

**MINUTES OF THE  
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the May 2, 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. Others present were Town Councilwoman Chrissy Barron, Town Manager Bruce Spires, Keith Kegeben from Dyer Construction, Steve Drabick from Gough, Inc., Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering, Eric Rex from Rex Construction and Dolly Flaska.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

President Bud Crist said he visited the 54<sup>th</sup> Place project last week, and it was going very well.

**MINUTES**

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the April 4, 2017 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held April 4, 2017, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting of April 4, 2017, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL**

Also included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from April 11, 2017, and April 25, 2017. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from April 11, 2017, and April 25, 2017. Mr. Simek asked about the charges for the ditch cleanup at Merrillville Road, and Matt said a culvert is being replaced near the new Hunter’s Glen subdivision, and trees and woody debris were removed. Mr. Simek then seconded the motion. There were no further questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the accounts payable registers from April 11, 2017, and April 25, 2017, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Crist asked to close the acceptance of bids on the Southmoor Park Project. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to close the acceptance of bids on the Southmoor Park Project, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A roll call vote was taken, and all members voted to close the acceptance of bids on the Southmoor Park Project, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Attorney James Meyer opened the bids in the order that they were received:

- (1) Rex Construction Company, Inc., Schererville, IN - \$258,008.00;
- (2) LGS Plumbing, Inc., Crown Point, IN - \$217,240.00;
- (3) Ryan Construction Company, Merrillville, IN - \$281,670.00;
- (4) DeBoer Egolf Corporation, Portage, IN - \$207,983.00;
- (5) Grimmer Construction, Inc., Highland, IN - \$246,116.20;
- (6) Gough, Inc., Merrillville, IN - \$220,377.50; and
- (7) Dyer Construction Company, Inc., Dyer, IN - \$157,458.67.

Mr. Meyer recommended that the board take the bids under advisement for a recommendation by staff and the project engineer. Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering said the engineer's estimate was \$195,353.00. Mr. Crist said at the recommendation of Matt Lake and the project engineer, the board will vote on and approve the lowest most responsive bidder at the June meeting.

Matt said the 54<sup>th</sup> Place project has been completed by Delta III, and Walsh & Kelly is milling the road for repaving. Members had some pictures in their packets. He said there were about three and a half inches of rain the other day, and there was no ponding or flooding. Robinson Engineering will check final as-builts in order for Delta III to receive payment.

He said under new business, the Independence Street project has a proposal by Robinson Engineering for engineering design services; Ron said their study of the project is complete, and now they will be working on designing the project and obtaining quotes. Matt said Christopher Burke Engineering is working on preliminary engineering on the Meadowdale project. A "pre-bid" meeting was held on the Sunset Road project because of the obstructions there; Ron Wiedeman said additional construction easements may be needed from residents in order to do the project. For the 69<sup>th</sup> & Connecticut Street project, Mr. Wiedeman said a topo survey was done and Matt would like to eliminate the lift station there, so they are doing a feasibility study to eliminate the lift station. Matt also said that Butler Fairman & Seufert is working on the engineering for the Highway 55 and Bon Aire Lake outlet projects.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Included in the members' packets were copies of three (3) proposals for a repair washout at 89<sup>th</sup> Court and the walking trail:

- (1) Delta III, Inc. in the amount of \$11,000.00;
- (2) H&G Underground Utilities, LLC in the amount of \$14,200.00; and
- (3) Tonn and Blank Construction in the amount of \$29,999.99.

Ralph Simek made a motion to award the repair washout at 89<sup>th</sup> Court and the walking trail to Delta III, Inc. in the amount of \$11,000.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston; there were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to award the repair washout at 89<sup>th</sup> Court and the walking trail to Delta III, Inc. in the amount of \$11,000.00, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Also included in the members' packets were copies of three (3) proposals for a repair sinkhole at 89<sup>th</sup> Court and the walking trail:

- (1) Delta III, Inc. in the amount of \$15,000.00;
- (2) H&G Underground Utilities, LLC in the amount of \$18,500.00; and
- (3) Tonn and Blank Construction in the amount of \$23,399.23.

Ralph Simek made a motion to award the repair sinkhole at 89<sup>th</sup> Court and the walking trail to Delta III, Inc. in the amount of \$15,000.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston; there were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to award the repair sinkhole at 89<sup>th</sup> Court and the walking trail to Delta III, Inc. in the amount of \$15,000.00, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Also included in the members' packets were copies of three (3) proposals for a drainage project at 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Fillmore Court:

- (1) Tonn and Blank Construction in the amount of \$25,900.00;
- (2) Delta III, Inc. in the amount of \$26,450.00; and
- (3) H&G Underground Utilities, LLC in the amount of \$29,520.00.

Ralph Simek made a motion to award the drainage project at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Fillmore Court to Tonn and Blank Construction in the amount of \$25,900.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston; there were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to award the drainage project at 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Fillmore Court to Tonn and Blank Construction in the amount of \$25,900.00, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Additionally included in the members' packets was a copy of Robinson Engineering's proposal A-10 for design engineering services for the Independence Street project in an amount not to exceed \$33,611.00. Matt said part of this project may be done in the summer and part in the fall, and he is seeking community development block grant funding for the project. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the Robinson Engineering contract in an amount not to exceed \$33,611.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston; there were no questions. A roll call vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the Robinson Engineering proposal A-10 for design services for the Independence Street project, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said the Town of Merrillville has been taking care of Bon Aire Lake for at least 17 years, and he is now looking at other ways for aeration of the lake. Although he doesn't know when the four fountains were installed, Matt said they have been repaired a lot recently. Town Manager Bruce Spires said a NIPSCO grant was available to pay 50% years ago, and two fountains were provided and two were purchased by the town for an additional \$25,000.00; he said NIPSCO provided at least \$5,000.00. Matt said since the fountains continually need repair, Aquatic Weed Control is looking at alternatives and will make a presentation at the next SWMB meeting.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Matt said Stormwater Utility was awarded an Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) 319 grant for up to \$20,000.00 for a project at 58<sup>th</sup> and Jackson Street near SS. Peter & Paul Church. He said there was an issue with storm sewers being disconnected from Gary Sanitary District lines, and the grant monies will help pay for the project. He will obtain quotes for the next SWMB meeting.

Matt said South Shore Clean Cities is loaning him an electric Nissan Leaf vehicle for two weeks. "Sparky", as he labeled the vehicle, is being tried out now and being charged at charging station at Merrillville Town Hall.

He also said he met with Karl Cender and Karl's staff, and town-owned parcels have been combined, from 106 parcels to about 56 parcels. He said Merrillville Stormwater Utility is paying the stormwater fee for all town-owned parcels. He said they are also planning to make corrections to town parcel identifications, where some are identified Town of Merrillville, City of Merrillville, etc., and cleaning up the county data to be consistent. Mrs. Ghoston asked how soon after a county tax sale the stormwater fee is removed, and Matt said it is never removed.

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Matt said every year, all parcels in the town are submitted to the Lake County Auditor, and he's been working with Karl and his staff to streamline the process.

Mrs. Ghoston asked about the alternatives to the Bon Aire Lake fountains, and Matt said they are looking at an underground aeration system, where the system would remain in the lake and don't require removal or much maintenance. He said aeration systems are becoming the more common approach for ponds, and they also deter algae and duckweed.

Matt passed around an article with a picture from the Northwest Indiana Earth Day celebration rain barrel design contest and said that Andean High School won second place and Merrillville High School won third place in the middle/intermediate/high school level of competition.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Crist said the next SWMB meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

Matt also announced that everyone had at their places a copy of an article in today's *Times* about board president Bud Crist's retirement from his family business, C&C Iron, and congratulated Bud on his years there and for his work in the community. He invited everyone to stay for cake and light refreshments following the meeting.

Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Bushemi  
Staff Secretary