

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

President Leonard White called the December 2, 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, financial advisor Karl Cender, Attorney James Meyer and Secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were Councilman Tom Goralczyk, Town Manager Bruce Spires, Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering and Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune*.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Leonard White said he hoped everyone had a nice Thanksgiving.

**MINUTES**

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the November 5, 2014 SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 5, 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 November 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 November 12, 2014 and November 25, 2014. Mr. White questioned the November 5<sup>th</sup> expense paid to Delta III, and Matt Lake said it was due to a Volkswagen-sized sink hole and pipe repair needed at 64<sup>th</sup> and Hendricks Street. Mr. Spires said when there is such a large structural repair, the town does not have the equipment to do the job, and that is why Delta was hired. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from November 12, 2014 and November 25, 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 November 12, 2014 and November 25, 2014, and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Barbara Ghoston asked Councilman Goralczyk about the flooding at Rug Masters on U.S. 30. He and Matt Lake said they had been out there; since the issue was on private property, they were told to contact their neighbor since there was no town easement.

Ralph Simek asked if there were any results from the new illegal dumping signage, and Matt said a few phone calls have been received from the Taney Ditch area, but no photos or proof have been provided. Matt said some signs have been stolen and then replaced. He said it is about getting the word out that illegal dumping in any area could lead to a conviction if we have evidence. The vandalized signs have been anchored better.

Mrs. Ghoston asked about the 53<sup>rd</sup> Court lift station, and Matt said the matter is to be addressed today at the meeting. The Board will need to bid the lift station construction. Matt said the hardware and pump house is expected to be approximately \$170,000, and installation of electricity and plumbing is about \$60,000 to \$70,000; two separate bids will be let. Attorney Jim Meyer said that since the installation portion would be under \$150,000, a request for quotes could be requested, where the quotes would be opened at a Stormwater board meeting without the need to advertise that portion of the project.

Matt said the project would probably be bid in the spring. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the bid for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Court lift station, breaking it into two bids, one for labor and construction of the lift station, and one for plumbing, electric and equipment, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the bidding in two parts for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Court lift station, and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said the final \$187,500 cost-share from the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) for the Taft Street project was received, with a total paid by INDOT being \$750,000.

He said he received the final notification from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on the Community Rating System (CRS), and Merrillville ranked #7 – the highest in the state, and Merrillville residents can expect to receive a 15% reduction in flood insurance premiums. He said he just received notice from the state that effective December 1, if building codes change, the town could rank even better.

Matt plans to attend the December 10 Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission meeting regarding his request for a cost-share on the Meadowdale Lateral Flood Control Improvement project.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Leonard said included in the agenda packet was a copy of a proposed 2015 calendar of meetings for the Stormwater Management Board. Liz said that because there are town elections in 2015, the May and November meetings would be held on the first Wednesday of the month. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the meeting schedule for 2015, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the 2015 calendar of meetings for the Stormwater Management Board, and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said members were provided with a copy of the 2015 agreement with Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District (LCSWCD); he said this is the third year Stormwater has contracted with LCSWCD for education and outreach services and says there is a new educator who specializes in stormwater quality. The one-year contract is for the amount of \$5,000.00, which remains the same as prior years. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the Agreement with Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District for \$5,000.00 for 2015, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A roll call vote was taken, and all three members voted to approve the Agreement with Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District for \$5,000.00 for 2015, and the motion passed with a 3/0 vote. Mr. Simek said he would like to invite them to participate in Stormwater events next year.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Barbara said she had read an article where Councilman Shawn Pettit has asked Matt for assistance on a passive park. Matt said that area is where the clean fill facility had been proposed on 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. He said there has been no formal discussion on the matter. The town's intent is to make the property safe. Matt said he also met with Councilwoman Carol Miano at Stefek Park to discuss trees and plants for the park. Once the new parks director is hired, then they will proceed.

Matt said 13,000 Merrillville parcels were submitted to the Lake County Auditor last week for payment of the stormwater fee on tax bills next year.

Matt said he just sent a letter and application for re-certification for Merrillville to be named a Tree City USA again for next year.

He said he is working on a resolution supporting participation in the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Clean Community Challenge to implement a quality of life on community environmental issues, and he expects it to be passed at the next Town Council meeting.

Leonard asked Attorney Jim Meyer about the status of the Gary Sanitary District (GSD) matter, and Jim said the last he heard, they have secured a contractor to smoke test the Meadowland area some time this year. Although he has not been contacted, Matt said he will be present to coordinate it.

Leonard asked Karl Cender, Ron Wiedeman, Bruce Spires and Councilman Goralczyk if they had any questions or comments, and all said no.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. White said the next monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 6, 2015, at 4:30 p.m. at the Stormwater Resource Center. He wished everyone a happy Christmas.

Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi  
Staff Secretary