

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 9, 2012**

President Bud Crist called the July 9, 2012 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. Members in attendance were Barbara Ghoston and Dorinda Gregor. Staff present was Executive Director Matt Lake, Jon Derwinski from Robinson Engineering, Karl Cender from Cender & Company and Secretary Liz Bushemi. Also present were Councilwoman Chrissy Barron—the Town Council liaison to the Stormwater Management Board, and Darren Olson from Christopher Burke Engineering.

Included in the agenda packet were copies of the minutes from the June 5, 2012 SWMB meeting and the June 28, 2012 special Board meeting regarding the Taft Street bid opening. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2012 and June 28, 2012 meetings, and it was seconded by Dorinda Gregor; there were no questions or corrections, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

Also included in the agenda packet were the current appropriation reports and accounts payable registers. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from June 12, 2012 and June 26, 2012, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston; there were no questions, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried. Mr. Crist also stated that the balance in the Stormwater construction fund #627 was \$2,826,487.45, and the Stormwater general fund #626 was \$1,209,672.11.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Crist said the Stormwater Utility Center received final approval from the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA), and we're ready to proceed with bids for the new office.

He said the 54th Court project is moving along. He asked Jon Derwinski from Robinson Engineering to address the group. Jon said three-quarters of the *cul de sac* has been poured, and they have excavated about half of the pond; they are seven to ten days away from starting restoration of the pond. There have been no complaints from the residents, and Councilman Hardaway is happy with the project. Matt said some residents were having problems backing out of driveways, and barricades were set up.

Bud said the Taft Street Drainage Improvement Project bid opening was held on June 28, 2012. Darren Olson from Christopher Burke Engineering said four bids were received, with the lowest bid being Dyer Construction Company in the amount of \$2,028,458.24. He said the engineer's estimate was \$2,353,083.00, so Dyer's bid came in at \$324,624.76 less than the engineer's estimate. Mr. Olson recommends that the project be awarded to Dyer Construction. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the bid of Dyer Construction Company for the Taft Street Drainage Improvement Project in the amount of \$2,028,458.24, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. Discussion was held. Matt said a July 23, 2012 pre-construction project meeting is scheduled. He said \$750,000 will be received from the State of Indiana within 90 days, there is approximately \$450,000 left in the bond account that had been allocated for the Chapel Manor project and \$100,000 from the Sedona pond project money, which was determined as private

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property. Karl Cender said that some money will have to be put in the 2013 budget for completion of the Taft Street project.

Matt said he is working with the Independence Hill Conservancy District on their easement for a metering station for the Taft Street project, and Darren Olson said they are working with the water and gas companies on some conflict issues. Darren Olson said the ponds will be constructed first, and culvert construction will take place later. Matt said the project will also help with flooding in the Independence Hill subdivision.

An oral roll call vote was taken on Dorinda Gregor's motion to approve the bid of Dyer Construction Company for the Taft Street Drainage Improvement Project in the amount of \$2,028,458.24. All three (3) members voted yes, and it was unanimously approved and carried.

Bud said Stormwater Utility participated in the July 3 Independence Day parade, with Matt and Chrissy in his truck pulling the Argo with his grandson, Mason, and a few friends helping distribute items to intern Ben Williams and Liz, who passed out items along the parade route; Mike Mahy and his family in the jet vac truck; Ron Widing in the dump truck; and Bud driving the ATV. He said there were 54 entries in the parade.

Regarding the Canadian National Railway, Matt said he is continuing to work with the company on their responsibilities for the obstruction in the culvert on Waite Street. Stormwater and Public Works crew members are doing supplemental improvements to the site.

Matt said Compliance Officer Joe Fish has been inspecting and enforcing the stormwater ordinance and issuing citations to those who are violating the ordinance. A \$300 check was delivered today from Gough, Inc. for a citation that was issued. Matt said that he, Joe and Attorney Jim Meyer have designed a "stop work order" which will also be used.

Matt said the town's street tree inventory is 80% complete by the two summer interns, and he anticipates the entire inventory to be approximately 8,000 trees. The inventory is being done with grant money received for this project, and trees are a big part of preventing flooding because of the amount of water a tree holds. They will also be developing some brochures and working with him on a stream crossing signage project.

He said the 54th Court project will be done within the month, and volunteers will plant the rain garden in the center area. Matt is working on an emblem to be placed on a stone in the center of the rain garden.

