

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the February 7, 2017, Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. The other members in attendance were Barbara Ghoston and Ralph Simek. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. Staff members present were Executive Director Matt Lake, Attorney James Meyer, Financial Advisor Karl Cender and secretary Liz Bushemi. Other individuals present were Councilwoman Chrissy Barron, Town Manager Bruce Spires, Jake Dammarell from Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering, Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune* and Dolores Flaska.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the January 17, 2017 SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the minutes from the SWMB meeting held January 17, 2017, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting of January 17, 2017, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet was a copy of the accounts payable register from January 24, 2017. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the accounts payable register from January 24, 2017, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the accounts payable register from January 24, 2017, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Matt Lake met with Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering about the Sunset Road project and conveyances in back yards. Mr. Wiedeman said they are surveying options and said since there are some obstacles like fences and garages in the easement areas, they may hold a pre-bid meeting so contractors would know what is required to be done. Underground work will identify encroachments, and they may need temporary easements; they are working on final design.

Matt also met with Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering about the Southmoor Park project, and they will be putting the project out for bid soon, with a bid opening tentatively to be placed on the SWMB April agenda.

Regarding the Meadowdale project at 57th Avenue and Tyler and Grant Streets, Matt said he has a meeting scheduled for Monday with Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) officials to discuss a prior coastal zone grant to see if a portion of the area could be mitigated elsewhere. He said a part of the park department area for the trail and butterfly gardens that received the grant is where the stormwater detention pond is proposed, and they are getting the permitting started for the project.

Matt said he also met with Ron Wiedeman about the 54th & Adams Street project, which is a smaller project that will take place soon. Tree clearing has been initiated, and Matt is coordinating with Bruce Spires to have this done prior to the street paving at that area.

Regarding the Independence Street project, Matt met with Ron Wiedeman and Sean Kelly from Robinson Engineering. Matt showed the members a map of the "Independence Bowl". He said the project will be done with a primary focus of a new conveyance moving water to Taft Street. Bond money probably will be used for the project, but an income survey may be done in order to qualify for Community Development Block Grant funding. He believes all of Independence Street will be paved this year, and the project will be coordinated with the paving.

NEW BUSINESS

Included in the members' packets was a copy of the Aquatic Weed Control contract for services for 2017 for Bon Aire Lake. Matt said the monthly fees for the chemical applications for the control of algae in the lake went up \$21 per month, from \$1,050.00 to \$1,071.00 per month. Ralph Simek asked about the cost of the sonar treatments to the lake, and Matt said sonar treatments have not yet been used. He said the past year, there was a lot of duckweed due to all the rain, but he's been in contact with Jim Donahoe at Aquatic Weed Control since he relies on them to make the determinations of what application is used. Matt also said the fountains are getting older, and they are serviced when necessary; Aquatic Weed Control also takes care of the annual installation and removal of the fountains. Matt said the fountains provide some aeration but are more for aesthetics on the lake. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the 2017 Contract for Services by Aquatic Weed Control for chemical applications to Bon Aire Lake in the annual amount of \$6,300.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There was no further discussion, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Members were also provided with a copy of the Butler, Fairman & Seufert Proposal A-2 for Location 5 at State Highway 55 (Cleveland Street) and Location 6 at Taft Place for the Bon Aire Lake Outlet. Jake Dammarell from Butler Fairman said at Cleveland Street, there will be a 24" culvert replacement, and the Bon Aire Lake culvert will be lowered in order to increase storage and gain capacity for future rain events. The contract is for an amount not to exceed \$51,000.00 for design engineering services for both locations. Attorney Jim Meyer asked if this is being done before there is any property damage, and Matt said he continually gets phone calls about properties listed in a flood zone; he said flood insurance rates have increased about 18% each year based on the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the Butler Fairman Proposal A-2 for Location 5 at State Highway 55 and Location 6 at Taft Place for the Bon Aire Lake Outlet, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. Mr. Crist said road cuts need to be determined first, and Town Manager Bruce Spires said he will look at them. Mr. Dammarell said among other things, the proposal is for construction observation of the project. There was no further discussion, and the motion to approve the Butler Fairman & Seufert Proposal A-2 was unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Members had at their places a copy of the Robinson Engineering Proposal A-8 for providing engineering services at Connecticut Street and 69th Place in an amount not to exceed \$4,100.00 to determine if the existing lift station (sump pump) can be eliminated. Matt showed members a map of the area and said this would be a quick retrofit to investigate if the lift station could be removed and storm sewers installed instead. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the Robinson Engineering Proposal A-8 for services at Connecticut Street and 69th Place in an amount not to exceed \$4,100.00, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There was no further discussion, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Bud Crist said he met with Matt and Karl Cender about budget matters, and members had at their places a copy of a February 7, 2017 memo from Cender & Company about additional appropriations for stormwater for 2017. Mr. Cender said it is not necessary to have the \$1,060,302 balance on hand in Fund 626, and said \$200,000 would cover monthly expenses; he said if a \$800,000 additional appropriation was made into contractual services for stormwater projects to be done in 2017, that would leave \$260,302 remaining in the budget for other expenses. Regarding Fund 627, they are recommending that the \$111,491 balance be placed in the Independence Street line item 627010454 for the Independence Street project, which would zero out the \$3.5 million bond money from 2012. They are also recommending that the \$900,000 additional that will be collected in 2017 from the increase in stormwater fees be appropriated in Fund 627 for the nine (9) watershed area projects listed in the Stormwater Master Plan, with the top priority being the Meadowdale project. One-half of the additional \$900,000 will be received in June and the remaining one-half will be received in December from stormwater fees paid with property tax payments. Regarding the Stormwater Grants Fund 628, Karl said \$43,846 was appropriated for the 2017 budget, and there is a \$52,486 fund balance; it is recommended that an \$8,640 additional appropriation be made into contractual services. Karl said these four additional appropriations should be recommended to the Town Council. Attorney Jim Meyer said the Fund 627 budget will have to be amended after the \$900,000 is received from stormwater fee money since those funds have not been received yet; he suggested that he and Karl meet to prepare a resolution to accomplish these financial matters. Town Manager Bruce Spires asked where the funds will go, and Karl said a separate line item on a separate Fund 627 budget. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$800,000 in Fund 626 to be placed in the contractual services line item 626010394 and to approve the additional appropriation of \$8,640 from Fund 628 into Fund 626 line item 626010394 contractual services, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the motion, which unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote. The fund 627 items were deferred until the additional stormwater fee money is received.

Matt said he will be attending the LTAP Stormwater Drainage Conference on February 9th at Purdue University in West Lafayette; he said a Smart TV display promoting the MS4 Annual Meeting will be set up. He said a lunch and learn sponsored by Prinsco, Inc. will be held at the Stormwater Resource Center on February 16th; engineers and contractors have been invited to see some of their corrugated, high-density HDPE drainage pipe products. Matt will also be attending LTAP's Road School March 7-9 at Purdue University in West Lafayette. The MS4 Annual Meeting will be held in Indianapolis on May 16th, and he encouraged members to attend. He also met with Lake County Surveyor Bill Emerson about the Community Rating System to try to improve Merrillville's scores for the program, with the hopes that when rates are increased, the lower scoring will help. He is trying to partner with other communities as well.

With today's rain event, Matt said he and Joe Fish went out to check the "hot spots". He was contacted about a problem on 55th & Broadway, and although they called the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) since Broadway is a state road, he and Joe removed the debris that was causing the blockage. He said the Merrillville Intermediate School (MIS) trash rack had debris, and they contacted the Lake County Surveyor since this is a regulated drain. The jet vac will be sent out tomorrow for a flooding problem at 56th & Grant Street.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Ralph Simek said there are good sessions at the Indiana MS4 Annual meeting, and he would like to attend again. Matt said an attorney from Cumberland, Indiana, is doing *pro bono* work in order for the group to be a not-for-profit. Matt anticipates 400 people to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next SWMB meeting was previously scheduled for Tuesday, March 7th, but since there is a conflict for Matt who is attending the LTAP Road School, he suggests that the meeting be reset to Tuesday, March 14, 2017. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to amend the schedule of meetings to hold the next Stormwater Management Board meeting on March 14, 2017, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There was no further discussion, and the motion to hold the next SWMB meeting on March 14, 2017, unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary