

**MINUTES OF THE  
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012**

President Bud Crist called the February 7, 2012 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. Members in attendance were Barbara Ghoston and Dorinda Gregor. Staff present included Executive Director Matt Lake, Compliance Officer Joe Fish, Attorney T. Edward Page, Karl Cender from Cender & Company, Jon Derwinski from Robinson Engineering and Secretary Liz Bushemi. Also present were Town Councilwoman Chrissy Barron, the Town Council Liaison to the SWMB, resident Ted Thorek, Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune*, Town Councilman Donald Spann, 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 January 3, 2012 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2012 meeting, and it was seconded by Dorinda Gregor; there were no questions, and the motion was approved and unanimously 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, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston; there were no questions, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried. Mr. Crist indicated that the current balance shown by the Clerk-Treasurer in the stormwater 626 general fund is \$696,874.34, and he said that \$528,688.16 was received on January 10, 2012 for the November, 2011, installment of real estate taxes, which would indicate a \$1,225,562 balance in the 626 account. He also said the current balance in the stormwater 627 construction fund is \$731,211.04.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Mr. Crist said the Town of Merrillville received an invoice from the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) for annual dues in the amount of \$2,500.00 and per capita annual fee based on population of 35,246 in the amount of \$8,811.50, for a total invoice amount of \$11,311.50. He said NIRPC does planning for Clean Water projects, provides educational materials and brochures and holds workshops. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to pay the \$11,311.50 invoice to NIRPC, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. Mr. Crist said there was a slight increase in the per capita fee because of an increase in population. The motion was approved and unanimously carried.

Mr. Crist also said the Town of Merrillville received an invoice from the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) for 2012 dues in the amount of \$9,595.00. He said this year, the town administration, public works and stormwater utility will share the cost, paying one-third each, and next year they intend to request that the fire territory district pay a share. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve payment of one-third of the IACT dues in the amount of \$3,198.00, and it was seconded by Dorinda Gregor. There were no questions, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

Mr. Crist congratulated Barbara Ghoston on her recent re-appointment by the Town Council to the Stormwater Management Board for three years.

Mr. Crist said election of officers for the year 2012 must take place and entertained a motion. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to retain the current members for the calendar year 2012: L.J. "Bud" Crist as president, Barbara Ghoston as vice president, and herself, Dorinda Gregor, as member, for the year 2012, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions, and the motion was carried and unanimously approved.

Mr. Crist introduced the Stormwater Utility new part-time Compliance Officer, Joe Fish, to members, staff and others present. He said Joe came from Crown Point and was the stormwater compliance officer and code enforcement officer and worked with the Police Department there and has the experience to do the compliance officer job for Merrillville. He said, "We now have a Lake and a Fish for Merrillville Stormwater Utility". Joe said he is glad to work with Matt Lake and the Board members and glad to be in Merrillville.

Mr. Crist also said they closed on the McColly property at 6901 Taft Street on January 5, 2012, which will allow for the retention pond at Innsbrook. He said they are still working on the closing of the Doepping property and is working with the attorney to proceed on purchase of that property.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Crist said included in the agenda packet to members is the packet from CDM Smith, which includes their programming report and a timeline schedule for events to take place for design of the new building. He said they tentatively intend to meet again with them on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

He said all of the work in connection with the LCD projector, screen and converter in the Town Council chambers has been completed. He said they intend to purchase a CD player for use in showing films if necessary in the Town Council Chambers. Matt Lake will give a presentation at the next Town Council meeting using the new equipment.

Mr. Crist said the Cues camera truck was received on January 23, 2012, and Matt, Public Works Director Bruce Spires and Councilwoman Chrissy Barron went to Fort Wayne to pick it up from Brown Equipment Company in Fort Wayne. Matt said training will take place at the end of the month, and four employees will be trained. Jon Derwinski asked about outsourcing use of the camera truck for other projects, and Matt said it is possible that the camera truck, jet vac truck and street sweeper can be used by our staff for other businesses, and they can be billed for use of the equipment.

Matt Lake discussed House Bill 1264, the Little Calumet River maintenance fee. He said several meetings have taken place with key Lake County officials and Councilwoman Chrissy Barron, and they are trying to get the word out among communities regarding proposed changes they are suggesting, where different zones pay different fees. Matt is suggesting any surplus funds be returned to stormwater. He said although Senator Sue Landske was not at the meetings, she indicated that she will sponsor the amendments.

Matt said the Robinson Engineering efforts to complete the Stormwater Infrastructure Mapping continues, and he has also been in touch with Christopher Burke Engineering regarding the Master Plan.

Matt said the 54<sup>th</sup> Court project will be re-bid in the spring, and a meeting with Robinson Engineering is scheduled to take place soon.

As a member of the town's Environmental Committee, Matt said they are meeting regularly and enforcing the town's landscape ordinance, which relates to stormwater and natural vegetation. The volunteer group reviews landscape plans for the town and makes recommendations. They will be involved in Arbor Day activities and community gardens and presentations to children at local schools, which will also help with networking.

Regarding the Stormwater Master Plan, Matt says members will have a copy of the contract with Christopher Burke Engineering prior the next meeting, for a vote in March.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Bud Crist said he worked with the Chief Joe Petruch at the Merrillville Police Department to purchase a used vehicle for Joe Fish, the Compliance Officer. He would like Stormwater to purchase a 2005 Crown Victoria with 107,914 miles for \$4,100. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to purchase the above vehicle, and it was seconded by Dorinda Gregor, with the condition that there is a Stormwater Utility decal on the vehicle. Bud said he just received the decals for the vehicle. There were no questions or further comments. The motion was approved and unanimously carried.

Matt said members have in their packets a copy of the contract with Robinson Engineering for grant writing services to be done by Valerie Williams. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the proposal for grant writing services for 2012 with Robinson Engineering for up to \$25,000, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. Barbara asked when this will take place. Bud said she has already been helping on grant proposals, and Matt said his goal is to supplement the Stormwater Utility budget with grants and said Val has the knowledge of obtaining funding. Bud said she worked on the 54<sup>th</sup> Court project, which assisted in building \$30,000 into the budget. Dorinda asked if the \$25,000 would be paid out of contractual services, and Karl Cender said yes. The motion was approved and unanimously carried.

Matt said he attended an Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy conference January 18 and 19 at Canyon Inn in Spencer, Indiana. He was elected as a board member and said it's a good networking opportunity for the Town of Merrillville.

Matt met with the Army Corps of Engineers at the Chicago District on January 25 regarding the Taft Street project. He said they were able to identify resources and follow through on permit requirements, and he's hopeful to obtain a regional general permit. We will need a Rule 5 permit through IDEM for one acre or more land disturbance.

Matt said he is working with Adam Graper on computer matters, including files storage. Adam assisted with installation of the LCD projector equipment at the Town Hall, and Adam brings good ideas to the table, including possible use of tablets to expand the capabilities of the system at the Town Hall.

Regarding the MS4 program, Matt said NIRPC is hosting a February 23 meeting to discuss the program and stormwater issues, and he will attend. He just returned from a meeting in Zionsville regarding the Annual MS4 meeting, which will be held on May 17, 2012, at the Marriott Indianapolis East. He suggested that staff and members mark their calendars and let him know if they plan to attend. Matt will serve as a speaker at several sessions, including stormwater development and technical plan review. Bud hopes that Dorinda and Barbara will attend to learn more about MS4 requirements, and for those who attend, credit is given for internal training.

Matt talked to Mike Wieser at the Lake County Auditor's office regarding the fee structure for the next set of tax bills to be sent out.

Matt will attend a meeting on February 8 for the Indiana Urban Forest Council and a February 9 meeting with LTAP regarding stormwater and drainage issues. He submitted a fertilization article to Town Administrator Howard Fink for the next town newsletter.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Karl Cender said he is working on the long-term bond issue for \$3.5 million and said the \$1 million BAN money (monies for stormwater projects borrowed from Peoples Bank, last year) will be paid off with this bond issue. He intends to move forward with the bond sale in mid-March and will circulate a timetable for everyone. The bond issue proceeds will be put into the Stormwater 627 construction fund account.

Jon Derwinski said they are 25% complete with the Town of Merrillville mapping project, and he will update Matt and Bud with further information. Matt said this information is needed for the MCM audit, and Jon said help may be needed for staff safety and vehicles on Broadway; Bud and Matt said Public Works arrow trucks can be provided to assist for safety.

Barbara asked the status of the old oak tree on 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Matt said he is still awaiting word from the homeowners on how they intend to proceed. Currently they are having an artist's rendition of the tree done, and Matt is hopeful that we can get a slice of the tree when they are ready to do the carvings.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Crist said the next Stormwater Management Board meeting will be on Tuesday, March 6, 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 5:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi, Secretary