

**MINUTES OF THE  
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2013**

Vice President Leonard White called the October 1, 2013 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. The other member in attendance was Dorinda Gregor; President Barbara Ghoston had a death in her family and was unable to be present. Staff present was Executive Director Matt Lake, Compliance Officer Joe Fish, financial advisor Karl Cender from Cender & Company, and Secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were Councilman Tom Goralczyk, Robert Csanyi from Robinson Engineering and Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune*.

Vice President Leonard White expressed his condolences to President Barbara Ghoston and her family for their loss of their family member.

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the September 3, 2013 monthly SWMB meeting. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 3 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 copies of the accounts payable registers from September 10, 2013 and September 24, 2013 and appropriation reports for funds 626 and 627. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from September 10 and September 24, 2013, and it was seconded by Leonard White. There were no questions, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Matt Lake said there is steady progress on construction of the new Stormwater Resource Center. He said there have been a few change orders for tweaks needed, which are expected for construction of any new building. Included in the members' packets was a copy of the Pangere Pay Request #1. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to pay The Pangere Corporation the amount of \$109,785.80, and it was seconded by Leonard White. There were no questions, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried. Matt passed around some pictures taken today of work on the new building.

Matt said the 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue project is nearly complete. He participated in a final walk through with First Group Engineering and Gough, Inc., and said the project is probably 98.9% complete, with the exception of trees to be planted in the fall. Included in the members' packets was a copy of the Gough, Inc. pay request #4 and First Group Engineering's recommendation that it be paid. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to pay Gough, Inc. the amount of \$232,412.96, and it was seconded by Leonard White. A roll call vote was taken, and both members present voted yes, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

Regarding the Taft Street project, Matt said AT&T has been diligent in moving their lines in order for the box culvert to be installed. It has been three to four weeks, and everything has been done to Stormwater's satisfaction without making modifications to the Taft Street project. Once the AT&T work is complete, Dyer can then re-mobilize to complete this portion of the project. Dorinda asked if the frontage road will be open

when Taft Street is closed; Matt said one lane will always be open for residents, and work will be done at night in order to avoid closing the road during the day.

Matt deferred to Bob Csanyi from Robinson Engineering for an update on Southmoor Park Subdivision. Bob said the cross-section data has been completed, and he will keep Matt updated.

Regarding Kaiser Ditch, Matt said Stormwater has already paid for the materials for the 12 locations along Kaiser Ditch running from 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to Route 30, the cost-share project where the Lake County Drainage Board is paying for installation of the materials. Matt had pictures of a portion of the job that has already been completed. He said Lake County Surveyor George Van Til was at the Town Council workshop recently, and he indicated that Lake County has spent over \$2 million for projects in Merrillville, and Mr. Van Til said they are doing more in Merrillville to complement Stormwater projects. Matt said the project has been a good partnership with Lake County.

Matt said the jet vac truck continues to be in the Bon Aire subdivision whenever possible. He said the crew has found some unique items in the drainage system, including pieces of old concrete. He said next year, the culvert in the lake will be modified or replaced to address the issue that has been a concern for residents for many years. He said the fountains in the lake continue to be repaired when they break. He is working with Aquatic Weed Control to discuss a preventative treatment product for algae, perhaps PhosLock.

He said Phase I and Phase II of the town-wide mapping has been completed by Robinson Engineering, and their intent is to develop an "atlas" for the town website. He showed a sample of the mapping work for a small project Stormwater is working on near the Cloisters Apartments at 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Jefferson Street.

Matt said Christopher Burke Engineering anticipates completion of the Stormwater master plan by the spring of next year. The inundation maps were again displayed, and Matt said residents have been invited to view the maps and relay any flooding concerns or comments. They are looking at locations for upland storage for future projects.

He said he spoke at the Indiana Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management (INAFSM) conference in September. Christina Groves from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was at the INAFSM conference and talked at the conference about Merrillville's questions to FEMA that had never been addressed by FEMA before. Matt completed the community rating system (CRS) application, which will help everyone in Merrillville get lower premiums for flood insurance.

Regarding the rain barrel program, Matt said ten rain barrels were sold this year, and another program will be promoted in the spring. Since big box stores like Menards also sell rain barrels at reasonable prices, some residents did not participate in the town-wide program, which was offered to residents through the company Upcycle Products.

Matt had copies of the two draft job descriptions for the Stormwater office positions of office manager and part-time secretary. He asked members to review them and said they will be discussed at the next meeting.

Councilman Goralczyk asked about the paving of Taft Place because a resident who is selling his home at 7324 Taft Place called him to inquire. Matt said everything will be paved by Walsh & Kelly. Mark Kaiser provided quantities for the Taft Place paving; and Dyer Construction is working to re-mobilize and continue the project. Matt said residents have been patient. He said they are contacting the post office to inquire if mailboxes can be placed on the house-side of the road rather than the frontage road side.

Mr. Goralczyk also asked when the Kaiser Ditch work will be done and said there are stock piles on 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Matt said V-MAD Construction has told him they are temporary stock piles while the ditch work is being done, and it will be restored back to grass. Matt intends to walk Turkey Creek this fall with the Lake County Drainage Board crew when they proceed north with the ditch work next spring.

Councilman Goralczyk also asked if there is an extra fountain for Bon Aire Lake. Matt said there are four, with one recently repaired; at this time, the repaired one is not working properly. The fountains cannot be moved because they are connected by electricity and are typically removed in November; he said they may have to consider other types of aeration for when the lowered culvert work is done next year. Since Bon Aire Lake is a regulated drain, the Lake County Drainage Board must approve it. Before any more money is invested in Bon Aire Lake, Matt wants to make sure things are done properly.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Matt said the Town of Merrillville is revamping its marketing through the town website, and Stormwater has been asked to pay a portion of the development and maintenance of the new website by Revize LLC. The new website will be an updated version of what is currently on the website, and there is a possibility that town departments can receive and track complaints from residents through the website. Over the years, Matt said Assistant Chief of Police Jim Donohue has done a great job in taking care of the town website as its webmaster. In order to keep up with the times, the image and usefulness of the town website is being re-designed and will be formatted for Smart phones. He said this is good for economic development in Merrillville when potential new businesses look at the town's website. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve payment to Revize in the amount of \$2,625.00, and it was seconded by Leonard White. A roll call vote was taken, and both members present voted yes, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

Matt said there may be residential tree snagging and clearing of trees along Madison Ditch at 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue, where the new bridge was installed last year. The woody debris from the project can be brought to the tub grinder at the public works north barn, which will greatly reduce the cost.

Matt will be attending a Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) MS4 workshop on post-construction on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

Matt said the Stormwater Utility office and all town offices will be closed on Monday, October 14, for the Columbus Day holiday.

Matt said members received copies of two change orders for the Stormwater Resource Center. Leonard said he heard there are some issues and sees the change orders add up to \$28,000. Matt said there have been some typical and unknown problems since the construction of the building began. The Pangere Corporation found a chunk of concrete on the premises that the locators did not detect that had to be jack-hammered out for proper foundation. There was an issue where Robinson Engineering did not account for drainage at the north side of the building, and engineering plans had to be revised, a swale had to be re-graded and a landscape retaining wall installed. Leonard questioned the GFCI outlets, and Matt said outlets were added to the outside of the building; Dorinda asked if a person with an electric vehicle could use the outlet, and Matt said not in the present form, but space for an electric vehicle charging station is there. He said some tweaks were done on closet and storage space that could not have been known until construction began. The foundation problem, catch basin and drainage issue and outlets have been the main reasons for the change orders. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the change orders, and it was seconded by Leonard White. A roll call vote was taken, and both members present voted yes, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

Matt said he would like to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house once the construction of the building is done, and he expects that to be in early December. He said the Stormwater Resource Center is good for the town and will enhancement the town. Leonard said he would like to see bidders be more qualified as Stormwater lets future bids and determine amounts the best as they can.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Leonard asked the date of the next monthly Stormwater meeting, and Liz said is set for Tuesday, November 5, 2013, at 4:30 p.m. at the town hall.

Dorinda Gregor made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Leonard White. The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi  
Staff Secretary