

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2014**

President Leonard White called the September 2, 2014 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:45 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, Compliance Officer Joe Fish, Attorney James Meyer, financial advisor Karl Cender and Secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were Councilman Tom Goralczyk, Town Manager Bruce Spires, Planning and Building Director Dorinda Gregor and Sedrick Green from Robinson Engineering.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. White asked if Mr. Meyer or Mr. Cender any reports. Attorney Jim Meyer did not have a report. Financial advisor Karl Cender said he handed out a memo for draft budget transfers for the 2014 budget and the amended 2015 Stormwater operating budget, both of which will be sent to the clerk-treasurer. Compliance Officer Joe Fish had no report.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the August 5, 2014 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 5, 2014 SWMB meeting, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A roll call vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the minutes from the August 5, 2014 SWMB meeting, and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from August 12, 2014 and August 26, 2014. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from August 12, 2014 and August 26, 2014, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A roll call vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the accounts payable registers from August 12, 2014 and August 26, 2014, and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Leonard White asked Councilman Tom Goralczyk and Town Manager Bruce Spires if they had any questions about the revised 2015 Stormwater operating budget; Councilman Goralczyk had not seen it, and Bruce Spires said he saw it, and it looked good. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the revised 2015 Stormwater operating budget, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A roll call vote was taken, and all three members voted yes, and the revised 2015 Stormwater operating budget was approved by a 3/0 vote.

Mr. White said all three SWMB members and Matt participated in National Night Out. Mrs. Ghoston said it seemed that all who attended had a good time. Mr. White said he would like to continue participation in future years, with a Stormwater banner next year.

Mrs. Ghoston asked if there was a follow-up to the Dyer Construction Company pay request #10 for retainage, and Liz said all members were emailed a copy of the Certificate of Substantial Completion on August 6, 2014. Attorney Jim Meyer asked for a copy, and Liz will get it to him following the meeting.

Matt said there has been very little call volume with all the rain events that have taken place recently. Because the crew has been cleaning drains, and since Lake County has taken care of regulated drains, most problems have been taken care of immediately. He said the crew's continued maintenance of drains on a regular basis has worked well.

Matt said Indiana American Water (IAW) called him to meet about various citations received and other issues like dewatering that IAW needs to address in Indiana. Matt said as a company, IAW is concerned about water quality best management practices (BMPs), and they asked Matt for his help in coming up with standard operating procedures for BMPs for them to use statewide. Enforcement is important, but Matt said he does not want to have repeat offenders. Matt said citations are issued to protect the water resources, not just to collect fines. Another meeting with IAW will be set soon.

Matt said on August 14th, the Stormwater Master Plan was presented to the Town Council and SWMB members who attended. Matt said Darren Olson from Christopher Burke Engineering made the presentation and did a great job. The master plan is a very technical document, which projects what needs to be done for the future, like a 20-year plan for stormwater. Since the stormwater fee that residents pay does not cover all projects, Matt will lobby for money to cover the cost for future projects.

Matt showed everyone the illegal dumping signs that were ordered, where Stormwater is partnering with Lake County Solid Waste, who will pay a \$100 reward to anyone who reports illegal dumping which leads to a conviction. Although this is an incentive approach, evidence is needed, and the caller's name will be kept confidential. Signs will be posted at 73rd Avenue and Taney Street and other locations where illegal dumping has taken place. Leonard appreciates that Merrillville Stormwater Utility is partnering with Solid Waste and would like to see the program announced; Matt said a press release will be sent out. Matt said the issue of signage for illegal dumping was discussed as part of the FEMA Community Rating System. Ralph would like a monthly status report.

Matt had a technical meeting with representatives of Torrenga Engineering and Brant Development regarding their proposed development in the Broadfield subdivision. Since Broadfield has a history of flooding, Matt has been asked by the Town Council to diligently review any plans for the new facility to make sure there is proper water storage for the area. Many things were reviewed and discussed, and a copy of the meeting summary memorandum was distributed.

Regarding the guardrail for Taft Street, Matt still has not heard back from the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), although he has asked for a written report and/or their findings. Bruce asked if INDOT will install the guardrail, and Matt said INDOT will install and pay for it if it is determined it should have been there. Bruce asked what area the guardrail would cover, and Matt said he is waiting to hear back from INDOT.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt said the Indiana Association for Floodplain Management (INAFSM) will hold its annual conference September 10-12, 2014, and he will attend sessions but not be a presenter this year.

Matt said the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) is hosting an MS4 Post-Construction Stormwater Runoff Control Training Workshop that he will attend on September 25th, where they will focus on detention ponds.

