented are approximately 6.25 to 6.5% as of this date.

Tom Lauber presented a draft of our 2024 budget. Spraying of the East Branch was not completed and what did get done has not been invoiced yet. It is very hard to find someone to do this job, and John Vyvyan continues to try to find someone. So, no maintenance costs for 2023 were entered in the budget and we added \$10,000 to 2024 for this purpose. The draft budget was then revised adding in the first installment of the RCBDC assessment (\$279,000) and additional engineering costs.

Discussion continued with asking our Attorney to revise our ordinance to include Racine County Board of Drainage Commission to make the ordinance reflect this and future assessments by the RCBDC. We find that this next year to be challenging. This new payment we are faced with will be necessary but not easily understood by many Yorkville residents. We need to do our best to help the residents learn how our Stormwater Utility works, so we can proceed with these plans without panic and misunderstandings.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 2 at 6:00 p.m. Motion by John Vyvyan, seconded by Tom Lauber to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Gruhn, Secretary