Matt said he has been working with First Group Engineering on the 54th Avenue project, which is a water line project in Meadowdale from Pierce to Johnson Streets, and their plans are 90% complete. A preliminary engineer's estimate is \$526,274, and he anticipates bids and construction later this year.

Regarding the new Stormwater Utility Center, he said the design is complete by CDM Smith, and we have a final set of plans. Skillman Corporation has come up with ways to save us about \$100,000. The bid documents are being prepared by Skillman, and it will be let for bid in August, and then construction will begin.

On various topics, Matt said he is working with Robinson Engineering to design signage along roadways for waterway awareness, which is a joint venture with Robinson Engineering, who will pay the cost of signage as part of a community service project. He is also working with the Merrillville Conservancy District regarding an inflow and infiltration disconnect program. Matt said the new Lake/Porter County Regional Stormwater Coordination Group is meeting and working on identification as a regional group. He completed a preliminary hydrant map for the Merrillville Fire Department.

He also said he and Compliance Officer Joe Fish have been asked to speak at the Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (INAFSM) conference at their annual conference September 12-14, 2012, at the Brown County State Park. Their session is "Implementing an Effective Enforcement Program".

On other issues, he said the Environmental Resource Committee has been meeting to review landscape plans submitted to the town. Regarding the PIMA property where Joe Fish issued a citation, he said PIMA did not show up for their first court appearance and faces a \$10,000 fine. The MS4 annual meeting committee and INAFSM committee are discussing possible merging of their annual meetings. He developed a program for the Purdue/Hoosier River Watch for water quality monitoring and how it can be utilized.

Matt said Merrillville is hosting a tree care workshop for Purdue University on July 25th. The arborist training will be presented by Lindsey Purcell and attended by staff from surrounding communities. The location has not yet been confirmed.

On other matters, he said Stormwater received an excellent rating on the audit conducted by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). The drainage enhancement project has been finished at The Preserves. They are discussing possible storage areas at the apartments south of Westfield (Southlake) Mall. Matt said the Little Calumet River fee will be appearing on tax bills soon, and since the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission is a not-for-profit agency, he will attempt to lobby for some funds for Merrillville.

NEW BUSINESS

Karl Cender passed out a copy of a July 2, 2012 letter to Clerk-Treasurer Gene Guernsey regarding Stormwater's \$3.5 million bond and advised Mr. Guernsey that the first debt service payment is due August 1, 2012. He recommends that Stormwater make a one-time payment at the end of June and December, but then every July, transfer monies needed to the debt service. Diane at the Clerk-Treasurer's office has questioned if a resolution is required for this, and Karl said he believes a motion by the Board is sufficient to authorize payment. He recommends payment of \$59,414 each July.

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Karl said he and Jim Bennett, the town's financial advisor, met, and they both agree that this entity is not required to have Town Council approval of the budget. Karl suggests that a meeting with Gene Guernsey take place. Councilwoman Barron said the Town Council should not be involved in Stormwater's budget. Bud Crist said Stormwater will continue to have its own internal budget.

Dorinda Gregor made a motion to have the Clerk-Treasurer transfer \$59,414 from the Stormwater Operating Fund to the Stormwater Debt Service Reserve line item #626010385 for this year's payment, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston; there were no questions, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

A June 21, 2012 letter from Christopher Burke Engineering was distributed to Board members regarding the out-of-scope, additional work that has been done by them in the amount of \$52,500. This was required for the Independence Hill Conservancy District easement for the Taft Street Drainage Improvement Project, and a portion will be repaid to Stormwater by the Independence Hill Conservancy District contribution to the project. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve payment to Christopher Burke Engineering with the understanding that part of this will be paid with Independence Hill Conservancy District funds, and it was seconded by Dorinda Gregor. Mrs. Gregor questioned when the project would begin, and Matt said within the month. The motion was approved and unanimously carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 7, 2012, which is a changed date from the original 2012 calendar of meetings that was distributed. The board and staff are also invited to the Christopher Burke Engineering Railcats baseball outing on August 8, 2012, and members are asked to RSVP as soon as possible.

Bud mentioned that he'd like to maintain "neighborhood" and "community" by possibly naming the Taft Street detention ponds the Doepping Pond and the Innsbrook Pond.

Dorinda Gregor made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi
Secretary