Matt is still waiting to hear back from Metropolitan Pumps regarding their revised proposal on the lift station on 53rd Court.

Matt said there was a flooding issue on August 26th on 84th Drive west of Merrillville Road in the Mesa Ridge subdivision, and although the town has not taken over the roads, Stormwater was asked to help try to dislodge something their detention pond, which had overflowed onto the nearby *cul de sac* area. Matt publicly thanked the Merrillville Fire Department for their help in sending scuba divers to try to locate the blockage at the drain. At the site, Matt contacted the developer, McFarland Homes, for someone to come out to pump out the area and dislodge the vegetation plug that was causing the problem. There was discussion that the developer re-do the emergency overflow for the detention pond. Leonard asked if there was danger to children, and Matt said there was a danger to children and homeowners; Matt said the pond allows six feet of water, and they pumped for six and a half hours. He said this is an example of why as-builts needs to be checked. Sedrick Green from Robinson Engineering said there were three problems: the large vegetation plug, overflow of the pond and an illegal brick fence at the spillway. The engineer was there, and the developer is agreeable to fixing it. Matt said at times, landscape is a barrier to proper flow of water, and it blocked flow around the fence. Planning Director Dorinda Gregor said the homeowner knew they did the landscape illegally, and that is why they put the fence around the landscaping; Matt said the developer may be able to grate around it. Matt said the town is not paying for any repair; the town's responsibility is to check the as-builts before it is accepted by the town.

OTHER BUSINESS - None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilman Goralczyk said he was out Saturday evening, where there was an overflow at the lot near Lincoln Street at Route 30 at Rugmasters. He asked Matt to look at the location, and Matt said no calls have been received from there. He and Matt also said the town is working with Joe Bardeson from the Merrillville Community School Corporation to remove two planter boxes in front of their trash racks to avoid flooding by the middle school on 61st Avenue. A picture of the trash rack filled with debris was shown to the members.

Matt said he has notified INDOT about several sink holes on Broadway since Broadway is a state road. He will also notify INDOT about curb cuts that need to be done north of the Lake County Government Center near 91st Avenue; he said the wetlands fill themselves in, with less infiltration. There is an easy fix, and the state needs to do some curb cuts to take care of it. Councilman Goralczyk asked Matt about wetlands, and Matt said nothing needs to be done to wetlands, but since the water level needs to be reviewed and it is ponding, he will advise the Surveyor's office and the state. He said INDOT just reported a shortage in staff due to employees retiring.

Councilman Goralczyk also requested an estimate to replace culverts at 73rd Place between Chase and Taney Streets. Matt said there are four quad culverts at the location, and he can contact Delta III or some contractors for an estimate. Town Manager Bruce Spires believes that if a school bus travels over it, the quad culvert will be crushed and thinks a special culvert will have to be ordered so a garbage truck or school bus will not damage it. Matt said there are also more crossings needing repair, and he will request contractors' estimates.

Attorney Jim Meyer advised that a vote should be taken on the 2014 Stormwater budget transfers, even though the transfers do not affect the overall budget. The document shows that an equal amount is being increased and decreased, with a zero change in the budget itself. Ralph asked about contractual services, and Matt said when services are contracted out, they are paid from line item 394. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the report of Karl Cender for transfers in the 2014 budget, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted yes, and the motion to approve the report of Karl Cender for transfers in the 2014 budget was approved by a 3/0 vote.

Councilman Goralczyk said resident Joseph Bell on the 7700 block of Chase Street called him this morning; the resident also called the Stormwater office, and Stormwater sent the jet vac and camera trucks and is expected to return tomorrow where the back hoe may be needed to dig it out. Matt said the outlet at that location may be blocked, and the back hoe can move the debris. Mr. Goralczyk said the resident was happy with the results. The resident said he had no help with the prior councilman, and this is the first time Councilman Goralczyk and Stormwater heard about it.

Councilman Goralczyk met with VS Engineering regarding 78th Avenue at Whitcomb Street; he said VS wants to add two more catch basins to that location, and Matt wants VS to call him. Mr. Goralczyk said the first phase of Taney Street will be done in two parts, and he hopes they will start next week. Walsh & Kelly received the bid to do the work; he is hopeful the Taney north improvements from 73rd to 77th Avenue will be done this year.

Mr. White thanked Councilman Goralczyk for his involvement in Stormwater, and Matt thanked Mr. Goralczyk for attending the presentation of the Stormwater Master Plan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. White said the next monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7, 2014, at 4:30 p.m. at the Stormwater Resource Center.

Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary