

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015**

President Leonard White called the February 3, 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, Compliance Officer Joe Fish, Attorney James Meyer, financial advisor Karl Cender and secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were Councilman Richard Hardaway, Town Manager Bruce Spires, Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering, Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune* and Chas Riley from *The Times*.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Leonard White said everyone in the town has been working hard, especially Public Works employees.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ralph Simek nominated Leonard White as president; Barbara Ghoston nominated herself as president, and Leonard White nominated himself as president. Nominations were closed. A roll call vote was taken; Ralph Simek and Leonard White voted for Leonard White, and Barbara Ghoston voted for herself. Leonard White was approved as president of the SWMB by a 2/1 vote.

Leonard White nominated Ralph Simek as vice president. There were no other nominations; nominations were closed. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted yes. Ralph Simek was approved as vice president of the SWMB by a 3/0 vote.

Ralph Simek nominated Barbara Ghoston as secretary. There were no other nominations; nominations were closed. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted yes. Barbara Ghoston was approved as secretary of the SWMB by a 3/0 vote.

Mr. White said this is his second year as president of the Stormwater Management Board. He said there were a lot of things done last year and he hopes to continue this year. He said that since he is no longer at the Lake County Solid Waste compost site, this will be his primary, in a sense.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the January 6, 2015 SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2015 SWMB meeting, and it was seconded by Leonard White. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2015 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 January 13, 2015 and January 27, 2015. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from January 13, 2015 and January 27, 2015, and it was seconded by Leonard White. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the accounts payable registers from January 13, 2015 and January 27, 2015, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Matt said Christopher Burke Engineering (CBBEL) conducted the topographic survey to locate site elevations at Ross Meadow Farms; he posted a map on the wall to show members the spot elevations. The drainage analysis will be done as soon as weather permits, and CBBEL will advise of options. The residents have been notified. He said they will have to figure out the best options that are available. Ralph Simek asked if other residents are affected, and Matt thinks six homeowners are affected.

Included in the members' packets was a copy of the proposal from Robinson Engineering regarding the 53rd Court lift station. Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering said they will be looking at gravity or expansion of the existing lift station, and come back to the board with a preliminary cost and suggestions on which way to go, for a cost not to exceed \$12,500.00. He said if there is anything subsequent that develops, he will notify Matt and submit a new proposal. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the Professional Services Contract with Robinson Engineering for preliminary engineering work to be done at the 53rd Court lift station at a cost not to exceed \$12,500.00, and it was seconded by Leonard White. A roll call vote was taken, and all three members voted yes, and the contract with Robinson Engineering was approved by a 3/0 vote.

Matt said he submitted the application for the Indiana CLEAN Communities Challenge to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to establish five environmental goals. He publicly thanked Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District, the Crossroads Chamber of Commerce and the Merrillville Noon Kiwanis for their letters of support for the application.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt said there is groundwater pooling south of U.S. 30 and west of Marshall Street near Trinity Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church. A 1997 survey shows a possible natural spring in that exact location. Matt said the camera truck will video storm infrastructure since no utilities have underground infrastructure there. All the utility companies have conducted locates and are trying to validate the potential source, although it is barely seeping at this time. Stormwater was called now because of ice dams forming in the drainage easement. He said if it is a spring, there is an outlet which drains to a swale and into a storm drain and then into Taney Ditch.

Matt will be attending an Indiana LTAP Stormwater Drainage Conference at Purdue in West Lafayette on February 12th. Mrs. Ghoston asked if SWMB members could attend, and Matt said yes; Ralph Simek expressed an interest in attending, and Liz said she would check if registration is still open. Matt said IDEM and regulatory agencies like to see the involvement of the SWMB and Town Council members and said they could attend the annual MS4 conference and Indiana Assn. for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (INAFSM) conferences. Matt said the board could also participate in webinars, lunch and learns and workshops held at the Stormwater Resource Center.

Included in the members' packets was a copy of the renewal of the prior Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Winfield for use of our stormwater crew and equipment, mostly the jet vac truck and camera truck. Matt said Attorney Jim Meyer reviewed the contract, and they decided that rather than renewing it each year, this document makes it an ongoing contract, where either party can terminate the contract with thirty (30) days'

notice. The purpose is to help an adjoining town without the equipment in their time of need. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the renewal of the Joint Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Town of Winfield, and it was seconded by Leonard White. A roll call vote was taken, and all three members voted yes; the Joint Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Town of Winfield was approved by a 3/0 vote.

Matt said he is waiting on the contract renewal with the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC); originally the contract was approximately \$11,000 per year for education and outreach, but since he has taken on projects internally, the contract now is approximately \$3,000 to \$4,000 for workshops and regional advertising for the MS4 program. When the contract is received, it will be placed on the next agenda.

Matt said he met with Jan Orlich, the new Merrillville Parks & Recreation Department Director recently, where they discussed Arbor Day, workshops and other items. He's looking forward to working with Jan on various town matters as needed.

Matt also met with Mike Seals from Indiana American Water (IAW), and they discussed emergency response procedures during water main breaks so IAW will have standardized procedures in place. IAW has been fined by our Stormwater Utility in the past for illicit discharges, and Mr. Seals wants to be pro-active and work with the town on various matters.

Dan Repay, the executive director of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC), was invited to the Stormwater Resource Center last week. Among other things, they discussed the Stormwater Master Plan and what is done here so they can better understand when Stormwater submits an application for funding with the LCRBDC. Mr. Repay wants to visit again with more of his board members. Matt submitted a letter of interest to serve on the LCRBDC advisory committee to help review grant submittals, which decisions are now made by their board. He is waiting to hear from them.

A copy of the Lake County Solid Waste Management District 2015 Household Hazardous Waste Schedule was distributed. Matt encouraged everyone to bring items to a household hazardous waste location, rather than dispose of items improperly. Mr. White said Hobart has a site, where cans of unused latex paint can be purchased for \$3.00 per can; he thinks Hobart will provide unused paint free to municipalities.

Matt said he has been reviewing plans for new development in Merrillville, including Starbucks, residential developments and other new businesses, where stormwater permits are issued.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. White said last year, he started looking at a table of organization that he has been working on for a year. He still wants to get by-laws together so they can have protocol and procedures with Roberts Rules of Order. He said hopefully within the next thirty (30) days, he can have something to report to the board to be approved or amended. He said he at least wants rules as to how we govern ourselves.

Mr. Simek said his church met the goal for saving plastic caps for two benches, and their members will now turn them in to the Stormwater office for the town. Matt said the outside bin is available when the Stormwater office is closed and on weekends. Mr. White said the Lake County Solid Waste chairman wants to continue the CAPS program for recycled benches. He said since the town has recycling funds available from the recycling grant to the town, there is money available to purchase additional benches for the town. He said the Solid Waste board would approve it since it is a recycling program with good recycling content and said Merrillville has done a good job with the program. Matt said the program has been promoted throughout the town.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. White said the next Stormwater meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. at the Stormwater Resource Center; he announced that the Stormwater office and non-emergency town offices will be closed on Monday, February 16th, for the Presidents' Day Holiday.

Mrs. Ghoston addressed Councilman Hardaway and Town Manager Bruce Spires and asked them to relay to the Town Council members her thanks for her re-appointment to the Stormwater Management Board; she said the town has her assurance that she will work in a positive manner to make sure the Board retains its integrity for its services to the citizens of the Town of Merrillville. Mr. White said he will also continue working for the integrity of the town.

Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Leonard White. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary