

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2013**

President Barbara Ghoston called the April 2, 2013 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:38 p.m. Other members in attendance were Leonard White and Dorinda Gregor. Staff present was Executive Director Matt Lake, Attorney James Meyer, financial advisor Karl Cender from Cender & Company and Secretary Liz Bushemi. Councilman Tom Goralczyk, the Town Council liaison to Stormwater Utility, was also in attendance. Town Councilman Richard Hardaway, Lake County Surveyor George Van Til, Public Works Director Bruce Spires, Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering, Lake County Surveyor MS4 Water Quality Coordinator Dan Gardner, Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune* and resident Anne Collins were also present. Contractors present for the 54th Avenue storm sewer project bid opening were Mike Edinger from Woodruff & Sons, Inc., Sandra Smith from LGB Plumbing, Inc., Eric Rex from Rex Construction, and Matt Magurean from Gough, Inc.

Mrs. Ghoston welcomed everyone and wished everyone a belated Easter. She also acknowledged Town Councilman Richard Hardaway, Lake County Surveyor George Van Til, Public Works Director Bruce Spires and Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering.

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the March 4, 2013 monthly SWMB meeting. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2013 meeting, and it was seconded by Leonard White; there were no questions or corrections, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried. Also included was a copy of the minutes from the March 13, 2013 special SWMB meeting. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the minutes from the special March 13, 2013 meeting, and it was seconded by Leonard White; there were no questions or corrections, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

Also included in the agenda packet were the accounts payable registers from March 12, 2013 and March 26, 2013 and appropriation reports. Member Leonard White questioned the appropriation report and asked if Stormwater had two directors. Member Dorinda Gregor stated that Stormwater Utility for years has paid a \$10,962 portion of her salary, and Mr. White questioned if there was a conflict. Attorney James Meyer stated that the Town of Merrillville asked if that portion of her salary could be paid by Stormwater, and stated there is no conflict of interest. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from March 12, 2013 and March 26, 2013, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston; there were no questions, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Ghoston extended congratulations to Town Administrator Howard Fink on his retirement from the town. She said that Howard Fink had been in “on the ground floor” with Stormwater Utility at its beginning and thanked him for his help. She wished him well in his new job at the new municipality.

OLD BUSINESS

Matt Lake said that eight (8) bids were received for the 54th Avenue/Meadowdale storm sewer project. For years, the area from Johnson Street to Fillmore Street on 54th Avenue has had problems, and the project will replace infrastructure. Attorney Meyer opened the eight (8) bids in the order that they were received, with bid amounts as follows:

Rex Construction Co., Inc., Schererville, IN	-	\$648,744.82
LGS Plumbing, Inc., Crown Point, IN	-	\$830,404.30
Reith-Riley Construction Co., Inc., Gary, IN	-	\$926,642.00
deBoer Egolf Corp., Portage, IN	-	\$748,825.85
Gariup Construction Company, Inc., Gary, IN	-	\$798,400.00
Walsh & Kelly, Inc., Griffith, IN	-	\$683,331.19
Gough, Inc., Merrillville, IN	-	\$638,086.66
Woodruff & Sons, Inc., Michigan City, IN	-	\$721,288.38

Attorney Meyer recommended that the bids be forwarded to engineering staff, First Group Engineering, and take the bids under advisement. Councilman Tom Goralczyk suggested that a special board meeting be held in two weeks to award the bid since the rain season will begin soon.

Matt said there are two (2) contracts for consideration by the board with First Group Engineering for the 54th Avenue/Meadowdale project. The first contract is the supplemental agreement for the additional \$3,500 for additional contract document preparation, which members received prior to the meeting. Attorney Meyer suggested that First Group verify they have used the hours from the first contract to verify the additional hours. Matt said invoices have been submitted and that bid documents for the Meadowdale project were amended, but if the Board wishes, the matter could be tabled.

The contract with First Group Engineering to monitor the work at the 54th Avenue project was also presented, with the Board having received copies prior to the meeting. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the contract with First Group Engineering to oversee the construction site, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. Member Leonard White indicated he was abstaining. A roll call vote was taken, and members Dorinda Gregor and Barbara Ghoston voted in favor of the motion, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried by a vote of two in favor and one abstention.

Regarding the Taft Street project, Matt said he met with Mark Kaiser, who said Dyer Construction is on schedule to resume work on the project soon. He said Infrasource found a 36" culvert that poses a danger on Taft Place, and there may be a change order for Dyer Construction due to safety issues. He said signage was installed at both ponds stating no recreational activities can occur at the detention ponds.

