

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the March 1, 2016 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. The other members in attendance were Barbara Ghoston and Ralph Simek. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. Staff present was Executive Director Matt Lake, Attorney James Meyer, financial advisor Karl Cender and secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were Town Manager Bruce Spires, Bob Csanyi and Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering and Dolores Flaska.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the February 2, 2016 SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2016 SWMB meeting, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2016 meeting, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet was a copy of the accounts payable registers from February 9, 2016 and February 23, 2016. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from February 9, 2016 and February 23, 2016, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the accounts payable registers from February 9, 2016 and February 23, 2016, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding the Ross Meadow Farms project, Matt Lake said the construction contract with Gough, Inc. was signed by Gough this week and needed to be approved tonight. He said they have received the permit from the Army Corps of Engineers and are waiting on the permit from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). As soon as it is received, a notice to proceed will be prepared. Christopher Burke Engineering will do construction observation. Later in the meeting, a motion was made by Barbara Ghoston to approve the contract with Gough, Inc. for the Ross Meadow Farms project in the amount of \$117,565.50, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the contract with Gough, Inc. in the amount of \$117,565.50, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said they will be a meeting in a few weeks regarding the 53rd Court/Meadowdale project with Gatlin Plumbing and Robinson Engineering regarding corrective measures at the project. He is still waiting to hear from Robinson Engineering regarding retainage to be paid to Gatlin for work already done.

Matt presented to about 150 people at the LTAP Drainage Conference regarding low-impact development (LID) standards, and he said many communities are now following Merrillville’s lead on this. He showed examples of what is done here for LID. He will make a similar presentation to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) soon. Mr. Crist said Matt keeps Merrillville “on the map” with all he has done.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Crist said he and Matt made a presentation at the Town Council workshop about a possible increase in stormwater fees, where copies of the 2014 Stormwater Master Plan data were presented. Town Council members agreed an increase to \$9 monthly is necessary. Town Manager Bruce Spires said it was unanimous to increase the stormwater fee. Mr. Crist said when the fee was first established, they had an outdated master plan, and the \$5 monthly fee is not enough to do larger drainage projects. He said Attorney Jim Meyer and financial advisor Karl Cender are working on a fee ordinance. Mr. Crist wants the \$4 monthly fee increase to go specifically towards projects in the Master Plan. Once a resolution is prepared, a public hearing will be held, and then the SWMB will approve the new fee ordinance. Mr. Spires recommended that when the documents are prepared and the public hearing is held, that a timeline of projects also be prepared. A draft ordinance and resolution will be prepared prior to the next meeting.

Included in the members' packets was a copy of the StormCon conference information, which conference will be held August 22-25. The deadline for early-bird registration is May 1, and members were asked to advise Liz if they plan to attend. Attorney Jim Meyer said this is a good conference for rules and responsibilities of a stormwater utility.

Matt said that the Indiana Assn. for Floodplain Management (INAFSM) conference is typically held at a state park, and the 2017 conference will be held at the Radisson in Merrillville. There may be conference events at the Stormwater Resource Center and possibly also at Hobart and Valparaiso locations.

Also included in the members' packets was a proposal from Robinson Engineering to prepare 14 sets of a map atlas of the town's stormwater mapping at a cost of \$7,730.00. This would be a "paper copy" of the electronic mapping of where stormwater drains are located in town. Matt wants to share copies with the Merrillville Conservancy District, Gary Sanitary District, Indiana American Water and public works, and he would like a copy of their mapping as well. Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering said he would provide Matt with a draft, and then it would probably take one (1) month to prepare the 14 sets. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the proposal from Robinson Engineering for the stormwater mapping atlas set at a cost of \$7,730.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the proposal from Robinson Engineering for the stormwater mapping atlas set for \$7,730.00, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2016, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary