

**MINUTES OF THE  
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2012**

President Bud Crist called the January 3, 2012 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. Members in attendance were Dorinda Gregor and Barbara Ghoston, who arrived shortly after the meeting began. Staff present included Executive Director Matt Lake, Attorney T. Edward Page, Karl Cender from Cender & Company, Jon Derwinski from Robinson Engineering and Secretary Liz Bushemi. Also present were Councilwoman Chrissy Barron, the Town Council Liaison to the SWMB, Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune*, resident John Minchuck, resident and precinct committeeman Gene Ward, and Chas Reilly from *The Times*.

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the December 6, 2011 SWMB meeting. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the December 6, 2011 minutes; there were no questions, both members voted yea, and the motion carried.

Also included in the agenda packet was the current fund report, appropriation report and accounts payable registers. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve all financial reports; she asked about the amount being paid to Truck City of Gary and was told it is for the new dump trunk; there were no questions, and the motion unanimously carried. Mr. Crist indicated that the current balance in the stormwater 626 general fund is \$703,341.63, and the current balance in the stormwater 627 construction fund is \$731,211.04. It is anticipated that \$.5 million or \$600,000.00 will be received shortly from the County Treasurer for the stormwater utility fee collected from real estate taxes.

Mr. Crist said he received a phone call and email from Attorney Steve Bower indicating he left the Thiros & Stracci lawfirm as of January 1, 2012, and that Attorney T. Edward Page will be representing the firm for the SWMB until further notice.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Regarding the Taft Street project and the Innsbrook pond, Mr. Crist said included in the agenda packet to Board members was a copy of the Doepping property Community Title Company commitment. Attorney Page said the property needs to be conveyed from the trust to Stormwater Utility. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to purchase the Doepping parcel of 5.01 acres at \$140,280, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A roll call vote was taken, and all three (3) members voted yea, and the motion was approved and carried.

Mr. Crist said demolition of the Haleys building at 7404 Broadway was completed the last week in December. Robinson Engineering completed the survey work. He and Matt will be meeting with the architect, CDM, in Chicago on Monday, January 9, 2012; their plan is to have bi-weekly meetings to discuss the new building. Mr. Crist also said he spoke to Dan, the neighbor to the north, and Dan is excited about the Stormwater Utility Center and will cost-share on landscaping. Bud said they are working with a sign company regarding removal of part of the Haleys' sign.

Regarding the LCD projector in the Town Council Chambers, he said they are working with our IT tech Adam Graper on pricing for the wireless equipment for installation. He said Rubino estimated a \$1,000.00 cost, and Adam may be able to get the equipment for \$249.00.

Matt Lake said he is meeting on Thursday, January 5, 2012, with Darren Olson regarding the Stormwater Utility Master Plan.

Regarding the Preserves, Matt said part of the development is unstable. He met with the developer regarding landscape plans, and they installed stabilization, and it was seeded and blanketed. They found no outlet for water since the manholes were covered. The town is attempting to accept roadways on the property, which will save the town money.

The 55<sup>th</sup> and Delaware Street project is a joint project with Public Works. He said the road was regarded into a swale area, which creates a safe intersection and roadway. In addition to it being a good project for safety, it also conserves the road, which saves money for the town.

Matt said the Bel Oaks project is an old issue, where culverts blocked the area and crossed over the railroad. They are in discussions with Canadian National Railway Company.

The Rodriguez legal matter pertains to property in Winfield on 101<sup>st</sup> Avenue & Colorado, where the owners have blocked the drain tiles to alleviate flooding on their property. The property owners continue to block the stormwater sewers, installing plastic pieces, where the water was raised one foot, which sends water onto 101<sup>st</sup> Avenue, causing flooding. The homeowners were given notice that Stormwater Utility representatives were coming onto the property to remove the items blocking the flow of water. It rained the next day, and then there was a freeze. Attorney Page said they are in contempt since they are in violation of the contract with the town; Matt said he received a letter from the homeowners' attorney stating they may sue Stormwater Utility for coming onto the property.

Matt said he is working with Robinson Engineering regarding infrastructure mapping, where they will be sharing files to make sure all information is as accurate as possible. Jon Derwinski says they intend to start it in two weeks.

Matt said the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) just released our grant for the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) mitigation. He is also working with Val Williams from Robinson Engineering regarding the possibility of grant money for the 54<sup>th</sup> Court project.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Matt said on behalf of Stormwater Utility, he presented Lake County Surveyor George VanTil and Wade Dillon from the Survey's Office with awards, thanking them for their survey work on the Taft Street project, which saved the town \$15,000. The awards, made from recycled glass, were presented at the Drainage Board meeting on December 21, 2011, to show our appreciation for their assistance in this project.

Although the new Flood Hazard Ordinance 11-64 passed at the December 27, 2011 Town Council meeting, it will be re-read at the January 10, 2012 Town Council meeting. Ads were taken out in the *Post-Tribune* and *The Times* advertising the meeting. The new flood hazard ordinance helps residents in their eligibility for flood insurance, if necessary.

Matt said letters were sent to vendors requesting completion of a form verifying that they do not hire illegal aliens. They will be kept on file at the Stormwater office.

Matt said he has been working with Val Williams, senior grant writer, from Robinson Engineering, on several grants. Robinson Engineering will have a proposal for the next Stormwater meeting for contracting services for grant writing.

Matt said he believes state legislators are ready to re-submit House Bill 1574 regarding the Little Calumet River watershed fee to the Indiana General Assembly. He is concerned that the fee will be passed with little or no knowledge to communities. The levy protects 9,500 parcels. In the past, the legislation had tiered systems, but he is not sure of the wording in this proposed legislation.

Matt said the Stormwater office is ready to advertise to the Town Council and town employees the part-time compliance officer position. Matt himself has been writing up violations, and this staff member would take care of inspections and violations so Matt will be available to do his job as executive director.

Matt said he has been working with Adam Graper on computer and technical matters for the Stormwater office. They are also working on map printing at the office; Attorney Page said no cash should go through the Stormwater office. Once a system is in place, any funds received for maps printed would be returned to the Stormwater general fund.

Matt said he is on a committee to plan the annual MS4 meeting and will probably serve as a speaker at the annual meeting. He will discuss the stormwater pollution prevention plan and will also showcase the 7404 Broadway property plan as an example.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Minchuk, Commander of the American Legion Post 430, south of the 7404 Broadway property, addressed the Board to say thank you for purchasing the property and demolishing the Haleys building. He said they are glad to have Stormwater as neighbors and said if there's anything they can do to assist, to let them know. Matt also said a grant may be available to improve the stream corridor between 7404 Broadway and the American Legion property.

Mr. Crist said the next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at 4:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Dorinda Gregor made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Bushemi, Secretary