Regarding Kaiser Ditch, Matt said this is a joint project with the Town of Merrillville and the Lake County Surveyor, where Merrillville is ordering the materials and the Surveyor's office is doing the work. Matt said he is continuing to work with Calumet Park Cemetery for the easement to their pond.

Lake County Surveyor George Van Til addressed the Board and said work on the Kaiser Ditch project would begin tomorrow or the next day. Mr. Van Til said this project from U.S. 30 to 73rd Avenue could not have been possible without Merrillville Stormwater Utility doing this project on Taft Street. Mr. Van Til said the area north of the railroad across from the Innsbrook golf course is where good flow is needed into Turkey Creek. He said McColly has put a lot of money into Innsbrook, and he is hopeful that this will be good for Innsbrook as well as the residents in the area. Mr. Van Til said this project will enhance the entire town. Matt said both projects will complement each other. Leonard White asked about the cost share, and Mr. Van Til said the Town of Merrillville is ordering the materials, and the Surveyor's office will install the infrastructure at no charge since they are working on Kaiser Ditch. Matt also said that prior to the commencement of the Taft Street project, that the Lake County Surveyor's office did the survey work at no charge to the Town of Merrillville. President Barbara Ghoston complimented Stormwater Utility and the Lake County Surveyor for working together and said in this way, we can achieve so much more. She knows that is what Matt strives for as executive director, and she said it enhances the aesthetics in all of Merrillville. Mr. Van Til said everyone in the state appreciates Matt Lake because he's an expert in his field.

Regarding the Little Calumet River Basin drainage study, Matt said they are looking for upland storage to benefit the Little Calumet River, and he will keep everyone updated.

Matt said the Northwest Indiana Stormwater Advisory Group (NISWAG) meetings are going well, and training takes place at some meetings. He said there was a recent article in *The Times* regarding NISWAG and common goals.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Ghoston reminded everyone that the Public Works leaf and branch pickup takes place the week of April 1st for areas north of 73rd Avenue and the week of April 8th for areas south of 73rd Avenue. She asked that everyone not rake leaves and branches into their stormwater drains and asked people to remind their neighbors.

Mrs. Ghoston addressed the *Post-Tribune* Quickly that was given to her by Councilman Tom Goralczyk and said that Stormwater has already addressed the issue.

Regarding the MS4 Annual Meeting, Matt said he is moderating a stormwater runoff session. Secretary Liz Bushemi asked board members to advise her if they plan to attend so she can register them for the annual meeting.

Matt said the INDR Division of Water will be in town tomorrow as part of the FEMA CRS program process to rate the localized program to lower flood insurance premiums for residents, and he will be meeting with them on April 28th.

Mr. Van Til reported that a Lake County Contractors Workshop will be held on April 24th in Dyer for contractors to learn about stormwater regulations. He had brochures available and distributed them to members.

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Matt said the 54th Court rain garden is set to be planted; he plans to attend the pond show on April 27th at the Lake County Fairgrounds. He said he issued stormwater permits recently for Dawn Foods and the Riley Building. The article he submitted for the town's newsletter addresses cancer and coal tar-based sealants. He also met recently with Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering regarding issues at Southmoor Park.

Karl Cender addressed the Board about SW Resolution 13-01. He said that \$12,729 had been paid by Independence Hill Conservancy District for the work at the lift station near 73rd and Taft Street, and those funds were deposited into Stormwater's 626 operating fund. Resolution 13-01 would transfer that amount to Stormwater's 627 construction fund. He also distributed copies of his spread sheet to members and said he has discussed this matter with Diane, the bookkeeper at the Clerk-Treasurer's office. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve Resolution 13-01, and it was seconded by Leonard White. The motion was approved and unanimously carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Leonard White said he talked to Paul Vogel at Calumet Park Cemetery, who informed him that a former Stormwater Board member was present at a meeting at the cemetery. Matt said that Councilwoman Chrissy Barron scheduled the meeting and asked Matt to attend. Leonard said he wants to be informed of all meetings that Councilwoman Barron calls, and said that although he is not trying to micro-manage things, he is miffed that a former board member was there. Matt said the cemetery easement issue is critical because of their sediment issue within the basin. He said he hopes to have the easement matter finalized soon. Barbara Ghoston said Bud Crist had the expertise in working with the cemetery. Leonard said that Councilman Goralczyk should have called him.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Anne Collins from 7613 Taney Place asked to address the Stormwater Board. She said although she has never attended a Stormwater Board meeting before, she serves on the Independence Hill Conservancy District and knows that it takes 100% cooperation from the town to get matters addressed. She said flooding has taken place in Merrillville for 50 years, and now the town has Matt Lake, and she is very pleased with the work he has done for the town.

Dorinda Gregor made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi
Secretary