

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2013**

President Bud Crist called the January 2, 2013 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. Members in attendance were Barbara Ghoston and Dorinda Gregor. Staff present was Executive Director Matt Lake, Compliance Officer Joe Fish, Attorney James Meyer, Karl Cender from Cender & Company and Secretary Liz Bushemi. Councilwoman Chrissy Barron, the Town Council liaison to Stormwater Utility, was also in attendance. Chas Riley from *The Times* and citizen Janiel Washington were also present.

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the December 4, 2012 monthly SWMB meeting. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2012 meeting, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston; there were no questions or corrections, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

Also included in the agenda packet were the current appropriation reports and accounts payable registers. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from December 11, 2012 and December 26, 2012, and it was seconded by Dorinda Gregor; there were no questions, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried. Mr. Crist also stated that included in the agenda packets were the current appropriation reports. Mr. Crist said due to shortfalls in some categories of the 2012 budget, he and Karl Cender will meet to discuss moving funds in the accounts in order to take care of the shortfalls. Karl Cender said the State Board of Accounts would not question these transfers since the funding is there, but said the Clerk-Treasurer requires transfers in writing. Bud also said that he assumes that Stormwater received a check from the Lake County Treasurer for the fall 2012 installment of real estate taxes for residents' stormwater fees since the balance in Fund #626 is \$916,415.03; staff will check with the Clerk-Treasurer tomorrow to inquire about the payment from the treasurer. He said Fund #627 has a \$1,322,991.74 balance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Crist said they expect the 54th Avenue bid for the Meadowdale sewer project to be bid in February.

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding the new stormwater resource center, Bud said that due to the holidays and vacation schedules, no meetings were held in December, but they are planning a meeting with Skillman Corporation next week.

Regarding the Taft Street project, Matt Lake said we are still waiting to hear from the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) regarding reimbursement for the state portion of the Taft Street project.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt met with Carrie Tauscher from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for a final inspection of trees planted to replace the infected emerald ash borer (EAB) trees. IDNR will be sending Stormwater Utility a check for the grant money applied for to reimburse us for trees planted and some intern pay. She complimented Matt on the paperwork that he submitted in connection with the grant request for reimbursement.

Matt said he re-applied for Tree City USA status, and Tree City USA has received all the information they need. He said Tree City USA status from the Arbor Day Foundation helps us with grants, such as the 54th Court rain garden and the rain garden that will be planted at the new stormwater resource center.

He says he talked with Julie at Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and will be setting up a meeting with them to discuss partnering with them to visit schools and addressing other water quality issues.

Matt met with representatives from NozzTeq regarding nozzles for the sewer jet vac truck. A demonstration was held at the public works building. These types of nozzles help save on fuel and also the wear and tear on the vehicle. He said Merrillville Conservancy District is using them, and we will be looking at them as well.

Bud said the office purchased a defibrillator and oxygen for use at the new building, and now we are in compliance with OSHA.

Last year, the SWMB approved the purchase of a new dump truck, and we received our first of two invoices for the contract payment of \$8,266.33. Bud said he and Karl will meet to determine a new line item for the contract payments owed to Kansas State Bank, along with a new line item for rent for the Stormwater Utility office.

Bud said a tort claim was filed by Gary Dunlap asserting a claim for damaged crop due to the creation of the retention pond on East 73rd Avenue for the Taft Street Drainage Improvement Project, and it has been turned over to Pampalone Insurance Company. Attorney Jim Meyer said that the town and insurance company have 90 days to verify if the claim is appropriate.

Bud said that in the new year, the Stormwater Utility office will be working on a sewer replacement project on 54th Avenue in Meadowdale. For the Taft Street project, he said they are working with NIPSCO regarding their lines on Taft Street, and when the project resumes in the spring, traffic will then have to be stopped because of sewer work there. Bud said the Stormwater Management Board began in September, 2004, and look how far we've come!

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next Stormwater Management Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 5, 2013, at 4:30 pm at the Town Hall.

Dorinda Gregor made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi
Secretary