

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2017**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the July 5, 2017, Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. The other members in attendance were Barbara Ghoston and Ralph Simek, who arrived at 4:49 pm. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. Staff members present were Executive Director Matt Lake, Attorney James Meyer and secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were Town Manager Bruce Spires and Munster resident Reed Watkins.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Bud Crist complimented Matt Lake on the *Business Review Magazine* article that featured Matt and the Town of Merrillville, saying it was quite an article and an honor for Matt. Matt said it is a nationwide magazine promoting economic development. Bud also said that he and Matt met with Fr. Jon Plavcan at SS. Peter & Paul Parish to discuss the project at 58th & Jackson Street adjoining the church property, and he also attended the pre-construction meeting for the Southmoor Park project, which Matt said will begin very soon.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the June 6, 2017 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held June 6, 2017, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from June 13 and June 27, 2017. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from June 13 and June 27, 2017, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Bud Crist said Merrillville Stormwater Utility participated in the July 4th parade with three vehicles – the ATV driven by him, the pickup truck driven by Matt and the camera truck driven by Public Works member Darryl Batey. Liz Bushemi was a judge at the reviewing stand.

Regarding the Bon Aire Lake issue, Mr. Crist said there was a fish kill, and Stormwater had to pay \$600.00 to remove the fish and decay. Matt said the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) came out for an investigation and will submit a report of their findings. Matt said at last month’s meeting, Jim Donahoe from Aquatic Weed Control made a presentation about aeration, the fountains and chemical applications at Bon Aire Lake, and he said it was best for the board to make a decision on the fountains. Bud Crist made a motion to remove the fountains at Bon Aire Lake at the end of this year’s season unless they are required to be removed earlier because they are non-functioning, and to have further discussion about an aeration system, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A roll call vote was taken, and both members present at that time voted to remove the fountains at Bon Aire Lake at the end of this year’s season unless they are required to be removed earlier because they are non-functioning, and to have further discussion about an aeration system, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Regarding the Southmoor Park project, Matt said a pre-construction meeting was held last week, and Dyer Construction Company is ready to proceed. The project will be completed as soon as possible.

Regarding the 58th and Jackson Street project near SS. Peter & Paul Church, Matt said three requests for bids were sought, and of the two bids received, the lowest bidder was Delta III, Inc., for \$18,300.00. Members received a copy of a memo from Bud Crist to give Matt approval to award the bid/proposal to Delta III, Inc. because an emergency exists. Matt said this project will separate stormwater from Gary Sanitary District surcharges, and said that every rain event is a potential illicit discharge, where sanitary discharge goes into the wetland near the Pruzin Center. Matt said a NIPRC grant would be received to pay one-half (1/2) of the project. Matt said a NIRPC grant will pay for one-half of the project. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the Delta III, Inc. proposal for \$18,300.00 for the 58th and Jackson Street project, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Crist said the stormwater assessment was received from the May installment of real estate taxes in the amount of \$1,114,725.77, and that \$486,912.22 (from the increase in the stormwater fee) was put in Stormwater Fund 627 (the construction fund) for the Meadowdale storage basin project at 57th Avenue and Grant Street as part of the Stormwater Master Plan implementation.

Also included in the members' packets were copies of the Funds 626, 627 and 628 budgets for 2018. Bud said he met with Matt and Karl Cender to prepare these budgets. He said Fund 626 hasn't changed much, with \$1,146,840.00 as a total budget estimate. He said the funds in the 627 construction fund budget were prioritized by watersheds; and Fund 628, the grant fund, has not changed at all. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the 2018 budgets for Stormwater Funds 626, 627 and 628, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Matt discussed the emergency situation at the dry detention basin near 2917 West 84th Court, where the Stormwater backhoe got stuck, and Delta III, Inc. was called to pull the backhoe out, and they ended up doing the emergency spillway repair job; members had received a copy of Delta's invoice in the amount of \$4,300.00. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve Delta III, Inc., invoice in the amount of \$4,300.00, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

There was also an emergency situation on 93rd Avenue between Grand Boulevard and Randolph Street, where a sinkhole caused a large opening in the road and the culvert needed replacement. Members were provided with pictures of the old metal culvert and the new Polymer coated pipe that was installed. This job was done in order to avoid a road closure and done by Delta III, Inc. for the cost of \$13,500.00. Bud Crist made a motion to approve the Delta III, Inc. invoice in the amount of \$13,500.00 for the emergency culvert repair on 93rd Avenue, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Also included in the members' packets was a copy of an invoice from South County Landscaping in the sum of \$3,225.00 for ditch grading and seeding on the north side of 75th Court, where road resurfacing had taken place and culverts were replaced by Public Works. This grading and seeded was done professionally since these are front yards of residents. Bud Crist made a motion to approve the South County Landscaping invoice in the amount of \$3,225.00, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Included in the members' packets was a copy of a proposal from environmental consultant Cardno, Inc. for herbicide applications of invasive species at the 54th Court Rain Garden; a Cardno representative went to the rain garden with Matt and suggested two applications this year, which price includes labor and materials for licensed applicators, for a total fixed price of \$2,246.00 for two applications. Matt said cattails and phragmites have appeared, and Cardno staff is professional experts at species control. Mr. Simek asked about residents helping with maintenance of the rain garden, and Matt said volunteers from the Environmental Resources Committee planted the rain garden, and it is not the residents' responsibility since it's a town rain garden, and since it's municipally owned, we have to take care of it. There is a possibility that the Lake County Sheriff's Workforce program members can help. Mrs. Ghoston asked if the herbicides will kill the desirable plants, and Matt said no, and that there would be two glove-applied treatments this year and one treatment each year thereafter. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the Cardno Professional Services Agreement for \$2,246.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no further questions, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said the town has entered into a three-year street sweeping contract with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) for the town to sweep state-owned streets like Broadway, Taft Street, etc. for the sum of \$6,840.00 per year. Matt said the revenue that is generated from the contract can be used to pay for the brooms for the street sweeper and maintenance of the sweeper since Stormwater pays for street sweeper brooms. He said the contract used to be with Public Works in the past, but it was not renewed again until this year. Matt said INDOT will be invoiced by Stormwater for the work next July after the work has been done. Town Manager Bruce Spires signed the contract on behalf of the town. Attorney Jim Meyer asked about where the money would go, and Matt said a separate line item will be included for the brooms. Mr. Meyer said the funds will have to go into the Stormwater revenue fund. Mr. Spires said in the past, the funds went into the Motor Vehicle Fund; after agreement with Mr. Spires, Matt said the clerk-treasurer will be directed to put the contract funds into Stormwater revenue funds and designated for street sweeper brooms and maintenance. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to designate the INDOT contract funds for use for street sweeper brooms and maintenance, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There were no further questions, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt discussed a Geographic Information Systems, Inc. proposal for a town online GIS system, where Stormwater and possibly the fire department and other town departments, Merrillville Conservancy District and Independence Hill Conservancy District would partner and cost-share to have all town shade files online for people to view. The Lake County GIS system cannot be for just Merrillville. He thinks such a system may cost about \$4,000.00 per entity. He will invite Geographic Information Systems, Inc. and other potential partners to the next meeting to discuss

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it further. Mrs. Ghoston asked what is available now on the county GIS, and Matt said information from the entire county, and he can have them query Merrillville data.

Matt will attend the Indiana Water Environmental Assn. (IWEA) conference in Indianapolis on August 22, 2017, where he will speak on post-construction maintenance and inspections. He said a portion of the IWEA conference is stormwater-related.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Crist welcomed Reed Watkins to the meeting; he is a student from Munster writing a paper on a policy-making from a public meeting. Reed asked how motions are made, and Matt said based on Roberts Rules of Order. Attorney Meyer told Reed that a majority of members have to vote to approve any motion, and Mrs. Ghoston said the motion depends on what is listed on the agenda. Reed asked the difference between a roll call vote and a voice vote, and Mr. Meyer said there is no legal difference but that sometimes, you want a vote recorded individually.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next SWMB meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 1, 2017, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary