

**MINUTES OF THE  
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2013**

President Barbara Ghoston called the May 7, 2013 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:37 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 Don Spann, Acting Town Manager/Public Works Director Bruce Spires, Ron Wiedeman and Bob Csanyi from Robinson Engineering and Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune* were also present.

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the April 2, 2013 monthly SWMB meeting, which Mrs. Ghoston pointed out included company names and bid amounts for the 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue project; also included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the April 23, 2013 special SWMB meeting, where the Board awarded the bid to Gough, Inc. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve both the minutes from the April 2, 2013 and the April 23, 2013 meetings, 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 April 9, 2013 and April 23, 2013 and appropriation reports for funds 626 and 627. Member Leonard White questioned the appropriation report and asked if the board has to approve the salaries listed, and Attorney Jim Meyer said these salaries were approved many years ago. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from April 9, 2013 and April 23, 2013, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The motion was approved by a two to one vote, with Member Leonard White voting nay. Mr. White questioned payment of the salary to the zoning director on the appropriation report, and Dorinda Gregor said Stormwater begins to pay a portion of her salary in September of each year. Upon reconsideration, Mr. White voted to approve the accounts payable registers from April 9, 2013 and April 23, 2013.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mrs. Ghoston said the board held a special meeting on April 23, 2013, and the Board awarded the bid for the 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Meadowdale storm sewer project to Gough, Inc. Included in the members' agenda packets was a copy of the Gough, Inc. contract for payment of \$638,086.66 for the project. Leonard White made a motion to approve the Gough, Inc. contract, and it was seconded by Dorinda Gregor. There were no questions, and upon a roll call vote, all three (3) members voted yes, and the contract with Gough, Inc. was approved. Matt Lake said that he issued a Notice to Proceed to Gough, Inc. and announced a pre-construction meeting for May 15, 2013, at the Stormwater office.

Matt addressed the First Group Engineering revised supplemental contract for \$3,500.00; it had been tabled before. Mr. White asked why it had been tabled before, and he was told more specific information was requested from the company to verify the work hours performed on August 11, 2012. The contract was tabled again by the board.

Matt said Dyer Construction will start again tomorrow on Taft Street. He is waiting to hear from Paul Vogel at Calumet Park Cemetery regarding the easement agreement.

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Regarding the 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue project, Matt said a pre-construction meeting will be held on May 15 at the Stormwater office. He said a Notice to Proceed was issued to Gough, and notice to residents has been delivered to each of them by First Group Engineering.

The 54<sup>th</sup> Court rain garden is set to be planted soon, according to Matt, who said he met with the Arch Group last week regarding design of the rain garden. He will be obtaining three quotes for the planting. He said it will be the largest rain garden in Lake County.

Matt said the Lake County Contractors Workshop held on April 24, 2013 was a great success, with over 100 people attending. The workshop was a free event to all who attended, and public education outreach was provided to developers. He said the Northwest Indiana Stormwater Advisory Group (NISWAG) intends to hold more workshops and seminars like this.

Matt said they are finalizing the agenda for the May 30<sup>th</sup> MS4 Annual Meeting in Indianapolis; he is on the planning committee.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mrs. Ghoston said that at all members' places was a copy of the Delta III, Inc. invoice for the pond and swale excavation for the new stormwater building. Matt said the excavation was coordinated with the Public Works Department. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to pay the Delta III invoice in the amount of \$3,500.00, and it was seconded by Leonard White. There were no questions, and upon a roll call vote, all three (3) members voted yes, and payment of the Delta III invoice was unanimously approved.

A Robinson Engineering contract for drainage improvements at Southmoor Park Subdivision was discussed; members had previously received a copy of the proposal. Matt explained that Merrillville Conservancy District (MCD) has been involved in discussions about Southmoor Park as well. He and Chuck Stojakovich from MCD met at the site and looked at sanitary infrastructure and septic. Matt said the board can have a site visit prior to voting on the Robinson contract, which is for a topographic survey and bid design. Councilman Tom Goralczyk said there is urgency in this matter since he has heard about for over a year. Acting town manager Bruce Spires said this has been going on for many years when Lance Huish was on the Town Council; he said there have been problems for many years, with many things blocking proper drainage. Discussion was held regarding the various utilities in the subdivision. The board members decided that they prefer to have a site visit before voting on the contract; Matt asked the board members to contact him when they are available for a site visit. Robinson senior project manager Ronald Wiedeman suggested that the board at least approve the topographic survey and address other aspects of the contract at a later time. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve Robinson Engineering performing a topographic survey of Southmoor Park Subdivision in the amount of \$11,630.00, and it was seconded by Leonard White. There were no further questions, and upon a roll call vote, all three (3) members voted yes, and the motion to approve the topographic survey in the amount of \$11,630.00 was unanimously approved.

Attorney Jim Meyer asked that Robinson Engineering submit separate contracts for the three (3) phases of the contract – the topographic survey, plan and bid documents for the installation of an open drainage system, and right-of-way and drainage and utility easements.

Matt said that Merrillville was named a Tree City USA for the third year. He said a proclamation was prepared proclaiming Arbor Day in Merrillville for Friday, May 17, 2013, and it has been submitted for the May 14 Town Council meeting. He said he met with the new teacher at Merrillville High School for their students to serve as group leaders to the grade school children at the event on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Goralczyk asked about the status of the donation of a tree from Taltree Arboretum, and Matt said that both he and Liz have called and received no response; Mr. Goralczyk said that he will call his contact there. He asked about the time of the Arbor Day activities, and Dorinda Gregor said it is scheduled to begin at 10 am. Parks Superintendent Caryn Wilson is to be in charge of scheduling activities for the day for the children.

Matt had given everyone copies of an EPA proposed rule change, which allows a 90-day comment period. He said the new changes will expand watershed boundaries restricting volume for low-impact development. We will have to wait and see if the change goes into effect, and Matt said it will significantly impact us.

During the severe rain in April, Matt said that he and Compliance Officer Joe Fish visited over 30 site investigations, and residents were happy with the results. He complimented his staff and the Public Works staff on their work and diligence during the rain. He said the seasonal summer workers have started, and they will begin clearing and snagging at Kaiser Ditch and others areas.

Matt said he received a response from the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission regarding supplemental funds for projects outside the basin. He said they are aware that Merrillville is updating its stormwater master plan, and funds may be used for this project.

Regarding Bon Aire Lake, Matt said he will be meeting tomorrow (May 8) with residents who live along the lake to receive their input and coordinate efforts for a management plan for the lake, which is owned by the town. All residents received a letter about the meeting, and Councilman Don Spann was also invited to attend. He will inform the residents that Stormwater Utility has taken over management of the lake and inform them about the monthly spraying for algae and duckweed, the contract with Aquatic Weed Control and the fountains. Councilman Spann said parts of the lake are only two feet deep; he said he called the chief of police because people are urinating in the lake and also asked the chief to contact IDNR to make sure that fishermen have fishing permits. Matt said residents need to know that they eat fish at their own risk. He is working on signage for the lake and hopes to have it installed soon.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilman Goralczyk asked Matt about the Crown Point detention pond, and Matt said he previously worked on it with the City of Crown Point. He believes Crown Point may have received some Transportation Enhancement (TE) Federal Highway Administration funds facilitated through the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC); he said there has been no formal discussion to have a joint project with the Town of Merrillville. Councilman Goralczyk said the water is coming into Merrillville. Matt said drainage doesn't know political boundaries, and he is always willing to work with other communities on joint projects.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

Mrs. Ghoston announced that the next Stormwater Management Board meeting is set for Tuesday, June 4, at 4:30 pm.

Dorinda Gregor made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Leonard White. The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi  
Secretary