

**MINUTES OF THE  
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2014**

President Leonard White called the November 5, 2014 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:32 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, Attorney James Meyer and Secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were Town Manager Bruce Spires, Planning and Building Director Dorinda Gregor, Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering, residents Anne Collins, Bud Crist and Sharay Dixon.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Leonard White said next month, he would like to look at a matter that was previously tabled – an ongoing flow chart and by-laws for the Stormwater Management Board, following by-laws of the Town Council.

**MINUTES**

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the October 7, 2014 SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2014 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 October 7, 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 October 14, 2014 and October 28, 2014. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from October 14, 2014 and October 28, 2014, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the accounts payable registers from October 14, 2014 and October 28, 2014, and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Matt Lake discussed the drainage issue that the residents from Ross Meadow Farms, who were at last month's meeting, have had for the past eight to ten years. He said some residents compromised their drainage. At Councilman Pettit's request, Christopher Burke Engineering did a site visit and will determine engineering to fix the drainage problem. Due to the time frame, the work will be done in the spring. Since the roadway and some other neighbors are also impacted, the project will be more extensive than originally thought. It will be bid for a professional contractor.

Matt made a presentation to the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission on October 15<sup>th</sup> for the Meadowdale Lateral Flood Control Improvement projects and has since submitted additional documentation to them. Since all Merrillville residents pay the Little Cal fee on their real estate tax bills, he is waiting to see what type of cost-share can be done.

He said Reggie Korthals, the state MS4 coordinator for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) attended their last Northwest Indiana Stormwater Advisory Group (NISWAG) meeting, with her presentation having an emphasis on audits; she said Merrillville set the bar with its audit; she has 180 permittees to visit for their audits.

Matt said there was a Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) environmental meeting at Merrillville Town Hall on October 29<sup>th</sup> where they discussed open space corridors and land acquisition.

Matt said 13 illegal dumping signs have been installed; Liz read a list of locations – two at Madison Ditch, six at Taney Ditch, one Kaiser Ditch, two at Turkey Creek and Taft Street and two at Deep River on 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Matt said one sign was removed already. Matt said anyone can report illegal dumping, and that a sign at a specific location is not necessary to report illegal dumping.

Barbara Ghoston asked if the resident in Ross Meadow Farms who compromised his yard will be fined or if anything can be done. Attorney Jim Meyer said there is a six-year statute of limitations on property damage, and the only leverage would be for that resident to be required to move the fill on his property. He said, typically there's not much you can do after so many years. Other homeowners in the area can address him about the nuisance problem.

Barbara also asked about the Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Winfield; Matt said Stormwater was asked to send its jet vac truck and camera truck for their 109<sup>th</sup> Avenue project, and an invoice was sent to the Town of Winfield. He said once the invoice is paid, Winfield will be sent the video footage from the camera truck. Matt said the agreement is being used on weekends because the crew works for Merrillville during the week. He said it is a good way to work with a neighboring community.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Matt said Councilman Pettit also requested a review of the Broadfield subdivision prior to the proposed assisted living facility being approved. He said the owner of the property, Bill Brant, will be required to have eight-acre feet of storage, which will store an additional 2.6 million gallons of water. He met with Brant, Robinson Engineering and Christopher Burke Engineering since they did the engineering work when Broadfield flooded in 2008. Leonard White asked the depth of the pond, and Matt said he didn't know, but that the two existing ponds would be made into one larger pond. He said this will be good for Merrillville since it will help Broadfield and the area of 92<sup>nd</sup> and Connecticut Street.

Matt has a presentation before the Merrillville Noon Kiwanis club on November 20<sup>th</sup> at Delta Restaurant on Broadway.

The Board members were provided with a copy of the October 21, 2014 request for budget transfers *via* email that were required for payroll-related matters for the 2014 Stormwater budget. Leonard White made a motion to approve the October 21, 2014 budget transfers, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the October 21, 2014 budget transfers for payroll-related matters for the 2014 Stormwater budget, and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said he met with Kathy Csatari from IDEM regarding the Clean Communities Challenge.

Matt said emergency repairs were needed on the west side of 64<sup>th</sup> and Hendricks Street last week, where a tile collapsed causing a large sink hole right next to the road. The road was flooded and blocked due to broken tiles. The area was jet vacced, and the back hoe excavated the soil. Since it was an emergency, Delta III was called to repair the site. Matt said a lot of sink holes are appearing due to aging infrastructure in the town.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Leonard asked Attorney Jim Meyer if he had any report. Jim said he spoke with Dan Vicari from Gary Sanitary District (GSD), and they have secured a contractor to smoke test the Meadowland area some time this year. They will notify Matt and the residents with door knockers.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bud Crist asked the status of the proposed clean fill site on 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, and asked if anyone is watching it, and Matt said yes. Bud said he remembers what happened at Lake Sandy Jo and he doesn't want those same problems in his neighborhood. Bruce Spires said it is a Town Council decision, not a Stormwater decision. Mr. Spires said although they have already received approval by the town's Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA), it still must go before the Town Council. He does not believe it will go anywhere further because of the noise and other problems that residents complained about. He stated that although the company said Merrillville would receive money from the proposed facility, residents are angry with the proposal and have complained about other problems like wear and tear on the roads. He thinks the company should withdraw their petition. Leonard asked if the company would require a stormwater permit, and Matt said he was not sure what all is being proposed, and they are holding a follow-up meeting Monday.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. White said the next monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 2, 2014, at 4:30 p.m. at the Stormwater Resource Center. Liz also said the Stormwater office and all non-emergency town departments will be closed on Tuesday, November 11, 2014, in observance of Veteran's Day.

Leonard White made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi  
Staff Secretary