

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2016**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the October 4, 2016 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. The other members in attendance were Ralph Simek and Barbara Ghoston. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. Staff members present were Executive Director Matt Lake, Attorney James Meyer, Financial Advisor Karl Cender and secretary Liz Bushemi. Another individual present was Dolly Flaska.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the August 2, 2016 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2016 SWMB meeting, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the minutes from the August 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 August 9 and August 23, 2016 and September 13 and September 27, 2016. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from August 9 and August 23, 2016 and September 13 and September 27, 2016, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the accounts payable registers from August 9 and August 23, 2016 and September 13 and September 27, 2016, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Crist said the Merrillville Town Council passed Ordinance 16-22 regarding the stormwater fee increase on second reading on September 13, 2016 with a unanimous 7/0 vote. Matt Lake said the increase will be used for funding projects in the Stormwater Master Plan. He said he and Bud Crist have approached the Merrillville Community School Corporation about receiving a permanent easement to property they own at approximately 1400 West 57th Avenue, just west of Pruzin Center and other Town of Merrillville property; this parcel will be used for additional storage at that part of town. Once the easement agreement is signed by school officials, it will be recorded and Stormwater will move forward with design and engineering in the fall. Mr. Crist said there is already a costs savings if the easement is given to the town at no charge. Matt said he and Bud will be meeting with Damon from Cender and Company to get the changes made on the Lake County tax bills for the stormwater fee increase, which will be received in June, 2017.

Matt said that he, Bud Crist and Ralph Simek attended and represented the town at the national StormCon Conference in Indianapolis in August, where there was an emphasis on green infrastructure. He attended a session on water monitoring, and he thinks the state will be looking more at water quality. They survived the tornado in Indianapolis, staying in the basement of the Indiana Convention Center.

Matt also said the Stormwater Resource Center (SWRC) hosted a rainscaping workshop on August 30 and 31, which was co-sponsored by Purdue Cooperative Extension and Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District. A rain garden was planted near the west entrance door of the SWRC. Matt will work with them in the future on water sampling.

Matt said the Southmoor Park plan is preliminarily done, and he will meet with Sedrick Green from Robinson Engineering next week to discuss plans and when the project will be bid, possibly in the fall. He said Stormwater needs to see where it stands financially and may request Merrillville Road TIF money for this project.

Matt said he is waiting on the survey data from Robinson Engineering on the Forest Hills/Sunset Road drainage matter. He is attempting to piggy back it with the town's potential bike trail project and hopes to do that project in the spring, to gravity the water at the west end of Forest Hills into the unnamed ditch.

NEW BUSINESS

Members received a copy of the Gough, Inc. Pay Request #4 in the amount of \$11,640.63 for the final work on the Ross Meadow Farms project. Bud Crist said this final pay request is \$1,159.43 less than Gough's original bid amount. Attorney James Meyer asked about the as-builts, and Matt said he is waiting for them. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to pay Gough, Inc. their pay request #4 in the amount of \$11,640.63 contingent on receiving the as-builts, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. No further discussion was held. A roll call vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the Gough, Inc. pay request #4 in the amount of \$11,640.63 contingent on receiving the as-builts, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Members had in front of them a new proposal from Robinson Engineering for a drainage study to be conducted for the Independence Street drainage project, which Matt had just received. Matt said there is a need to make improvements to Independence Street to address "the bowl area", and then the town will pave it following the stormwater project and pay some of the costs. Robinson will look at the area, and if a lift station is required, Metropolitan Pumps will be contacted for possible design of the lift station. He said Robinson will use the existing topo data already done for street paving. Matt said there is a possibility of using what remains in Stormwater Fund 627 for the Taft Street project for the Stormwater portion of this project. Karl Cender was asked to determine what amount remains in Fund 627 and the date a spend-down requirement for Fund 627 funds (from the \$3.5 million bond) must be used. Matt said Robinson Engineering's contract for the Independence Street drainage study is in an amount not to exceed \$16,575.00, and they are already involved in the roadway project. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept Robinson Engineering's proposal for the Independence Street drainage study in an amount not to exceed \$16,575.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the Robinson Engineering contract for the Independence Street drainage study in an amount not to exceed \$16,575.00, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said he had a full-day audit with Doug Wolf from the Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management (IDEM) for MCM4 and MCM5 issues, which information will be reported to EPA. Matt said the audit went well, and he had innovative information for Mr. Wolf that will probably become standard for IDEM audits. Mr. Wolfe was impressed with Joe Fish's enforcement of the stormwater ordinance, with more citations issued in Merrillville than other communities. Matt said Merrillville was one of the first to be audited, site visits to construction sites were done for half of the day, and Mr. Wolf took copies of many documents.

OTHER BUSINESS.

Matt said South Bend stormwater staff came to the SWRC for a meeting, where Matt gave them a copy of the Merrillville fee ordinance and low impact development (LID) ordinance. South Bend is interested in implementing the same things for their city.

Matt also said he will be submitting documentation for the first annual renewal of the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) for lower flood insurance rates; he asked Christopher Burke Engineering to help with the review. Last time, Merrillville was ranked a 7 - the best in Indiana.

Matt submitted a letter for the town's fall, 2016, newsletter about FEMA flood zones, which also addresses back flow valves (although that is sanitary sewer related) since it is something many Merrillville residents need to address.

Matt also said that Mike Mahy and the public works drainage crew is wrapping up small drainage projects for the year since public works will be starting leaf pick up on October 17th.

He also said he requested the confidential wellhead protection maps for Merrillville, which is groundwater and underground water, where stormwater is surface water. He hopes to get the shape files from IDEM soon.

Matt also said the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission is fully sponsoring trees to be planted at the SWRC and at the 54th Court rain garden; the Little Cal is supporting tree planting since they had removed so many trees as part of their levy project. Thirty (30) 4-foot tall white cedars will be planted south of the SWRC, which will serve as a demonstration project here for arborvitae and as a buffer; 12 bald Cyprus trees will be planted at the rain garden. The rain garden planted at the rainscape event and the utilitree planting at the very east end of the SWRC property are all parts of demonstration projects at the SWRC.

Matt and Bud will meeting with Karl Cender next week regarding the Lake County billing and current transfers needed. Karl said they need to look at all accounts and put more money into contractual services for new projects next year with the additional stormwater fee increase.

Bud complimented Matt for all the time he spends on recertifications and said Matt is "on the cutting edge" for Merrillville Stormwater Utility" and he keeps Merrillville at the top.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1, 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 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi, Staff Secretary