

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2014**

President Leonard White called the July 1, 2014 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. The other members in attendance were Barbara Ghoston and Ralph Simek. The pledge of allegiance was said. Staff present was Executive Director Matt Lake, Compliance Officer Joe Fish, Attorney James Meyer and Secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were Director of Planning and Building Dorinda Gregor, Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering, Mark Kaiser from Christopher Burke Engineering, resident and Police Commission member Ted Kennedy and resident Dolores Flaska.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. White said he met with Matt recently, and they will be looking at the 2015 budget. He'd like to keep things going the way they are progressing.

ROLL CALL

A roll call was taken. All three members were present, and a quorum was established.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the June 3, 2014 SWMB meeting. Leonard White made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2014 meeting, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. All three members voted to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2014 meeting, and the motion unanimously passed.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from June 10, 2014 and June 24, 2014. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from June 10, 2014 and June 24, 2014, and it was seconded by Leonard White. Barbara Ghoston asked about the \$50 paid to the Hobart Humane Society; Liz said a donation was made on behalf of the SWMB and Stormwater Utility Office to this charitable organization in memory of Claudette Overman, the mother of longtime SWMB member Dorinda Gregor. Mrs. Ghoston asked about amounts paid to USA Bluebook; Liz explained that \$799.95 was paid for a locator/metal detector and \$6.68 was paid for freight for the locator. A voice vote was taken, all three members voted yes; the motion to approve the accounts payable registers from June 20, 2014 and June 24, 2014 was unanimously passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Matt Lake said the stormwater crews have been replacing old infrastructure and working on a project on the south side of 54th Avenue near Broadway by Dollar General where the culvert needed to be replaced. He said Walsh & Kelly is doing the town's paving jobs, and stormwater crews are replacing infrastructure (culverts and catch basins) at the same locations, which Matt said is good protocol to do storm sewer jobs in connection with the town's road work.

He said stormwater crews and some public works crews attended the patch repair demonstration on June 11 by Source I Environmental at a challenging catch basin on Jennings Place. He said the patch repair job only took a few hours, and Stormwater paid \$600 for the patch kit. This also was done in connection with the paving project that was taking place by Walsh & Kelly. He said the town can save money by doing the repairs quicker with the pipe patch, and he hopes to budget money next year for patch repair.

Matt said most of the Chapel Manor ditch was cleaned and snagged, and another phase may be done in the future. Taney Ditch is being cleared by All Weather Tree Service, and residents have been calling with complimentary remarks.

He said signage was installed by public works at Madison Ditch with the hopes that the signs will deter people from dumping in this ditch. Leonard said the Lake County Solid Waste Management District (LCSWMD) has signs regarding illegal dumping, which state a \$100 reward will be given for information on illegal dumping at the sign location. Matt said the reward would put a “good spin” on it in most communities. Ralph said the signage is good where dumping occurs; Leonard said there has been a 95% reduction in tire dumping as the result of the signs. Barbara said she is vigilant on dumping and is asking others to be the same way. Matt hopes to get some signs.

An application has been submitted to the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) for funding for the Meadowdale project. Matt attended their June 19th meeting and said their next meeting is set for July 9th, when he hopes to present the Merrillville project. He is meeting with Dave Buckley and Darren Olson from Christopher Burke Engineering to finalize the presentation. Since Merrillville residents pay a LCRBDC fee on their property tax bills, he is hopeful that funding can be used to help Merrillville residents. LCRBDC is scrutinizing applications for regional benefits.

Barbara commented on Bruce Spires’ comment after last month’s meeting about using tax increment financing (TIF) money for the Southmoor Park Project, and the residents rejected the project; going forward, she asked if residents will be asked if they want the project, and will TIF money be used. Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering said the plans were to return the subdivision to the way it was before; Matt said for what residents wanted, the cost would have tripled if all new infrastructure and an underground system was installed. Matt said it was a good water quality project, and the residents had an opportunity to restore it back to the way it was.

