

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2012**

President Bud Crist called the September 4, 2012 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. Members in attendance were Dorinda Gregor and Barbara Ghoston, who arrived approximately one minute after the meeting began. Staff present was Executive Director Matt Lake, Attorney James Meyer, Financial Advisor Karl Cender from Cender & Company, MS4 Compliance Officer Joe Fish and Secretary Liz Bushemi. Also present was Ronald French from CDM Smith, resident Ted Kennedy, residents Mr. and Mrs. Richard Putman, John Sabo representing Lake County Surveyor George VanTil, Project Manager Dion Katsouros From Skillman Corporation, Chas Reilly from *The Times* and Town Administrator Howard Fink briefly.

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the August 7, 2012 monthly SWMB meeting and a copy of the minutes from the August 23, 2012 special SWMB meeting. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 7, 2012 and August 23, 2012 meetings, and it was seconded by Bud Crist; 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 August 14, 2012 and August 24, 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 included in the members agenda packets were the appropriation reports for their review.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Crist said everything is going well with the Taft Street Drainage Improvement Project both on Taft Street and 73rd Avenue.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Crist asked Skillman Corporation Project Manager Dion Katsouros to address the Board regarding the bids for the stormwater resource center. Mr. Katsouros said they reviewed the provisional bids, and 18 bids were received in the five (5) categories; last week, pre-award conferences were held with the various contractors. He recommends that the following provisional bids be awarded:

Gough, Inc.- General contractor for site and general trades - \$1,635,000
Meyer Glass & Mirror – for glazing - \$48,400
Arctic Engineering – for plumbing - \$69,900
Arctic Engineering – for mechanical - \$148,800
Sweny Electric – for electrical - \$216,000
TOTAL PROVISIONAL BID AWARDS - \$2,118,190

For the record, Attorney James Meyer said a motion for provisional award of bids is required. Barbara Ghoston made a motion for the provisional award of bids based on the amounts and parameters as outlined by Skillman Corporation (above), and it was seconded by Dorinda Gregor. An oral roll call vote was taken, and all three (3) members voted yes, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

Regarding the Taft Street project, Mr. Crist said the retention pond on Taft Street is complete except for the seeding, and Dyer Construction has moved to the 73rd Avenue area of the project and have begun digging there. He said the first draw on the Taft Street project is owed to Dyer Construction for \$418,490.77, less the 10% retainage of \$41,849.08, for a total amount owed at this time in the sum of \$376,641.69. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to pay Dyer Construction the first draw in the sum of \$376,641.69, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston; there were no questions, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried. Attorney Meyer pointed out that this request for payment was recommended by Christopher Burke Engineering and he recommended the payment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Crist asked the residents present to come forward at this time, rather than have them wait until the conclusion of the meeting. Mr. Richard Putman from 7103 Taft Street addressed the Board and asked about the ditch behind his property. Matt Lake said clearing and snagging needs to be done, and stormwater needs an easement from him and an Army Corps of Engineers permit, although the Corps frowns upon channelizing work. Matt said stormwater is looking at the possibility of acquiring easements throughout the town. He said the new Taft Street pond will hold a lot of water, and they are being designed professionally with an emergency overflow. Mr. Crist said during rain, the water will back up into the pond. Mr. Putman thanked them for their attention.

OLD BUSINESS CONTINUED

Matt said the construction of the 54th Court project is primarily complete, and the landscaping and rain garden remain to be done.

He said First Group Engineering is almost done with their engineering work for the Meadowdale project from Pierce to Johnson Street on 54th Avenue, and he is hopeful that this project can be bid this year.

Matt said he was asked to speak at the Indiana Urban Forest Council conference in the fall regarding trees and stormwater.

He said the awareness of waterways sign campaign is underway, and he showed those present one of the signs with Turkey Creek as the identified waterway. Robinson Engineering donated \$450 towards the project, and other companies have also agreed to sponsorship. The signs will be erected where roadways intersect waterways.

The Lake/Porter County Regional Stormwater Coordination Group continues to meet, and they are discussing partnering locally and will discuss the scope of services of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) program.

He will meet on September 6 with Robinson Engineering in South Holland regarding infrastructure mapping.

Matt said the Indiana Association of Floodplain and Stormwater Management (INAFSM) conference is next week, where he and Compliance Officer Joe Fish will speak on "Implementing an Effective Enforcement Program". He and Joe Fish also attended an illicit discharge conference last week.

He said he is still waiting to hear from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on the community rating system.

He is starting to compile data for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Rule 13 annual report.

Discussions are being held with Public Works Director Bruce Spires and Robinson Engineering to incorporate "green" street strategies in Roadway Engineering Standards. And he is continuing to work with Christopher Burke Engineering on a stormwater master plan and is hopeful that all town departments will have their own master plan.

Matt is attempting to coordinate a meeting this fall with Bon Aire Lake residents regarding safety and formal management of that water body.

Bud Crist said he and Jim Meyer are working on a reciprocal license agreement with the American Legion Hall for the parking lot at the new stormwater building, along with Walter Cook Insurance and the town's insurance company.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt said they have finalized the agreement with Public Works for purchase of the new dump truck. Stormwater has agreed to pay Forty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$46,895.00), after Public Works received a \$35,000 insurance payout for a crash the old truck was involved in and they paid \$5,000 out of their recycling budget. The truck will be lease purchased through the Kansas State Bank. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to supplement the Public Works portion to purchase or lease the 2013 Chicago International dump truck in the amount of Forty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$46,895.00), and it was seconded by Dorinda Gregor. There were no questions, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

Attorney James Meyer said typically he conducts a six-month review of his contract with clients, but he has no written contract yet with Stormwater Utility because he never received it from Town Council Attorney John Bushemi. Mr. Crist said he will look into the holdup with the town council attorney. Mr. Meyer presented Board President Bud Crist with a copy of a contract letter and said he will continue to bill at his current hourly rate but will present an alternative to the Board for the year 2013.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist acknowledged Lake County Surveyor George VanTil staff member John Sabo in the audience. Mr. Sabo said Merrillville Stormwater Utility continues to be aggressive and progressive and said to keep up the good work.

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Mr. Crist said next Stormwater Management Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 2, 2012, at the Town Hall.

Board Vice President Barbara Ghoston said following the August 23, 2012 Board meeting, all Board members and Matt Lake toured the 54th Court project, and she was impressed with the job, which she says has transformed the neighborhood. Board Secretary Dorinda Gregor said the tour was very informative and said you really appreciate the project when you see it. Mr. Crist said the same thing will happen with the Taft Street project.

Dorinda Gregor made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi
Secretary