

**MINUTES OF THE  
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the December 6, 2016 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:35 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. Other individuals present were Councilwoman Chrissy Barron, Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering and Dolores Flaska.

**MINUTES**

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the November 1, 2016 SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the minutes from the SWMB meeting of October 4, 2016, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting of November 1, 2016, 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 November 9, 2016 and November 22, 2016. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from November 9, 2016 and November 22, 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 November 9, 2016 and November 22, 2016, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Crist asked Karl Cender about 2016 transfers needed for the 2016 budget, and Karl said a meeting will be held and a memo prepared for the transfers.

Matt Lake said Robinson Engineering is finalizing plans for the north side of the Southmoor Park project. Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering said it should be ready for bid in January. Matt said the south side also has a drainage issue, and they will look at that as a separate issue.

Matt said there was an emergency on Sunset Road in the Forest Hills subdivision, and Matt showed members pictures of the flooding. He said Robinson Engineering will look at the areas to the south with drainage diverting to the ditch. Three quotes were received for emergency work to be done with 24” HDPE pipes to be done on the south side and given to members at the meeting: Tonn & Blank for \$31,800.00, H&G Underground Utilities for \$27,018.00 and Delta III, Inc. for \$24,025.00. Mr. Crist recommended that the Delta quote be accepted. Mr. Wiedeman asked about catch basin set back, and Matt said they will address that. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the Delta III, Inc. quote in the amount of \$24,025.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There was no further discussion or questions. A roll call vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the Delta III, Inc. quote in the amount of \$24,025.00, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said Merrillville hosted the November Northwest Indiana Stormwater Advisory Group (NISWAG) meeting, where federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state Department of Nature Resources (DNR) gave presentations. Matt said it was a good interaction, and both agencies are interested in what Merrillville is doing for low impact development (LID).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Members had received a copy of Rex Construction's Pay Request #2 in the amount of \$3,125.00 for final work done on the 71<sup>st</sup> and Virginia Street project. There were minor word changes to the Robinson Engineering's recommendation letter indicating the project was completed, and Rex Construction submitted a letter verifying the work done was for seed and erosion blankets, and an Amended Pay Request #2 in the amount of \$3,125.00 was presented to members at the meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the Rex Construction Amended Pay Request #2 in the amount of \$3,125.00, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There were no questions. A roll call vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the Amended Rex Construction Pay Request #2 in the amount of \$3,125.00, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Members had received a copy of Robinson Engineering's proposal regarding the 54<sup>th</sup> Place design and construction for work to be done between Adams and Madison Streets, request for and gathering of quotes in an amount not to exceed \$5,720.00. Matt said this work will be done in tandem with the town's paving in the spring. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the Robinson Engineering proposal for 54<sup>th</sup> Place between Adams and Madison Streets in an amount not to exceed \$5,720.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the Robinson Engineering proposal for 54<sup>th</sup> Place between Adams and Madison Streets in an amount not to exceed \$5,720.00, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Members had received a copy of the tentative 2017 Stormwater Management Board schedule of meetings. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the tentative schedule, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the tentative 2017 Stormwater Management Board schedule of meetings, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said Stormwater received an \$8,639.58 grant from the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) for trees planted at the Stormwater Resource Center as a windbreak between the building and the American Legion Hall and bald cypress trees at the 54<sup>th</sup> Court rain garden. He publicly thanked the LCRBDC for the money grant to plant the trees. Attorney Jim Meyer said the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) has a program for trees, but he's not sure if it includes emerald ash borer (EAB) removal; he said the town has stated it is the homeowner responsibility if an EAB-infected tree falls. Matt said a triage injection worked in 2014 at the Methodist Hospital area through a DNR grant.

Matt spoke on November 30<sup>th</sup> at the DuPage County, Illinois, Stormwater Management workshop about low impact development (LID); there were about 200 attendees. Matt said several people have called to request information on Merrillville's program.

Added to the agenda were proposals from three companies for a drainage swale and piping job in the 7400 Lincoln Mill Road area. Delta III, Inc. submitted a quote for \$10,650.00, H&G Underground Utilities quote was for \$12,150.00 and Tonn and Blank submitted a quote for \$19,900.00. Matt said Robinson Engineering did a study on the area and found only a few catch basins. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the Delta III, Inc. quote in the amount of \$10,650.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There was no further discussion or

questions. A roll call vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the lowest quote of Delta III, Inc. in the amount of \$10,650.00, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Karl Cender said he looked at the tax rate changes for 2017, and Lake County has accepted the changes and is ready to do billing for stormwater fees in the spring.

Mrs. Ghoston brought up an issue that someone approached her about on the 5400 block of Delaware Street, where the resident heard grumbling of water, vibration and a bad odor. Matt suggested that the resident contact the Gary Sanitary District because of the odor and said he will look into it further once she provides the exact address.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Crist said The Stormwater Resource Center and all non-emergency departments will be closed on Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26, 2016 for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day holidays and also on Friday, December 30, 2016 and Monday, January 2, 2017, for the New Year's Eve and New Year's Day holidays. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 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 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Bushemi, Staff Secretary