

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017**

Vice President Ralph Simek called the April 4, 2017, Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. The other member in attendance was Barbara Ghoston; president L.J. "Bud" Crist was out of town and unable to attend. 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 Town Councilwoman Chrissy Barron, Dolly Flaska, Roland Black, Darren Olson from Christopher Burke Engineering, Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering, Tim Jones from Hickory Ridge Apartments and Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune*.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

None.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the March 14, 2017 SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held on March 14, 2017, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and both members voted to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting of March 14, 2017, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet was a copy of the accounts payable register from March 28, 2017. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the accounts payable register from March 28, 2017, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and both members voted to approve the accounts payable register from March 28, 2017, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Ralph Simek stated that Ordinance 17-03 passed on second reading at the Town Council meeting on March 28, 2017. Matt said this was for the transfer of \$800,000 intr contractual services for stormwater projects to be done this year.

Matt Lake gave an update on various pending stormwater projects. The Southmoor Park project had to be re-advertised, and the bid opening will take place at the May 2, 2017 SWMB meeting. For the Independence Street project, Matt said that a grant of easement was signed by Mr. and Mrs. Denton, and it will require the board's signature. Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering said they are finalizing a hydraulic report, which should be received next week. Mr. Simek asked if it would drain to Taft Street, and Matt said yes, and no additional right-of-way is needed. Regarding the 69th & Connecticut matter, Mr. Wiedeman said he would meet with Matt following the SWMB meeting. Matt said Butler Fairman & Seufert would be providing a report soon on the State Highway 55 and Bon Aire Lake outlet matters.

Members had at their places copies of three (3) bids/proposals for the 54th & Adams to Madison Street project, and Matt said the lowest bid was from Delta III, Inc. for \$69,522.50. Resident Roland Black was present and addressed the board saying he has been dealing with the flooding for the last five to six years; he said every time there is a storm, his street floods. He said residents know not to park their cars in the street, there are kids in the neighborhood, and some people want to sue. He said he told his wife that he wants to move because of the constant

flooding. Mr. Black said the sewers on the north side have collapsed, his sump pump runs all the time, and water is shooting up from the storm sewer drains. Matt recommended that the board declare this an emergency situation. Attorney Jim Meyer said if declared an emergency, rules for solicitation of bids, legal notices and bid opening do not apply. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to declare the 54th Place from Adams to Madison Street project an emergency, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A voice vote was taken, and both members voted to declare the 54th Place from Adams to Madison Street project an emergency, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote. Matt recommended that the Board approve the Delta III bid since it was the lowest bid of five (5) solicited in the amount of \$69,522.50. Grimmer Construction's bid amount was \$88,899.90, and Gatlin Plumbing & Heating's bid amount was \$92,000.00. Mrs. Ghoston made a motion to contract with Delta III for the 54th Place project in the amount of \$69,522.50, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion to contract with Delta III for the 54th Place project in the amount of \$69,522.50 was unanimously approved with a 2/0 vote. Mr. Meyer also recommended that the Board allow Matt permission to move forward with signing all contract documents. Mr. Simek made a motion to allow Matt Lake to move forward to sign all 54th Place contract documents, and it was seconded by Mrs. Ghoston. A voice vote was taken, and the motion to allow Matt Lake to move forward with signing all contract documents was unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote. Ron Wiedeman said Walsh & Kelly is coordinating to do road repaving there, and he will advise them that the Board declared this job as an emergency; he said there will be all new stormwater infrastructure, roads and driveway aprons at this location once the project is completed.

Darren Olson from Christopher Burke Engineering was present to give an update on the Meadowdale project at 57th Avenue and Grant Street. Matt gave Board members a packet and explained that this is the highest ranking watershed project in the Stormwater Master Plan. He said in 2008, the Merrillville Intermediate School (MIS) was severely hit, 493 structures were impacted, and 49 roads were impacted by flooding in the area. There are two (2) phases to this project: First, the school has granted an easement at 57th and Grant for a 42-acre foot of storage basin to be developed. An elevation of land and various other steps will take place, and they'll determine cost estimates for the project, with the hopes of getting some grant money to help with the project. Second, they are also looking at the intersection of 56th & Grant near Hickory Ridge Lake Apts.; Matt met with representatives of the apartments, and they are agreeable to providing an easement for their property. A topographic survey and utility coordination will be done soon. Tim Jones from Hickory Ridge Apts. was present and said they have been battling with flooding issues since the 2008 flood. Matt said projects like this are why the stormwater fee was increased, and they will also attempt to obtain grant money for this project.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt said there are some smaller stormwater projects that the Public Works drainage crew cannot do; some quotes were received for a sinkhole and a washout near the bike path at 89th Court and also new drainage at 72nd & Fillmore Court. Three quotes will be requested.

Matt said the town's rain barrel program is underway, with a May 9th pick up at the Stormwater Resource Center. The cost is \$54 by mail, \$56.50 by credit card. Orders must be made through UpCycle Products, who sells the repurposed food barrels to various municipalities. The stormwater office has promoted the program, and brochures are available at most town offices.

Matt submitted an article on wetlands and stormwater benefits for the town spring newsletter; he encouraged anyone seeing wetlands impacted to contact the Stormwater office. He attended the Lake County Contractors' Workshop at the new Lake County Soil & Water/Purdue Extension office, where erosion control and Rule 5 matters were discussed. He also attended the Construction Advancement Foundation erosion control workshop, where he was asked to make an impromptu presentation on best management practices (BMPs) for contractors and developers present. He attended a South Shore Clean Cities workshop, where they discussed a \$39 million grant to Indiana on the Volkswagen settlement; funds will be distributed through NIRPC.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Simek asked if the town still has the plastic caps for benches program, and Liz said it's an ongoing program, with drop off at the Parks Department's Pruzin Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roland Black suggested that the mulch chippings from the trees that were removed on 54th Place between Adams and Madison Street be cleared so they don't go into the storm sewer drains.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Simek said the next SWMB meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2017, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

Barbara Ghoston made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary