

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2015**

Vice President Ralph Simek called the November 4, 2015 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. The other member in attendance was Barbara Ghoston; President Leonard White did not attend. 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 and IUN student Taylor Borders.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ralph Simek had no comments as vice president.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the October 6, 2015 SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 6, 2015 SWMB meeting, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A voice vote was taken, and both members voted to approve the minutes from the October 6, 2015 meeting, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from October 13 and October 27, 2015. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from October 13 and October 27, 2015, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. Mrs. Ghoston asked why the balances were not written on the top sheet for Funds 626 and 627; Liz said the report was not generated correctly with the balances, and she would get the members that information. A voice vote was taken, and both members voted to approve the accounts payable registers from October 13 and October 27, 2015, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Matt said the 53rd Court Meadowdale drainage project is almost complete, and he passed out pictures of the project. He said the old lift station components were brought to the north barn at the Pruzin Center.

He also said requests for quotes will be sent for the Ross Meadow Farms project, and sealed quotes will be sent to the Stormwater office for opening at the December SWMB meeting. He said all easements have been recorded, and they are waiting on the wetland permit. Once the permit is received, the successful bidder will be given 120 days to complete the project.

Matt also said the Memorandum of Understanding with Indiana American Water (IAW) was approved by the Town Council, and all parties have a signed copy. He said he shared the document with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) for possible use at their next MS4 Annual meeting since it is a cooperative agreement with utilities, the first of its kind in Indiana.

Matt said the Flood Hazard Areas Ordinance 15-28 passed the Town Council on second reading on October 27th. The clerk-treasurer will send it in to MuniCode.

Ralph Simek asked about the NIPSCO matter, and Matt said this was a court violation, and the fine was paid from the citation issued. He said there is new language in NIPSCO's contracts about tree trimming by contractors.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt said a meeting was held with Southmoor Park residents on October 14th, where a rear-yard drainage system was discussed. Matt is still unsure if the residents will be happy with it since they wanted culverts and storm sewer drains; he is also not sure if TIF money would be available for the project. Knowing there are no funds available now, he will check with Councilwoman Miano. He said Robinson Engineering submitted their proposal for engineering services for this project, and members were provided a copy at their places; he said no action is to be taken on the Robinson proposal at this time.

Matt said an emergency storm sewer repair is being done today (November 4, 2015) and possibly tomorrow at 101st and Mississippi Street, where the culvert was in the process of collapsing. Since Robinson Engineering is constructing plans for the next phase of the Mississippi Street project for next year, this culvert work is being done now as part of the Mississippi Street project and will be paid with Mississippi Street TIF money. Matt thanked Bruce Spires for taking care of this now with TIF money. He said Mississippi Street was closed from 93rd Avenue to 101st Avenue during this one or two-day work, and notice of the road closure was sent out to the media and all parties and put on the website.

A Lunch & Learn sponsored by ADS StormTech is scheduled for November 17th at the Stormwater Resource Center. Matt said he has seen some plastic stormwater pipes and wants to hear what this company has to offer as an alternative to concrete.

Matt requested the Merrillville parcel data for the 2015 pay 2016 tax bills from Umbaugh & Associates; November 30th is the deadline for Matt to provide the information to Lake County. He said there are approximately 13,000 town parcels that pay a stormwater fee.

He said at the request of Lake County, the trash rack at 73rd Avenue and Taney Street was removed because they don't have the equipment to remove it. Public Works removed the trash rack, and a new one will be installed by Lake County since this is a county drain.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Simek said the Stormwater Resource Center will be closed on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, in observance of Veterans' Day, and also closed on November 26 and November 27, 2015 for Thanksgiving. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2015, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

Barbara Ghoston made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary