

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2015**

President Leonard White called the July 8, 2015 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:34 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, financial advisor Karl Cender, Attorney James Meyer, and secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were Town Manager Bruce Spires, Jarvis Jointer from Shrewsbury, Dolly Flaska, Chas Riley from *The Times* and Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune*.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Leonard White thanked Ralph Simek and Barbara Ghoston for chairing the previous two meetings in his absence and said he is glad to be back.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the June 2, 2015 SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2015 SWMB meeting, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the minutes from the June 2, 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 June 9 and June 23, 2015. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from June 9 and June 23, 2015, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the accounts payable registers from June 9 and June 23, 2015, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding the 53rd Court lift station, members had received a copy of the Robinson Engineering Supplement No. 1 for final engineering services at Meadowland. Matt said this is for preparation of final design plans and contract documents, advertisement for bid and construction observation, not to exceed \$20,500. Matt said this will finish up the engineering and cover construction observation for this project. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve Robinson Engineering's Supplement No. 1 to their proposal for engineering at the Meadowdale subdivision not to exceed \$20,500, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A roll call vote was taken, and all three members voted yes, and the motion to approve Robinson Engineering's Supplement No. 1 to their proposal for engineering at the Meadowdale subdivision not to exceed \$20,500 passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said Christopher Burke Engineering (CBBEL) has notified him that although some work has been delayed due to weather at Ross Meadow Farms, Darren Olson said all wetland delineations have been done. CBBEL wants to meet with Matt next week to go over all information they have on this project. Matt invited the board members to attend the meeting, and he said he will email the members with the date and time of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt said June was one of the wettest months on record, and the fourth wettest month in Indiana history. He said with the maintenance that's been done on storm sewers in Merrillville, there were no major problems and everything worked better than expected.

He said the county had put in a vertical trash rack at Kaiser Ditch on 73rd Avenue, and he requested that it be removed because of its poor design; he is not sure of the history of why this trash rack was put in; he offered the county the old Taft Street trash rack and is waiting to hear from them. IHCD had a problem as well, and Matt is hopeful the matter can be resolved. Leonard White asked about the pond at 73rd Avenue and Taft, and Matt said the Taft Street ponds are retaining lots of water, and there have been no issues with the roads or backups and said improvements over the past several years are working well.

Members had received a copy of the Kieser Consulting Group letter of agreement regarding Taney Ditch. Matt said he is working with Jarvis Jointer from Shrewsbury and Kieser Consulting for them to apply for an Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) grant, possibly up to \$1 million. Jarvis Jointer said they will apply for the grant as disaster relief, which will require a small match. Matt said he is looking at culverts and additional storage and upgrades in that area, and Kieser will do an income survey and environmental assessment of the area. He said if we are able to secure the grant, we may be able to request the match money from the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission. Ralph Simek asked about the requirement for an income survey, and Mr. Jointer said one of their criteria is low to moderate income, and information about the grant was provided by Mr. Meyer. Mr. White asked about the \$7,000 fee, and Matt said Kieser will do all of the gathering of information and applying for and writing the grant. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to enter into the contract with Kieser Consulting Group based on their scope of services for the fee of \$7,000, 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 Kieser Consulting Group contract for a fee of \$7,000 passed with a 3/0 vote.

Members had been provided with a copy of a memorandum prepared by financial advisor Karl Cender regarding 2015 budget transfers. Matt said the \$30,000 transfer is requested to purchase a vehicle and other equipment. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the budget transfers as written in the July 7, 2015 memorandum from Karl Cender for \$30,000, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A roll call vote was taken, and all three members voted yes, and the motion to approve the 2015 budget transfers in the amount of \$30,000 passed with a 3/0 vote.

Members had also been given a copy of the 2016 budgets for Stormwater Fund 626 and Stormwater Fund 628. Karl Cender said any balance in Stormwater Fund 627 (the Taft Street project balance) is automatically rolled over the following year. Mr. Simek asked if both budgets will be submitted to the Town Council, and Matt said yes. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the Budget Estimates as presented for Fund 626 Stormwater Operations and Maintenance and Fund 628 Stormwater Grants Fund, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A roll call vote was taken, all three members voted yes; the motion to approve the Budget Estimates as presented for Fund 626 Stormwater Operations and Maintenance and Fund 628 Stormwater Grants Fund, passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said the spring, 2015, stormwater assessment was received by the Clerk-Treasurer from Lake County in the amount of \$628,144.56 on June 26, 2015.

Matt said he was selected to speak at the Building One America Summit on July 23 and 24 in Washington, DC, and he will speak on infrastructure and water issues. If a video of his presentation is available following the conference, it will be emailed to the board. Mrs. Ghoston said it may be televised, and if so, she will notify everyone.

Matt said he has been coordinating with D2 Land & Water about them providing pave drains at no charge for the west door of the Stormwater Resource Center (SWRC) garage. The concrete near the door had heaved up following the severe winter, and D2 will provide the materials for a demonstration of some products they have available. Leftover materials that companies have can be used for demonstration projects at the SWRC.

Matt said the NIPSCO court case has been reset to August 3, 2015, at 9:30 am., and Attorney Jim Meyer will represent Stormwater in the case where NIPSCO's tree contractors left debris in the waterway in the Forest Hills subdivision. NIPSCO contends it was an "emergency", but Matt said in the event of an emergency on a street, they would not leave the trees in the roadway. Since the matter is a pending legal matter, Matt said he will advise the board after the hearing.

OTHER BUSINESS

Matt said Merrillville was named a "CLEAN Community" by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), and an official award was presented to the town at the June 23rd Town Council meeting. The town was given two signs from IDEM, and they have been placed on U.S. 30 near the Radisson and near the Merrillville-Schererville border. Participation in the Clean Community challenge requires Merrillville to do quality of life improvements for the town. Liz said a picture of the presentation and article is on the town website under Latest News and on the Stormwater news page.

Matt said Stormwater has collected \$3,500 in fines this spring from citations issued by Joe Fish. He said just recently, Indiana American Water (IAW) was issued a citation for \$2,500 because they left sediment on a road and covered a storm drain following a water main break, and Stormwater had to jet vac the drain and clean the area. Matt said he is still trying to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding with IAW for water main breaks.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. White said the next Stormwater meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. at the Stormwater Resource Center.

A discussion was held about the new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule that gives the EPA authority to protect some streams, tributaries and wetlands under the Clean Water Act.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary