

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2011**

President Bud Crist called the December 6, 2011 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:37 p.m. Members in attendance were Barbara Ghoston and Dorinda Gregor. Staff present included Executive Director Matt Lake, Attorney Steve Bower, Karl Cender from Cender & Company, and Secretary Liz Bushemi. Also present were Councilwoman Chrissy Barron, the Town Council Liaison to the SWMB, Town Administrator Howard Fink, Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune* and Chas Reilly from *The Times*.

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the November 2, 2011 and November 15, 2011 SWMB meetings. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve both the November 2, 2011 and November 15, 2011 minutes; the motion was seconded by Dorinda Gregor. There were no questions, and the motion unanimously carried.

Also included in the agenda packet was the current fund report, appropriation report and accounts payable registers. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve all financial reports; there were no questions, and the motion was seconded by Dorinda Gregor and unanimously carried. Mr. Crist indicated that the current balance in the stormwater 626 general fund is \$888,963.77, and the current balance in the stormwater 627 construction fund is \$743,029.04. He said some adjustments were made last week in order to carry us through to the end of the year, and that the installment to stormwater from the Lake County Treasurer for fees paid by residents is expected to be received by the end of the year.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Crist said he is still working with the Merrillville Fire Department and Police Department for fire and SWAT team drills at the building at 7404 Broadway prior to demolition. He said he is currently filling out a permit for demolition with the Planning Department, and Delta III, Inc. will demolish the building.

Regarding the Taft Street project and the Innsbrook pond, Mr. Crist said all signatures have been received regarding the McColly parcel. Mr. Crist talked to Mr. Doepping's nephew about signing the purchase agreement, but documents were not received by the time of the meeting. He said the McColly property is 5.45 acres, selling at \$117,175; the Doepping property is 5.01 acres, selling at \$140,280. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to purchase the McColly parcel of 5.45 acres at \$117,175, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions, and the motion was approved and carried. Attorney Steve Bower advised to have this matter on the December 13, 2011 Town Council agenda. Mr. Crist said the funds for purchase of these properties will come out of the Stormwater Construction Fund #627.

Mr. Crist said the LCD projector electric work in the Town Council Chambers has been completed by Midwestern Electric. Rubino's will install the screen on Friday. He said they are looking at the possibility of having monitors of what is displayed on the screen in between Town Council members' seats in order for them to view from their seat.

Mr. Crist reported that the 2012 Freightliner dump truck was received recently, and the snow plow portion of it was paid by Public Works.

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Mr. Crist said the camera truck is still in development by the company, and he and Matt will see it and have instruction prior to it being delivered here.

Matt Lake said he is meeting with Darren Olson from Christopher Burke Engineering on Thursday regarding update of the Stormwater Utility Master Plan.

Matt said he has talked with Howard Fink, Gene Guernsey and Lake County Planning Director Ned Kovacevich regarding a letter to Lake County regarding the land use code for detention ponds. They will meet soon regarding the pros and cons of detention ponds being listed on tax sales. Mr. Bower said the Town Council is interested in the issue because many people have purchased properties at tax sale believing them to be treasures when, in fact, they are detention ponds only. Matt said because of that and people attempting to build is the reason they are seeking tax-exempt status. Mr. Bower said in the last 10 years, for all new subdivisions, they have been clear in not allowing detention ponds and have identified them as Outlots A & B. He said in older subdivisions, the ponds were never developed because there is no public access.

Matt attended a CMS4 certification class on November 9, 2011, and he just received notice that he passed the test and became a certified CMS4. The Board members congratulated him.

Matt said the contract was signed with Robinson Engineering for the GIS storm sewer infrastructure mapping, and he intends to meet with them soon to go section-by-section to make sure all areas of the town are covered.

The Indiana Water Environment Association held its 75th Annual Conference recently, and Matt said he and Bud attended. Although a lot of the conference pertained to sanitary sewers, there was some information about stormwater sewers.

Matt said he is updating the town's flood hazard ordinance, and he will prepare it for finalization and approval at the next Town Council meeting.

He also said he is compiling a list of various small projects to be done next spring, and they will be done once Public Works staff is available.

Matt said the 55th Avenue & Delaware project is 95% complete, with landscaping to be done in the near future.

Regarding the Taft Street project, Matt said Darren Olson has sent out a survey crew, and a design meeting is set regarding stormwater and sanitary separation to make sure there are no crossovers and that Independence Hill Conservancy District's plans are proper.

Matt said he met with IT consultant Adam Graper and Jim Donohue regarding a backup computer system to ensure everything is backed up properly, and that we are on the same page with the town as far as computers and backup are concerned.

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Regarding the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Coastal grant for the 54th Court rain garden project, Matt said our grant application made it through the first round, and the second phase of the grant application process is scheduled for today.

Matt said at the Indiana Water Environment Association annual conference, he attended a nutrient limit criteria session and was informed about the impact it will have on Stormwater Utility regarding standards for phosphorous due to algae problems. He said he is on the committee working with the state.

Matt sent a draft copy of an e-verification form to Attorney Steve Bower for review regarding contractors we hire to validate their compliance with new immigration laws. Once the document is approved, it will be sent to vendors for verification that they are in compliance with the law.

Regarding The Preserves, Matt said he looked at all aspects of drainage, and they are attempting to get all the roads to be dedicated to the town. He also said they are looking at a pond on the Gough Construction property because it causes ice on the road.

He had a meeting with the grant administrator at Robinson Engineering regard grants we may be eligible for in order to stretch our dollars and fit in more projects. In the future, a grant administrator may be hired to assist Stormwater Utility in obtaining grants.

Regarding the property at 7404 Broadway, it was determined that there is not a regulated drain since there is no 75-foot drain easement, and a document was signed and notarized to forward to Robinson Engineering.

Matt talked to NIPSCO officials regarding the old burr oak tree on 57th Avenue, and they have indicated they will take care of trimming the tree where needed for the town's responsibility.

Bud Crist said included in the agenda packet was a 2012 Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting date schedule. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the 2012 SWMB meeting date schedule, and it was seconded by Dorinda Gregor and unanimously approved and carried. A copy will be given to the town administrator's office for inclusion in the December 13, 2011 Town Council agenda packet.

Mr. Crist said the next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 3, 2012, at 4:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi
Secretary