

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2012**

President Bud Crist called the August 7, 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 was Executive Director Matt Lake, Attorney James Meyer, Karl Cender from Cender & Company, Jon Derwinski from Robinson Engineering and Secretary Liz Bushemi. Also present was Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune* and resident Brian Stenslik.

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the July 9, 2012 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 9, 2012 meeting, and it was seconded by Dorinda Gregor; there were no questions or corrections, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

Also included in the agenda packet were the current appropriation reports and accounts payable registers. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from June July 10, 2012 and July 24, 2012, and it was seconded by Dorinda Gregor; there were no questions, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried. Mr. Crist also stated that the balance in the Stormwater general fund #626 was \$707,630.56, and the Stormwater construction fund #627 was \$2,662,927.27.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Crist said it was the one-year anniversary for Stormwater Executive Director Matthew Lake on July 28, 2012, and he said there's been a lot of progress in working with Matt for the past year. Everyone congratulated him. Matt said it's been his pleasure to be here and wants to keep pushing forward for next year.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Crist said since some people present had another meeting to attend at 5:00 pm, he would address new business first. The 2012 Stormwater budget was included in the members' packets. He discussed the various changes, including adding some town employee salaries, projected utilities for the new building, the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) dues, the project improvements for Meadowdale at 54th Street and the Independence Hill Lift Station and office equipment for the new building. The total estimated 2013 Stormwater budget is \$1.6 million; the current 2012 budget is \$1.1 million.

Karl Cender again stated that since Stormwater is a separate utility, it is not subject to adopting a budget. He said the budget is controlled by this Board, in consultation with the Town Council. Mr. Crist also said that \$622,159.25 was received from the Lake County Treasurer from the spring, 2012, installment of property taxes for stormwater fees.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Crist said the construction manager, Skillman Corporation, has dropped off the bid documents for the new building for review. A pre-bid meeting will be held at the public works office on August 13, and the bid opening will be held on August 23, 2012, at 2:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Regarding the Taft Street project, Mr. Crist said a pre-construction meeting was held with the contractor, Olthoff, Inc., and a small groundbreaking was held on August 3 at the site. He said he closed on the Doepping land sale on August 3, 2012, and \$141,479.50 was wire transferred to People's Bank to close on this parcel of the project. He said silt fences are being installed at the Doepping property, and all permits are being posted for the project.

Matt Lake said the 54th Court project is moving along nicely, and they are backfilling the rain garden with soil. Matt has applied for application to be in the Great Lakes Green Streets Guide Book to showcase the project.

Regarding the 54th Avenue project, he said Robison Engineering has revisited the site, and First Group Engineering will make the necessary changes to the project, which will begin next year.

Matt said all street trees in Merrillville have been identified for the tree inventory by the two summer interns, and it has been determined that 39.7% are silver maples, and only 5.6% are ash, which could be affected by the Emerald Ash Borer insect. Six hundred Emerald Ash Borer brochures were printed and distributed to residents for guidance on what to do if their trees are infected; it will help lessen the amount of trees dying and also lessen the number of trees and branches brought to the public works office.

Regarding tax sale parcels that are detention ponds, Matt has requested that these be removed from the county records.

Matt said Robinson Engineering is contributing money towards purchase of signs for the awareness of waterways campaign. Signs are being printed by B&H Technical Services of Merrillville identifying waterways in Merrillville for awareness to residents.

He said he met with Chuck Stojakovich from Merrillville Conservancy District to discuss the inflow and infiltration disconnect program. They surveyed a small project at 91st Avenue and Mississippi Street where a rain garden may be installed.

Matt said Compliance Officer Joe Fish is inspecting and enforcing the Stormwater Ordinance, and fines are being imposed when appropriate.

The Lake/Porter County Regional Stormwater Coordination Group continues to meet, and Matt said Reggie Korthals from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) was present at their last meeting and discussed the benefits of having this regional group and the discretion of shared expenses and joint education.

Matt reminded members who are interested in attending the Indiana Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Management (INAFSM) meeting on September 12 to let us know as soon as possible for registration purposes. This is the conference where he and Joe Fish will present regarding "Implementing an Effective Enforcement Program".

On other matters, Matt said a letter was sent by Town Council President Shawn Pettit to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as part of our application for community rating system. He met with the state Riverwatch coordinator to discuss the database he developed for the Watershed Leadership Academy for water quality monitoring and how the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Riverwatch program can be utilized. He hosted a Municipal Tree Care Workshop for local public works employees with Purdue University on July 25th at Hidden Lake Park, and several communities attended. He attended a flood control management workshop hosted by the IDNR Division of Water. Plans are being discussed for the possibility of a rain garden at the Pruzin Center. Discussions are being held with Robinson Engineering regarding “green” street strategies in addition to engineering standards. He said IDEM developed a new annual report form, and he is starting to compile data for the annual report. A new purchase order database has been developed through Access for Liz to keep track of purchase orders by vendor, rather than using the old Excel spreadsheet. He was interviewed by Radio Station Z107 and gave several news segments about stormwater issues which will be aired in the future. He said Christopher Burke Engineering has updated the GIS data, and a draft outline has been sent to IDEM and IDNR for their input.

Matt said Councilman Tom Goralczyk met with him regarding right-of-way and flooding issues at Trinity Lutheran Church on Route 30 and Taney Place. He said the outlet has not been maintained, and Joe Fish issued a violation.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Bud said that Matt prepared a letter to the Town Council requesting that all building permit fees be waived from the Town of Merrillville, and it was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Brian Stenslik, of 2577 West 85th Avenue, Merrillville, addressed the Board with his concern about a swale that was installed last year in his back yard. He said now that the new home is built behind him, the grading is not what it should be, and water remains there. Matt said they will look at it to see if a landscaper can grade it out. The resident asked that it be re-assessed due to water issues and asked for some grass seed since NIPSCO moved a portion of it, and it’s an eyesore. Bud Crist said there are no as builts, and Stormwater is catching up on old town issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the Stormwater office will be closed on Monday, September 3, 2012, for the Labor Day holiday. He said the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 4, 2012.

Bud Crist has documents for the Board to approve -- the easement for the Doepping living trust agreement for the Taft Street project. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the easement document for the Doepping living trust agreement, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There was no discussion, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

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Barbara Ghoston made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi

Secretary