NEW BUSINESS

Leonard asked Ralph Simek if he was interested in serving as vice president of the SWMB, and Mr. Simek said yes. Leonard White made a motion to nominate Ralph Simek as vice president of the Merrillville SWMB, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. All three members voted yes, the motion unanimously passed, and Ralph Simek was named vice president of the Merrillville SWMB.

Matt said there was a meeting with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) regarding the Clean Cities Community Challenge, and they are working on a Quality of Life Plan for Merrillville. They will be meeting later on a solid waste mission and hope to partner with the Lake County Solid Waste Management District on goals and incentives to save on fuel recycling.

Leonard suggested that the Town of Merrillville start collecting plastic caps for the benches program, and Matt said it will be re-announced shortly. The Stormwater Resource Center will be the drop-off site. Barbara said it is a great program. It was suggested to check with Town Manager Bruce Spires regarding recycling grant money for additional benches.

Matt had the Stormwater exit interview with the Indiana State Board of Accounts (SBOA), and the SBOA's main concern was to make sure that contractors are legitimate and have filed their E-verify form. Planning and Building Director Dorinda Gregor said the SBOA requires all contractors to be licensed in the town. Matt said all documentation regarding information that SBOA requested was provided and returned by SBOA.

Matt said the 53rd Court lift station is the only stormwater lift station in the town. He said it is undersized and too small for the capacity of water in that area. He is looking to increase the size of the lines and have some type of alert warning system. Leonard asked how long the lift station has been at the site near Grant Street, and Matt said for 12 years. Matt said this area has historically flooded, and the last resort is to pump water. The company Metropolitan Indiana designed the original lift station, and Matt is waiting for a cost on a larger one and hopes to be able to budget for it in the future.

Matt said IDEM has been holding workshops across the state for the upcoming audits which will probably begin in Northwest Indiana. He said Merrillville may possibly be the first to be audited, and how you manage all Rule 13 activities in the municipality is reviewed. Merrillville has been audited before and did very well. He said IDEM's standards are higher this year, and Merrillville will do fine.

Matt said Merrillville received the latest draw from Lake County for the stormwater fee included on residents' tax bills in the amount of \$624,110.72. He said the payment from Lake County works well since the town has no billing system.

Matt said Stormwater will participate in the town's Independence Day Parade on Thursday, July 3rd. Stormwater's recently-wrapped camera truck and pick-up truck will be driven in the parade, and Matt welcomed any officers to ride in the parade with him.

OTHER BUSINESS

Leonard asked Attorney Jim Meyer and Compliance Officer Joe Fish if either of them had a report, and they said no.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dorinda Gregor brought up the guardrail that Councilman Pettit has discussed for Taft Street and said the area is dangerous. Matt said information has been sent to the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT); if state plans included a guardrail before, INDOT will install it. If not included, Merrillville will have to install one. Matt has sent several emails and is awaiting a response. Dorinda said there was three feet of water when the car went into the ditch on Saturday, June 28th, and she will forward Matt pictures from the incident. Leonard and Ralph asked about signage, and Matt said it is a state right-of-way since Taft Street is a state road, however signage possibly can be pursued. Leonard asked if there is anything the town can do, and Attorney Jim Meyer said not without the state's permission. Ralph asked about Bruce's objection to a guardrail being installed, and Ron Wiedeman said a guardrail can be a danger in itself, because it may add a hazard depending on the slope; he said a cable guardrail flex would not be strong enough, and a standard guardrail deflects 2-4 feet. Matt said it will be up to the state to decide. Matt will send INDOT Dorinda's pictures and ask for a response.

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Resident Ted Kennedy said there has been standing water near 73rd and Taft Street near Calumet Park Cemetery, and he encouraged Matt to request that something be done. Matt said Rex Construction is doing some work at that location, and he is hopeful that water will drain into the detention pond area. He said Merrillville could possibly cost-share with Rex Construction to fix the drainage at the slow-draining spot while working on their project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. White said the next monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 5, 2014, at 4:30 p.m. at the Stormwater Resource Center.

Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Leonard White. All three members voted yes, the motion to adjourn was passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary