

**MINUTES OF THE  
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, May 1, 2012**

President Bud Crist called the May 1, 2012 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. Members in attendance were Barbara Ghoston and Dorinda Gregor. Staff present were Executive Director Matt Lake, Jon Derwinski from Robinson Engineering, Damon Tsouklis for Karl Cender from Cender & Company, Attorney James Meyer and Secretary Liz Bushemi. Also present were Town Councilwoman Chrissy Barron--the Town Council Liaison to the Stormwater Management Board, Dan Vicari from CDM Smith and Mike Henke and other contractors for the 54<sup>th</sup> Court bid opening.

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the April 3, 2012 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 3, 2012 meeting, and it was seconded by Dorinda Gregor; there were no questions, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

Also included in the agenda packet was the current appropriation report and accounts payable registers. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from April 10, 2012 and April 28, 2012, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston; there were no questions, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Mr. Crist thanked everyone for their help last week following the death of his daughter-in-law, Diane.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Regarding the 54<sup>th</sup> Court Reconstruction Project Bid Opening -- President Bud Crist opened the six (6) bid packages that were received by the Clerk-Treasurer, and Attorney James Meyer announced the amounts of bids:

- (1) Walsh & Kelly, Inc., Griffith, IN -- \$283,757.60
- (2) Gough, Inc., Merrillville, IN -- \$304,700.00
- (3) J. & J. Newell Concrete Contractors, Inc., Calumet City, IL -- \$425,498.00
- (4) Olthoff, Inc., Chicago Heights, IL -- \$270,985.78
- (5) Rex Construction Company, Inc., Schererville, IN -- \$279,623.50
- (6) Rieth Riley Construction Company, Inc., Gary, IN -- \$356,897.58

There were no other bids received, and the bid process closed. Attorney James Meyer said the Board can either approve the lowest bidder, Olthoff, Inc., after verification that all documents are in order, or call a special meeting within 48 hours to award the bid. Jon Derwinski said the estimated cost of the project was \$310,000. Attorney Meyer recommended that the Board award the project to Olthoff, Inc. pending verification of documents. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to tentatively award the contract to Olthoff, Inc. pending verification that all documents are in order by the attorney, engineer and board president, and it was seconded by Dorinda Gregor. A roll call vote was taken, and all three (3) members voted yes, and the motion was unanimously approved and carried.

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Matt Lake said the April 23 meeting with 54<sup>th</sup> Court residents went well, and everyone understands the benefits as the result of this project. They are happy to have the project moving forward and were told to call with any concerns. Dorinda asked when the project would begin, and Jon Derwinski said they expect to proceed and break ground in two to three weeks pending notification to the U.S. Postal Service and Indiana American Water.

Bud said the Taft Street drawings are 90% complete, and Matt is working with the Independence Hill Conservancy District regarding a metering station. He said concrete access is relevant to the project.

Dan Vicari from CDM Smith was present to discuss the status of the new Stormwater Utility Center. Mr. Vicari said the architectural design is 60% complete, and plans have been given to Skillman Corporation, the construction manager. There have been some changes to the floor plan, and the size of the sewer jet vac truck will dictate the size of the garage. There is a May 3 meeting of all the parties to discuss the updates. He said the plans will be sent to the state this week. Dorinda asked if the building is still scheduled to be angled off Broadway, and Mr. Vicari said yes, to showcase the green roof and for ease of vehicles coming into the garage.

Matt reminded everyone about the Indiana MS4 Annual Meeting on May 17 in Indianapolis, and members were given their packets for the meeting. He said he would present at two sessions, and Attorney Jim Meyer will present on ordinance development.

Matt said the Lake & Porter County Stormwater group has been meeting and sharing ideas. The state feels this group will represent them well for MS4 and water quality issues. The group is discussing inter-local agreements regarding use of equipment. He and Tim Kingsland from the Hobart Stormwater office have been co-chairing the meetings and are hopeful that other communities will participate in the future.

Matt said Compliance Officer Joe Fish has been issuing violation citations to enforce our Stormwater Ordinance. Because of a blockage of at 63<sup>rd</sup> and Waite Street, we were able to get the Canadian Railway Company to unblock the culvert, which had been covered with stone, causing flooding to adjacent property homeowners. Stormwater will assist by sending out the sewer jet vac truck to flush the sewer lines.

Matt also said there was a ditch regarding project at South 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue off Clay Street, where Public Works regraded the area to ensure that water flows in the right direction. Jon Derwinski asked about vegetation near the area, and Matt said the seed banks have to germinate since there is sloping in the area.

Jon Derwinski said Robinson Engineering has finished the Broadway section of the stormwater mapping project, and Robinson is 60-75% done with the mapping project. Some data has already been used for the Indiana American Water culvert project, and the camera truck will be sent to view the storm sewer lines.

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Matt said he is continuing to work with Val at Robinson Engineering on grants to help supplement the stormwater budget. They are also looking at the possibility of grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC). Matt said he met with Jim McShane of South Shore Grants, and there is the possibility of grant funding from this agency also.

Matt said residents and engineers continue to ask for help and data on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps that were recently prepared distinguishing flood zones. The goal is for residents not to be assessed insurance if they are above elevation level, or if they are required to purchase flood insurance, to obtain it at a reduced rate. Councilwoman Chrissy Barron said she has received many calls about the new FEMA maps and requirements for flood insurance and is assisting residents also.

Matt said they are continuing to work with Attorney Jim Meyer regarding the illicit discharge incident that happened at the lift station on U.S. 30 directly behind the Wonder Bread store. They intend to pursue enforcement against the owner, PIMA, if the problem is not solved. He said he and Joe Fish have been asked to speak at the Indiana Assn. of Floodplain and Stormwater Management (INAFSM) conference in the fall regarding enforcement of illicit discharge matters.

Matt said he is still working with City Maps LLC regarding the Merrillville map project. He said 4,000 copies of the glossy map will be available, and revenue for the town will be generated from the project. Matt also met with Fire Chief Ed Yerga about a map of all fire hydrants in Merrillville. The fire district is using Stormwater Utility's GPS system to map all fire hydrants in the town, and Matt will then create a map showing all hydrants.

Matt said the Rodriguez property on 101<sup>st</sup> Avenue continues to be a legal problem since the resident continues to block off the outlets causing flooding on 101<sup>st</sup> Avenue. He is attempting to coordinate with Attorney Dave Augsten, the town attorney in Winfield, to get the matter resolved so Merrillville does not have to continue to monitor the matter.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Bud Crist said he has been working with Karl Cender on setting up new accounts for Stormwater Utility with Diane at the Clerk-Treasurer's office. Since there will be partial waiver and partial payments in connection with the new building, Diane must know which account(s) to pay bills from. Barbara Ghoston asked where the money from Stormwater citations will go, and Karl said that Diane has already set up a revenue fund at the Clerk-Treasurer's office.

Matt said on Friday, May 11, the Town of Merrillville will have its annual Arbor Day event at the Pruzin Center. He said Stormwater Utility, the Parks Department and Public Works will assist on the event. Matt said Merrillville has re-applied for Tree City USA status, and Merrillville was named a Tree City USA for the second year in a row. Pam Louks from the Department of Natural Resources will be at the Arbor Day event to present the official designation to the Town. The town's Proclamation will also be read.

He said trees will be planted at the event, and a memorial tree will be planted honoring loved ones of town employees who have passed away in recent years. Students from Merrillville elementary schools will be invited for the Arbor Day activities. A press release will be sent, and all residents are invited to attend.

Matt said three (3) rain barrels have been sold at \$200 each, and the money will be deposited in a revenue account held by the Clerk-Treasurer.

The town's Environmental Committee has been meeting, and they provide recommendations on landscape in the town to help with stormwater issues. He said trees store 2,000 gallons of water per year, and trees are a great way to help reduce stormwater in the roads.

Matt said Stormwater will be seeking three (3) bids for inventorying trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer. A grant has been given to Stormwater Utility for this project. There is a severe problem with the emerald ash borer in Munster near the Little Calumet River. Stormwater interns or volunteers will work on the project, and students from Andean or Merrillville High Schools may be asked to help, which will assist them with community service hours. Dorinda will email Matt a list of students who may need community service hours.

Dorinda Gregor said Stormwater Utility received a thank you from the Crist family for the plant sent on the passing of Bud's daughter-in-law, Diane.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Crist said the Stormwater Utility office will be closed on Monday, May 28, 2012, for the Memorial Day holiday; and he said the next Stormwater Management Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2012, at 4:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Dorinda Gregor made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi  
Secretary