

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2011**

President Bud Crist called the October 4, 2011 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Barbara Ghoston and Dorinda Gregor. Staff present included Executive Director Matt Lake, Karl Cender from Cender & Company, Jon Derwinski from Robinson Engineering, Attorney T. Edward Page and Secretary Liz Bushemi. Also present were Councilwoman Chrissy Barron, the Town Council Liaison to the SWMB, and Town Administrator Howard Fink. Residents John Conley and Don Spann were also present.

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the September 6, 2011 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the September 6, 2011 minutes; there were no questions, and the motion was seconded by Dorinda Gregor and unanimously approved.

Also included in the agenda packet was the current fund report, appropriation report and accounts payable registers. Mr. Crist indicated that the current fund balance is \$994,800.63. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the financial reports; there were no questions, and the motion was seconded by Dorinda Gregor and unanimously approved.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Crist said he, Matt Lake and Councilwoman Chrissy Barron attended the Indiana Assn. of Floodplain & Stormwater Management Conference at Pokagon State Park from September 14-16. He discussed the various seminars they attended, including the "How to Get Punished for Good Behavior". He said this is similar to what happened in Muncie, where the State Board of Accounts questioned stormwater issues, which put us on notice to watch where our money is going. He said Matt Lake was a presenter with Lori Gates at the seminar, "What Every MS4 Should Know About Rule 6" and said it was a very good presentation. Matt said going to these conferences is a good way to share ideas in communities and come back with information to use here in Merrillville.

Mr. Crist said he and Matt will also be attending the Indiana Urban Forest Council conference, the organization where Matt obtained the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) grant, and also the Indiana Water Environment Association conference.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Crist said the \$1 million Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) closing was complicated but went well on September 29, 2011. There were three (3) bidders: People's Bank at 1.36% interest; Centier Bank at 2.8%; and Porter State Bank at 2.85%. The bid was awarded to People's Bank, with total interest in the amount of \$6,837.78, which Karl Cender says will be paid by March 30, 2012. Mr. Crist said the \$1 million was wired to the town's account at Centier Bank on September 30, 2011, and a Stormwater Construction Fund was created to start the projects listed for the BAN.

Karl Cender gave everyone a copy of a Notice to Taxpayers of Additional Appropriation and an Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana Approving Additional Appropriation(s) regarding the \$3.5 million bond. Karl is not sure if this needs to be approved by the Town Council since we are a municipal utility, but the Town oversees our budget; he said this way, the Clerk-Treasurer can monitor the funds.

Mr. Cender asked the Board for a motion to approve the Notice to Taxpayers so it can be advertised 10 days prior to the October 25, 2011 Town Council meeting. He said it is a formality to appropriate the \$3.5 million. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to proceed with the Notice to Taxpayers of Additional Appropriation, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A roll call vote was taken, and all three (3) members voted yes, and the motion to proceed with the Notice to Taxpayers of Additional Appropriation was adopted and unanimously approved.

Regarding the property at 7404 Broadway, Mr. Crist said we are still in the process of closing, and he has two bids for demolition which are being held until closing.

He said Wade Dillon is surveying the Taft Street property.

Ozinga Concrete has put our Stormwater decal on 14 of their cement trucks with wording to "use appropriate washout" on the back of their vehicles. The violation and court matter was resolved by them agreeing to spread the word about proper cement washouts. Matt Lake said Ozinga wants to work with Stormwater Utility on a brochure for the future.

Matt Lake said the Stormwater Master Plan has not been updated since 1987 and needs revision. He has received a draft proposal from Christopher Burke Engineering to update the master plan for a cost of \$128,600. He will provide all members with a copy for their review.

Matt also said he is obtaining information from companies on a GIS storm sewer mapping system. He received a proposal from Mid-West GIS for \$63,440, and he is seeking other proposals.

Matt said an individual he knows for computer technical support, Adam Graper, has given him a draft service and support agreement, whereby Adam would provide computer services at a rate of \$50 per hour, which amount is less than the \$90 per hour that Stormwater currently pays.

He said he applied for a Lake Michigan Coastal Program grant, and Stormwater is expected to receive \$17,157.

Matt said a rain garden was planted on the Public Works property on September 8, 2011, and six (6) Ginko trees were planted at the Town Hall, which was done from offsite mitigation.

