

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2014**

President Barbara Ghoston called the January 7, 2014 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. The other members in attendance were Dorinda Gregor and Leonard White. The pledge of allegiance was said. A roll call was taken. Staff present was Executive Director Matt Lake, Compliance Officer Joe Fish, Attorney James Meyer, financial advisor Karl Cender, Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering and Secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were Beth Gregor, Bud Crist, Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune* and Sedrick Green from Robinson Engineering.

Mrs. Ghoston welcomed everyone to the Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center for the first SWMB meeting for 2014. She said a nice ribbon cutting and grand opening was held last month for the new building and remarked that Bud Crist should have helped her cut the ribbon at the ceremony; she extended her gratitude to Mr. Crist for all his efforts for Stormwater and his vision in making the Stormwater Resource Center a reality. Mr. Crist said it was a team effort.

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the December 3, 2013 monthly SWMB meeting. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 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 December 10, 2013 and December 27, 2013 and appropriation reports for funds 626 and 627. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from December 10 and December 27, 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 about 60 people attended the ribbon cutting/open house on December 18th and people were able to see the new building and equipment in the garage. Fr. Joseph Vamos blessed the building, and his prayer has been framed near the front door for everyone to read. He and staff are getting more organized day by day. In reading the minutes from the last three years, he said you see how much the Stormwater Utility department has accomplished. The minutes reflect the progress that has been made.

Included in the members' packets was a copy of the Skillman Change Order No. 00005, which reflected a \$22,309 decrease. Also included was a copy of the Pangere pay request #4, which was recommended by Skillman Corporation to pay. Leonard White questioned why we are paying Skillman, and Matt said this is a regular pay request by the builder, The Pangere Corporation, and not Skillman. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to pay The Pangere Corporation their pay request #4 in the amount of \$167,362.45, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A voice vote was taken; Leonard White abstained, and Dorinda Gregor and Barbara Ghoston voted yes. The motion was approved and carried. Matt said there is about \$80,000 left to pay The Pangere Corporation on their bid amount and contract.

Also included in the members' packets was a copy of the Gough, Inc. pay request #5 for work done on the 54th Avenue/Meadowdale project, which was recommended by First Group Engineering to pay; the original contract amount was \$638,086.66, and the project was under the original contract by \$12,002.62. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the Gough, Inc. pay request #5 in the amount of \$62,608.49, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted yes, and the motion was unanimously approved and carried.

Matt said included in the members' packets was a copy of the Dyer Construction Company, Inc. pay request #9 for work done on the Taft Street project, which was recommended by Christopher Burke Engineering to pay. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve Dyer Construction's pay request #9 in the amount of \$25,257.94, and it was seconded by Leonard White. A voice vote was taken, and all three members voted yes, and the motion was unanimously approved and carried. Matt said the Indiana Department of Transportation's (INDOT's) second cost-share payment for the Taft Street project in the amount of \$121,509.05 was received on January 3, 2014.

Also included in the members' packets was a copy of the revised Joint Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Town of Winfield. Matt recommended that the Board approve the contract, pending approval by the Town of Winfield and their attorney. Attorney Jim Meyer said he and Attorney Richard Castleton have reviewed it; he said the board should approve it tonight, assuming Town Council Attorney Bushemi and the Town of Winfield also approve. Matt said it is primarily for an emergency basis to help Winfield, an adjoining community. Leonard asked the length of the contract, and Jim said it is good for one year; he said it could be terminated by either party with notice at any time. Barbara asked about the rate for another community, and Matt said he and Public Works Director Bruce Spires determined the amounts; he said a new contract would be prepared for another community. Barbara likes paragraph eight regarding safety and liability. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the Joint Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Town of Winfield, and it was seconded by Leonard White; there were no further questions or comments, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

Regarding Madison Ditch, Matt said he walked the ditch from 67th to 68th Avenue, took pictures and passed them around. He obtained two estimates for cleaning and snagging the ditch, which were included in the members' packets. The estimate from Blade Cutters was \$10,640.00, and the estimate from Adams Landscape was \$11,750.00; he recommended that the lower estimate be approved since this is a town ditch, and routine maintenance needs to be done. More non-regulated drain areas owned by the town will be routinely maintained. Dorinda Gregor asked if signage would be installed, and Matt said signs could strategically be placed since illegal dumping is an illicit discharge. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve payment for the lower estimate to Blade Cutters in the amount of \$10,640.00, and it was seconded by Leonard White. Barbara Ghoston asked where this was located, and Matt said up to the 12th house between 67th and 68th Avenue and Madison, just behind the Y&W. Leonard White asked about Blade Cutters scope of services, and Matt said he walked the entire ditch with both companies, and their services are listed on the invoice. There were no further questions, and the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

Matt said he just met with Christopher Burke Engineering (CBBEL) on Friday about the Stormwater Master Plan; CBBEL is compiling the ranking based on inundation and should be completed within the next couple of months. Matt wants to have a special meeting with the Town Council members to review the rankings and maps. He said he will also resubmit an application to the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) so they can see what Merrillville has come up with and obtain a cost-share from them for the town for monies paid by residents to the LCRBDC; he said Dyer and Hobart have already submitted applications to the LCRBDC for cost-share funding. Matt wants to continue to cost-share for projects, like he did with INDOT on the Taft Street project, to stretch Stormwater dollars. He said some projects contained in the Master Plan have already been done, like Bon Aire Lake.

Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering said the Southmoor Park plans are 65-70% complete. He said he will have more information at the end of the month; he expects the project to be bid in February, with a bid opening in March, and work to begin in April. Matt said they will have to coordinate with Merrillville Conservancy District (MCD) and their plans to annex the MCD service area.

A Northwest Indiana Stormwater Advisory Group (NISWAG) meeting was held at the Stormwater Resource Center on December 19, and plans were discussed for goals for 2014. They are working on GIS data that is available, and he plans to meet with Lake County to get more use out of their GIS data with the county's Lidor system.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Ghoston reported that the fall, 2013, stormwater fee installment from real estate taxes was received on December 27, 2013, in the amount of \$539,162.18.

Matt said included in the members' packets was a copy of the 2014 proposal from Aquatic Weed Control for continued work at Bon Aire Lake. He said Aquatic Weed Control is also looking at using PhosLock and the optional use of sonar/fluridone to control coontail and duckweed. Matt said Stormwater is looking at the basic renewal contract in the amount of \$6,300 for services April 1 to October 30, 2014. Fountain repair and the installation and removal of fountains are separate charges. Matt recommends continuation of the Aquatic Weed Control services and use of PhosLock product. Dorinda Gregor made a motion to approve the contact with Aquatic Weed Control in the amount of \$6,300.00, and it was seconded by Leonard White; the motion was approved and unanimously carried.

Matt said he submitted 13,020 billable parcels to Lake County's data processing department in December, 2013; he said if there is a 100% collection, \$1,114,000.00 would be remitted to Merrillville Stormwater Utility. Dorinda asked about fees on vacant parcels, and Matt said any delinquent fees are paid when properties are sold.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Ghoston commented that as she talks with people in the town, they've told her they've seen the work Stormwater has done throughout the town and are happy with the results these last several years. She hopes it will continue into 2014.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bud Crist asked about the balance owed on the Taft Street project, and Matt said he did not have that specific information with him. Matt said the Stormwater master plan will show where Stormwater can maximize dollars as much as possible, such as the cost-share with INDOT on the Taft Street project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Ghoston said the Stormwater Resource Center will be closed Monday, January 20th in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 2014, at 4:30 p.m. at the Stormwater Resource Center.

Stormwater compliance officer Joe Fish and financial advisor Karl Cender had no reports.

Dorinda Gregor made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Leonard White. The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary