

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2016**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the July 5, 2016 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 Ralph Simek and Barbara Ghoston. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. Staff present was Executive Director Matt Lake, Attorney James Meyer and secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were Councilwoman Chrissy Barron, Town Manager Bruce Spires, Jake Dammarell from Butler, Fairman & Seufert and Dolly Flaska.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Crist asked for a moment of silence in respect for Merrillville Planning and Building Administrator Dorinda Gregor, who passed away on July 1. Mrs. Gregor served as one of the original Stormwater Management Board members and served for many years. Her wake/funeral service will be July 7th, and flowers are being sent from the Board and staff.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the June 7, 2016 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 7, 2016 SWMB meeting, 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 June 7, 2016 meeting, 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 registers from June 14, 2016 and June 28, 2016. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from June 14, 2016 and June 28, 2016, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the accounts payable registers from June 14, 2016 and June 28, 2016, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Matt said the Ross Meadow Farms project is complete, and they are just waiting for the grass to come in from the hydro seeding. The residents are satisfied and waiting for rain.

Regarding the Sunset Road matter, Matt said Robinson Engineering is working with surveyors at the location, where they have uncovered structures buried 50 years ago; he said it’s been a real “fact-finding” mission. He said St. Joan of Arc Church has been very helpful in allowing the engineers and surveyors on their property. Matt is working with Robinson Engineering to see what is most feasible. He said there could be some stormwater storage on old Plymouth Road, and he thinks there is enough storage at the church property and elsewhere without going into residents’ back yards. He is hopeful that a solution will be found by next year.

Matt said the Stormwater map atlases are to be delivered this week by Robinson Engineering; hard copies will be available to other utilities, and a PDF may be included on the Stormwater webpage of the town’s website.

Matt said a pre-construction meeting will be held with Rex Construction on the 7100 block of Virginia Street drainage project, and he will issue a notice to proceed. He is coordinating with Robinson Engineering to have this included on the town's pave list.

NEW BUSINESS

Members had received a copy of the Stormwater budgets for 2017 for Stormwater Funds 626 and 627. Bud said that he, Matt, Karl and Liz worked on them a few weeks ago. Mr. Spires asked if \$100,000 is included in the budget for Public Works employees who do seasonal drainage work, and Bud said yes. Matt said there is no contract for 2016, and four \$25,000 payments were made last year. Matt said the Public Works Foreman Rich Niles has been very good to work with, and Mr. Niles has kept the public works employees busy with the seasonal drainage jobs. Mr. Spires wanted to make sure it is included in the budget for next year. As to the 2017 budget, Mr. Christ said the total Fund 626 budget is \$1,150,800; since the staff has been in the Stormwater building for two and a half years now, they are attempting to estimate past usage of NIPSCO and other utilities and other operating expenses. Mrs. Ghoston asked about the other \$27,000 in line item 626010396 for seasonal maintenance, and Matt said it is for contractors like Outdoor Tree Service who does ditch cleaning, tree removal and other seasonal jobs like that. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the 2017 Stormwater budget for Fund 626 in the amount of \$1,150,800, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the 2017 Stormwater budget for Fund 626, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Regarding Fund 627, members had received a copy of the proposed Stormwater budget for 2017 listing only watershed projects included in the Master Plan, which would be paid with funds from the proposed fee increase. Since no amounts were listed, Attorney Jim Meyer said no vote can be taken. If the stormwater fee increase passes, Mr. Spires said the budget can be prepared with amounts listed, and the town would need it by October.

Matt said the public hearing on the proposed fee increase will be held at the next Stormwater Management Board meeting, and then it would be heard at two Town Council meetings on first and second reading.

Members had received a copy of the Gough, Inc. pay request #3 in the amount of \$4,261.61, for Gough's further work on the Ross Meadow Farms project, which was recommended by Christopher Buke Engineering to pay. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve Gough, Inc.'s pay request #3 in the amount of \$4,261.61, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A roll call vote was taken, and all members voted to approve Gough, Inc.'s pay request #3 in the amount of \$4,261.61, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Also included in the members' packets was a proposal from Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. for on-call engineering services requested by the Stormwater Executive Director or the Stormwater Management Board only not to exceed \$10,000.00. Matt said this is similar to the Robinson Engineering on-call contract that was previously approved by the SWMB. Attorney Jim Meyer said Indiana law allows a maximum exposure of \$5,000,000 liability per incident and recommended that the Butler contract for insurance limits be changed since it shows \$3,000,000 aggregate amounts. Jake Dammarell from Butler, Fairman & Seufert said he does not see a problem with the amount being increased; Mr. Meyer recommended that the Board approve the contract contingent on Butler, Fairman & Seufert increasing their aggregate amounts of insurance to be \$5,000,000. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the proposal with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. for on-call engineering services not to exceed \$10,000, with the condition that the aggregate amounts of insurance liability be increased to \$5,000,000, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the proposal of Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. for on-call engineering services not to exceed \$10,000, with the condition that the aggregate amounts of insurance be increased to \$5,000,000, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote. Mrs. Ghoston asked Butler's timeframe to comply with changing the insurance terms of the contract, and Mr. Meyer said there will be no contract if the amounts are not changed. Mr. Dammarell said it would be taken care of immediately.

OTHER BUSINESS.

Matt said later this week, a culvert will be replaced on 58th and Vermont Street using the Prinsco recyclable pipes; he said he contacted Lake County Solid Waste Management District about being involved, and Chas Riley from *The Times* may do a story. Matt also said he will meet with Jim Donahoe from Aquatic Weed Control on Friday regarding the severe algae problem at Bon Aire Lake; he wants to make sure the right regiment is used because bad chemicals cannot be put in the water pursuant to environmental rules. Matt passed around some pictures of the algae problem at the lake. He also said Taney Ditch will be mowed, snagged and cleaned from 73rd Avenue to U.S. 30.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 2, 2016, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center. He said a public hearing on the proposed stormwater fee increase will be held, and he will notify Councilman Hardaway.

Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi, Staff Secretary