The historic great burr oak tree located at 2800 West 57th Avenue has brought a lot of attention, with news media coverage and calls from people offering to make donations for the tree removal, since it is on private property. Matt said we are looking to do something positive with the tree once removed, like having portions of the tree in the new Stormwater office, at the Merrillville/Ross Township Historical Museum and other locations. This is being done so people can appreciate the legacy of the tree. However, the property owners are still trying to determine what they want to do and have asked Stormwater officials to hold off on any tree removal. Mr. Crist said the tree company has lowered the price of the tree removal since there has been so much attention. He said the tree can come down with dignity, in disgrace or in shambles. Matt said if we have the tree removed, he will be able to do testing to determine the age of the tree. He has suggested to the homeowners that put up a sign that it is private property so people don't "hug the tree" and have limbs fall. Matt also said he has ordered a copy of the National Geographic Magazine from November, 1955, and expects to receive it soon.

Matt also said our office is hosting a CMS4S Certification Course on November 9 and 10, 2011, at the Pruzin Center regarding the technicalities of the MS4 program. People will be attending from throughout the state.

Regarding permanent easement agreement, Matt said he is working with Jon Derwinski and the attorney on this and will discuss further when more information is available.

Matt is interested in ordering an LCD projector where he can make presentations at Town Council meetings once per month. Bud is looking into prices for a screen and projector.

Jon Derwinski said bids were submitted a couple of months ago for the Savannah Ridge rear yard flooding project. The Stormwater Utility sewer jet has vacced the lines, and Matt said they have jet vacced the entire subdivision. The preliminary analysis seems to show that the pipes are undersized. He suggested that the SWMB hold off on anything further until there is another issue.

Regarding the 54th Court project, Jon said bids were open on September 30, 2011, with three bids made, as follows: Gough Construction, \$325,000; Grimmer Construction, \$426,000; and Reith Riley at \$503,000. Part of Gough's bid was for texturing, and some parts of their bid were high. He recommends that the Board hold off at this time since the waterlines and mailboxes need to be moved, etc. He suggests waiting until the spring to do the project and re-bid the project in January so the project can begin in March, 2012. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to hold off on the 54th Court bid awarding and to re-bid the project in January, 2012, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A roll call vote was taken, and all three (3) members voted yes. The motion to hold off on the 54th Court bid awarding and to re-bid the project in January, 2012, was adopted and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Bud said he and Matt have met over the last several days with some construction companies in connection with the new building, including Public Design Architects from Oak Park, Illinois, along with Camp, Dresser & McKee from Gary, and FBI Builder from Remington, Indiana. They are looking at plans on ideas for property layout, green roofs and other things. Our Stormwater equipment will remain at the Public Works garage until the new building is built, and we will have onsite storage for the vehicles, with the buildings have a firewall in between. Matt also said he has met with some people regarding green roofs, natural lighting, 3-D and other environmentally-safe things. He'd like the Stormwater Utility Center not only be the place to take care of business but also to be an example of a great stormwater utility center!

OTHER BUSINESS

Matt said another easement drainage project Public Works is working on is at U.S. 30 and Marshall Street. He, Bruce and Jon Derwinski met there to discuss flooding. It is a stormwater improvement and public safety project.

Matt also said the Southmoor Park catch basin on 78th Avenue has been a problem. We are trying to reclaim the right-of-way, which should be done this week. Water is deteriorating the road if it sits on the 4road, and we need to insure proper drainage.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident John Conley from 5565 Cleveland Street addressed the Board. He had called earlier in the day, and Bud has his complaint form; he also gave Matt pictures. He said he has lived there 33 years and has had problems with flooding, saying water runs from south to north on Cleveland and onto his property. He said there used to be a retention pond, but after the apartments were built, there is no pond and water runs into his yard. He asked what could be done. Dorinda recalled the matter from 2005 and asked Town Engineer Jon Derwinski to look into it. Because Cleveland Street is State Highway 55 and out of the town's jurisdiction, the pictures were given to Jon Derwinski, who will see how the town was involved in the past from prior documentation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular Stormwater Management Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 2, 2011, at 4:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Dorinda Gregor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:17 pm, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Secretary