

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2015**

President Leonard White called the January 6, 2015 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:32 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, financial advisor Karl Cender and Secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were Dolores Flaska, Darren Olson from Christopher Burke Engineering (CBBEL), Chas Riley from *The Times* and Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune*.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Leonard White said it will be a full year with projects that the board will address.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the December 2, 2014 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2014 SWMB meeting, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2014 SWMB meeting, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from December 9, 2014 and December 23, 2014. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from December 9, 2014 and December 23, 2014, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A roll call vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the accounts payable registers from December 9, 2014 and December 23, 2014, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. White asked the status of the town's CAPS Program, and Matt said he understands that the contest part of the program through Lake County Solid Waste has concluded but said the Stormwater office, which is the drop-off site for this year's program, is still accepting plastic caps and lids. Mr. White asked how much has been collected, and Liz said 911 pounds have been weighed to date, which is more than what is enough for two benches. Matt said the response has been very good from the community, with many organizations saving caps, and that caps not used for this year's program will be saved for next year. The caps will be collected through Earth Day, May 1, 2015.

Matt attended a Green Streets Workshop sponsored by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) on December 11, where Merrillville was referenced several times because of its green streets projects. He said the City of Valparaiso has contacted him about following the Merrillville's program for low impact development (LID) standards, like the Family Dollar building. He hopes other communities will get on board with green streets projects.

Regarding the Taft Street project, Matt said he had a meeting scheduled with Paul Vogel regarding the final work to be done at Calumet Park Cemetery, but Mr. Vogel had a death in the family, and the meeting had to be postponed.

The Tree City USA application for re-certification has been sent, and they have received it. This will be the 5th year that Merrillville will be certified as a Tree City USA.

Matt was selected to speak at the LTAP Purdue University Road School, where he will address trees and stormwater management. This is an annual conference attended by thousands of engineers and city and town public works and stormwater personnel.

NEW BUSINESS

Leonard complimented Matt and said he is doing a good job as a leader, and people follow leaders. He applauded Matt and the staff for the job they are doing.

Matt said included in the members' packets was the 2015 Contract with Aquatic Weed Control for treatment at Bon Aire Lake, which Merrillville owns, and maintenance of the fountains. It is an annual contract with no increase in prices for treatment applications, which Stormwater Utility took over from Public Works in 2011. Attorney Jim Meyer said maintenance of the fountains is not included in the contract, and the contract does not require a bid. A brief discussion was held. Matt said Aquatic Weed Control tests the water to see if the optional sonar treatments are needed. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the contact for treatment applications at Bon Aire Lake with the condition that Aquatic Weed Control amend the language to add that labor for installation and removal of the fountains and repairs is not included, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A roll call vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the 2015 Aquatic Weed Control contract with the added language that labor for installation and removal of the fountains and repairs is not included, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Also included in the members' packets was a copy of Pay Request #11 from Dyer Construction on the Taft Street project. Darren Olson from CBBEL said this is for restoration along Taft Place and retainage held. Leonard asked how many more pay requests will be made, and Matt thought two or three more. Mr. Olson said the pay request is for \$44,454.68, and there is \$14,250 remaining on retainage for completed work; there has been almost \$1.7 million of work completed to date on the \$2.1 million contract and approximately \$300,000 remaining on the balance. The work is expected to be completed in the spring, after further discussions with Calumet Park Cemetery. Barbara Ghoston asked for information from CBBEL on the total amount of the contract, amount paid to date, amount of retainage paid and amount remaining unpaid and on any future pay requests; Mr. Olson said he would provide that information tomorrow to the staff. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve Pay Request #11 to Dyer Construction for \$44,454.68, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted yes, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said 13,010 billable Merrillville parcels were submitted to the Lake County Auditor for stormwater fees for 2015. Leonard asked if all those parcels pay stormwater fees, and Matt estimated that 85-90% of fees are paid, and said Stormwater receives a portion of late fees if tax payments are paid delinquent. Financial advisor Karl Cender said the annual collections have been consistent. Matt said \$521,964.99 was received from Lake County for the November installment. Matt said every year he checks to make sure all parcels are included, and then he submits it to Lake County.

Matt said Stormwater Utility received the Landscape and Architectural Excellence In Design Award from the Crossroads Regional Chamber of Commerce for the 54th Court project in December. The front wall of the office displays various recognitions received.

Members were provided with a revised copy of the Ross Meadow Farms proposal for survey and engineering work from CBBEL based on the email recommendations of Attorney Jim Meyer. Darren Olson from CBBEL went to the affected area near the 6900 block of East 86th Court last month and said the first step is to analyze what is currently there, perform a survey to locate easements and grades and perform hydraulics; they will provide a technical analysis and determine a cost estimate to alleviate the problems and present it to Matt. Matt wants the affected residents involved to see the problem and discuss options and costs. Leonard asked if Stormwater is fixing the residents' problems due to the manipulation to the adjacent property; Jim Meyer said the statute of limitations expired; if that resident blocked the stream, he can be instructed to remove the blockage. Barbara asked if Stormwater is fixing his problem also, and Matt said they will be fixing what is located in the easement. Matt said there have been 40 years of problems, and Stormwater as a young utility is addressing old issues as they are determined; he said with all the data and a solid set of plans, this will be done right to correct the problem. Darren Olson said because of snow on the ground, he expects the results to be completed within two months. Barbara asked if the CBBEL contract would be changed if something unanticipated is revealed, and Mr. Olson said if there are any changes, they will be sent to Matt. Leonard White made a motion to approve the contract with Christopher Burke Engineering for a topographic survey and drainage analysis for Ross Meadow Farms for \$16,400.00, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A roll call vote was taken, and all three members voted yes, and the motion to approve the contract was approved by a 3/0 vote.

Matt said he continues to work with Karl Cender and Jim Meyer on the 53rd Avenue lift station. He will meet with Karl to discuss revenue needed to pay for the lift station and has plans to meet with Robinson Engineering regarding financing and Metropolitan Pumps. He said more revenue will be needed to complete this and other projects.

OTHER BUSINESS

Leonard asked Karl Cender if he had any comments, and Karl said he is working with Matt on financing for the 53rd Court lift station. Leonard asked Jim Meyer if he had any comments, and Jim said if they decide not to proceed on a bond anticipation note, a lease purchase may be possible for the lift station and a possible bond for other projects. Matt said he wants the lift station built soon and wants to make the best decision financially.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. White said the Stormwater office and non-emergency town offices will be closed on Monday, January 19th, for the Martin Luther King Holiday; the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. at the Stormwater Resource Center.

Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary