

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2015**

President Leonard White called the August 5, 2015 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:35 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 Councilman Tom Goralczyk, Town Manager Bruce Spires, Bob Csanyi from Robinson Engineering and residents John Lee, Becky Lee and Dolores Flaska.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Leonard White said he wants to set up a meeting next week with the staff and have it advertised as a public meeting with the Board and staff and asked to be notified of a date next week that is available. He also said he wants to look at bids and look into getting the “best bang for the buck”.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the July 7, 2015 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2015 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 July 7, 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 July 14 and July 28, 2015. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from July 14 and July 28, 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 July 14 and July 28, 2015, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Matt said he met with Christopher Burke Engineering (CBBEL) at Ross Meadow Farms on July 21st, and they discussed the amount of grading to be done, which could reduce the cost of the project, in order to adjust to the best scenario for the area. In the future, the town can look at East 85th Court since the road is torn up and there is a lack of drainage swales. He is keeping the members of the property owners association informed.

Matt attended the Building One America Summit on July 23 and 24 in Washington, DC, and made a presentation that focused on aging infrastructure. The conference focused on sustainable diverse communities. He said a lot of policymakers from Washington, DC, were present; EPA however was not there, and he wanted to address them on non-matching grants for communities. He said there were lots of good questions and answers at the end of the conference. His presentation was emailed to board members.

Matt said he talked to Dave Kieser from Kieser Consulting about the Kaiser Watershed grant application. Dave Kieser said the surveying for the application process is taking longer than expected and he hopes to apply for the next round of grants.

Regarding the NIPSCO violation matter, Matt deferred to Attorney Jim Meyer, who said the court case had a settlement conference on Monday. Mr. Meyer said Stormwater's goal is to get NIPSCO to adopt a written policy for when contractors cut down trees in water courses, they also remove the trees. NIPSCO contends they have a policy in writing, and said they will forward it to us and we can discuss tweaking their policy. He said there is a rule for "chip and leave" if it is a natural act of God. Mr. Simek said he thinks their policy should be written on all their contracts so all contractors are aware of it. Mr. Meyer said Joe Fish issued a citation for \$2,500 and the tree cleanup fee. He said Stormwater's intent is for NIPSCO to change their policy so that all employees and contractors know what they must do for waterway obstructions. The case is reset to September 14th, and he's hopeful for a resolution by that time.

Regarding the 53rd Court lift station, Bob Csanyi from Robinson Engineering said the topo was completed, and they will be looking further into the design in a week or two.

Mrs. Ghoston asked about the Building One American conference – if it's possible to hold a mini-seminar to let residents hear about it. Matt said Councilman Hardaway is looking into that.

Regarding the Kieser Consulting matter, Mrs. Ghoston asked if that was the same as the Shrewsberry contract, and Matt said yes, and that Kieser will pursue the next round of grants since they cannot get all the information needed by September 11th. They will continue to do their survey work and submit the grant application at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt said before the board is a proposal from Delta III for pipe installation at 79th Place and Taney; he said resident Rebecca Lee and her father, John Lee, were present to address the board about her problem. Ms. Lee said ever since August, 2014, half of her yard is completely flooded out every time it rains, and all the soil has eroded. In the winter, they were shoveling water out of her yard. Matt said the Delta III proposal calls for installation of a new 12" pipe and creation of a new graded swale for \$12,250. He said previously, DLZ Engineering had provided a quote of \$40,300; the three (3) proposals obtained by Stormwater were from Delta III for \$12,500; Rex Construction for \$16,800; and H&G Underground Utilities for \$16,495. Councilman Goralczyk said this flooding issue not only affects Rebecca Lee but other neighbors, too. Ms. Lee said that thanks to Matt, the town put down heavy salt in the winter as a path to create a run off. Mr. White asked the source of the problem; Ms. Lee said both water companies have come out, and Councilman Goralczyk said it's been an ongoing problem since the mid-1990's, when previous plans were approved for the nearby church parking lot. The church has put up a berm at the area, and Attorney Meyer says they are not liable. The Delta proposal was discussed, much of which is standard language in a contract. Mr. Simek said based on the three proposals and Delta III being the lowest, it would make sense to award the contract to them. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the Delta III proposal for pipe installation at Taney and 79th Place for the total price of \$12,250, 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 Delta III proposal for pipe installation at Taney and 79th Place for the total price of \$12,250 passed with a 3/0 vote. Mrs. Ghoston asked when the job would be done, and Matt said before winter; Mr. Simek asked how long the job would take, and Matt said possibly one week.

Councilman Goralczyk asked about the trash rack at 73rd Avenue and Taney Place. Matt said at the request of Calumet Park Cemetery, Lake County had put in a vertical trash rack at Kaiser Ditch on 73rd Avenue, and he previously requested that it be removed because of its poor design, which is blocking the flow of water into the ditch. Since the county is not maintaining it, Public Works ends up cleaning it out. A while ago, Matt asked the county if a re-designed trash rack could be installed, and he offered them the old Taft Street trash rack and is still waiting to hear from them. Since the Independence Hill Conservancy District (IHCD) lift station is there, IHCD had a problem with it, too. Mr. White asked if Attorney Meyer should send the county a letter, and Town Manager Bruce Spires recommended further discussions with the county.

Matt said all Board members received an invitation to attend the Shared Ethics Advisory Commission 2015 Board & Commission Training dinner meeting on August 31st. Mr. Spires recommended that all board members attend since Board and Commission members are the targeted audience for this meeting, and said the town is investing money in the Shared Ethics Advisory Commission. All three members said they will attend.

OTHER BUSINESS

Matt said he will attend the Indiana Association for Floodplain Management (INAFSM) conference September 9-11, 2015. He also said Hoosier Riverwatch Training will take place at the Stormwater Resource Center tomorrow, where Merrillville elementary school teachers will attend the workshop as part of their science training. Matt said the company, Siltworm, is tentatively planning to hold a September 16 “Lunch and Learn” at the Stormwater Resource Center, where engineers, contractors and developers will be invited to learn about Siltworm products for projects. He said the office is on its second binder of resident complaints for 2015, and staff is working to resolve issues as soon as possible. After the Stormwater meeting, Matt and any board member who is interested can attend the National Night Out event at town hall; Matt will bring some promotional items.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Becky Lee said thank you to Matt and Councilman Goralczyk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. White announced the two National Night Out events tonight – the town-wide event at town hall from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm and the Ward 2 event at Meadowdale Park, 54th & Madison Street, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. He said the next Stormwater meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. at the Stormwater Resource Center.

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