

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2016
AT THE MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER RESOURCE CENTER**

With proper legal notice having been published on July 22, 2016 in the *Post-Tribune* and *The Times*, and Open Door notice having been given on July 29, 2016, President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the August 2, 2016 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. The other member in attendance was Ralph Simek. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. Staff present was Executive Director Matt Lake, Attorney James Meyer, Damon Tsouklis from Cender & Company and secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were Town Manager Bruce Spires, Darren Olson from Christopher Burke Engineering, Dolly Flaska, Ron McColly and Ted Kennedy.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the July 5, 2016 SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 5, 2016 SWMB meeting, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and both members voted to approve the minutes from the July 5, 2016 meeting, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet was a copy of the accounts payable registers from July 12, 2016 and July 26, 2016. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from July 12, 2016 and July 26, 2016, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. Mr. Simek asked about repairs to the camera truck, and Matt said the pole cam and transmitter had to be sent in. A voice vote was taken, and both members voted to approve the accounts payable registers from July 12, 2016 and July 26, 2016, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Matt said the 71st and Virginia Street project was essentially complete with only a few minor touchups to be done, and it outlets into Skinner Pond. He said Rex Construction did a good job on the project and said their Pay Request #1 is included in the agenda packet, which payment is recommended by Robinson Engineering. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve Rex Construction’s Pay Request #1 in the amount of \$28,125.00, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There were no questions. A roll call vote was taken, and both members voted to approve Rex Construction’s Pay Request #1 in the amount of \$28,125.00, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Also included in the members’ packets was an Amended Agreement with Stormwater Utility and Public Works for work to be done by Public Works employees during the season for \$100,000.00; it was approved by the Town Council on July 26, 2016. Matt said the only difference is that it was amended to be in full force and effect for this year and every year thereafter unless one party chooses not to renew it. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the Amended Agreement with Stormwater Utility and Public Works, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and both members voted to approve the Amended Agreement with Stormwater Utility and Public Works, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Matt said a culvert was replaced on 58th and Vermont Street using the Prinsco recyclable materials, and he hopes to partner with Lake County Solid Waste Management District on future projects. Matt has seen the recyclable pipes being used at other local projects.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Crist said legal notice was published in both the *Post-Tribune* and *The Times* for Stormwater Resolution 16-01 and today's public hearing. Resolution 16-01 is a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Department of Stormwater Management of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, recommending approval by the Merrillville Town Council of an ordinance adjusting the Merrillville stormwater fee. He opened the meeting for public comment. Ron McColly said he is one of two partners at Innsbrook Country Club, and prior to the Taft Street project being completed, they would get nervous at any rain event because of prior severe flooding at the golf course and premises. He said for the past three years since the Taft Street project was done, they have had no problem. He complimented the board and Matt Lake on the work Stormwater Utility is doing and said he realizes all projects cost money. Brookwood Subdivision resident Ted Kennedy said their subdivision has had no flooding for quite a while now, and he is happy with the work Stormwater has done. There were no remonstrators from the public. Matt said Damon Tsouklis from Cender & Company was present if anyone had questions; Cender & Company had prepared its stormwater user fee report, and members were given a copy. Matt said the additional funds received from the increase in the stormwater fee would be put in a separate fund, where it would be used to focus on implementation of the Stormwater Master Plan in order to get more projects done. Darren Olson from Christopher Burke Engineering, who prepared the updated Stormwater Master Plan in 2014, said the need for an updated master plan was seen during the 2008 flooding, when nine (9) inches of rain fell in the town within 48 hours. He said the north part of town flooded by the Merrillville Intermediate School and the south side in the Broadfield subdivision. He said the Town of Merrillville, the Lake County Surveyor and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) all looked at the affected areas. Mr. Olson said just last month, in Maryland, six (6) inches of rain fell in three (3) hours, and heavy rain events are getting more frequent. He said the updated Stormwater Master Plan, originally done in 1987, lays out capital improvement projects determining stormwater quality, a study for grant applications, development of project goals and study areas. The public was invited to provide input for the Master Plan. It focuses on nine (9) subwatersheds, where each subwatershed was analyzed and a prioritization matrix or ranking was prepared, with the Meadowdale watershed ranked as number one. There are approximately 30 projects included in the Master Plan, with an estimated price tag of \$25.1 million to \$35.1 million. If implemented, 341 structures would be protected, and up to 457 acre feet of water of storage would be created. Implementation of projects from the Master Plan is the goal, and the Master Plan lays out the way to do it.

Matt said since flood insurance rates have been increased, implementation of the Master Plan would pull some people out of the 100-year flood zone. After the SWMB meeting, Matt and Bud are meeting with representatives of Merrillville Schools to seek an easement on school property for the first project. Mr. Simek asked if the increase would be earmarked for Master Plan implementation, and Matt said the fee increase would only be used for projects in the Master Plan, and that additional funding like a possible grant from the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission would be sought.

Mr. Crist announced that public comment on Stormwater Resolution 16-01 was closed. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve Stormwater Resolution 16-01, a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Department of Stormwater Management of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, recommending approval by the Merrillville Town Council of an ordinance adjusting the Merrillville stormwater fee, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There was no further discussion. A roll call vote was taken, and both members voted to approve Stormwater Resolution 16-01, and the motion to approve Stormwater Resolution 16-01 unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Matt said the resolution will now proceed to the Town Council for its Ordinance. Town Manager Bruce Spires said he is not sure if the town would place the ordinance on the next Town Council meeting agenda on August 9, 2016, but he will let Matt know.

OTHER BUSINESS.

Mr. Simek asked if Matt received the Stormwater mapping atlas, and Matt said yes and gave him a copy showing all stormwater infrastructure in the town. Matt will share copies with Indiana American Water, all three sanitary sewer companies, the Fire Department, the Public Works Department, and a copy will be in all Stormwater vehicles. The next step will be to include a copy on the town website.

FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 6, 2016, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi, Staff Secretary