

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the June 6, 2017, Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:30 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 members present were Executive Director Matt Lake, Attorney James Meyer, Financial Advisor Karl Cender and secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were Town Councilwoman Chrissy Barron, Town Manager Bruce Spires, Michael Jabo from DLZ Engineering, Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering, Mark Chmeliwskyi from Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Jim Donahoe from Aquatic Weed Control, Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune* and Dolly Flaska.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the May 2, 2017 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held May 2, 2017, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from May 9 and May 23, 2017. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from May 9 and May 23, 2017, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Included in the members’ packets was a copy of the letter from Robinson Engineering recommending that the Southmoor Park project be awarded to Dyer Construction Company, Inc., the lowest, most responsive bidder, for the amount of \$157,458.67. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to award the Southmoor Park project to Dyer Construction Company, Inc. for \$157,458.67, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There was no discussion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote. Ron Wiedeman said a contract will be prepared for Dyer Construction’s signature, and Attorney James Meyer asked that Ron and Matt provide a copy for him to review.

Members also received in their packets copies of a change order explained by Matt Lake for the 54th Place project from Adams to Madison Street project from contractor Delta III, Inc. in the amount of \$3,556.00 and also a final bill from Delta III in the amount of \$73,078.50. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the Delta III change order in amount of \$3,556.00, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There were no questions. A roll call vote was taken, the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote. Ron Wiedeman said he had not seen the full invoice, and upon receipt, he will do an inspection and recommend payment. Mrs. Ghoston then made a motion to approve the final Delta III bill in the amount of \$73,078.50 upon the recommendation of Robinson Engineering, and it was seconded by Mr. Simek. There were no questions. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Also included in the members’ packets was a copy of a Tonn and Blank Construction change order in the amount of \$2,900.00 for the 72nd and Fillmore Court project. Matt showed members some pictures of that project. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the change order in the

amount of \$2,900.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Regarding Bon Aire Lake, Matt said Jim Donahoe from Aquatic Weed Control has been managing the lake since 2003 by applying chemical applications for control of algae and installing, repairing and removing the four fountains on the lake. Stormwater has been trying to evaluate the costs associated with the lake, and the Stormwater office has made a list of its finances for chemical applications to the lake, fountain repair and the NIPSCO bills for electric for the fountains; Matt said over \$176,000 has been paid for Bon Aire Lake since the town acquired the lake. One alternative to the fountains is an underwater aeration system, and Jim Donahoe from Aquatic Weed Control made a brief presentation and passed out information on what an aeration system would look like; he discussed the differences for use of fountains and an aerator. He said fountains only aerate the top 2-3 feet of water, have to be removed in the winter and re-installed in the spring, are a high cost to maintain since parts are expensive and have to be ordered, new fountains would cost \$39,710 to install (not including electrical installation) and cost an average of \$600 per month for electrical draws for the four fountains. Aerator compressors would pump oxygen into the water through a diffuser and aerate water from the bottom to the top of the lake, do not have to be removed in the winter and re-installed, have minimal noise (only 65 decibels), would cost \$28,275 to install (not including electrical installation), would cost an average of \$75 per unit per month for electrical draw and said a new motor may be required every three years. He said only two aerator units would be required at Bon Aire Lake, and they can be left in the lake year round and then shut off. It is his recommendation to go with an aeration system because of cost savings and them being more efficient. Matt asked about control of algae in the lake with an aeration system, and Mr. Donahoe said it will help control of algae since it will help reduce the muck and leaves in the bottom of the lake. Matt asked if the lake is lowered for more water storage, if that would affect the aeration system, and Mr. Donahoe said no. Matt said the fountains have served more as entertainment as opposed to functional aeration for the residents living there, and as opposed to three to four feet of "boiling water" that aerators would generate. Matt asked about the town's obligation to aerate Bon Aire Lake and said there would be reduced maintenance costs with installation of aerators. He said there are four electric panels that are at least 15 years old, and it's very challenging with the fountains; Mr. Donahoe said it's difficult to get parts for the fountains, and they are not generating the electricity like they used to. Bud Crist asked about vandalism to the compressors, and Mr. Donahoe said the units come locked, and an enclosure could be used around it; the compressors are by the control panels, not on the shore. Matt said the Stormwater office has done a lot of research on Bon Aire Lake, and with information from Aquatic Weed Control, more information has been discovered. Matt said it is Mr. Donahoe's opinion that the fountains are at the end of their life cycles and aerators seem the way to go. Mr. Donahoe said they service some lakes with a couple of hundreds of acres, and they are aerating them. Matt said an aeration system would not affect chemical treatments, and Mr. Donahoe said you do not have to aerate a body of water for chemicals to work. Mr. Simek asked how long it would take for installation of an aeration system, and Mr. Donahoe said 30-45 days for the factory to build the specific system for Bon Aire Lake. He said the fall would be a good time to change it to an aeration system. Matt told the board members there is nothing to vote on at this time and asked them to review the information presented to them. He said stormwater funds spent on Bon Aire Lake could be used on projects for flood control, and this issue will need to be addressed by the board in the near future.

Matt also said he and all three Stormwater board members attended the Indiana MS4 Annual Meeting in Indianapolis May 15 and 16 in Indianapolis, and there were good sessions.

NEW BUSINESS

Included in the members' packets was a copy of a proposal from Robinson Engineering for construction observation for the Southmoor Park project in an amount not to exceed \$15,101.00. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the Robinson Engineering proposal A-9 for construction observation of the Southmoor Park project in an amount not to exceed \$15,101.00, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Additionally included in the members' packets was a copy of proposal from DLZ Indiana, LLC for on-call engineering services for \$10,000.00. Matt said he wants to have on-call service agreements with five local engineering firms, and Mike Jabo from DLZ was present in the event anyone had questions. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the DLZ on-call professional engineering agreement for \$10,000.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Members had copies of information at their seats for a project at 58th & Jackson Street near SS. Peter & Paul Church. Matt said Stormwater will receive up to \$20,000.00, or 50%, from an Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) 319 grant for the project. Bids were solicited from three (3) companies: Delta III, Inc., Gatlin Plumbing and Rex Construction; he said 18 days have passed, and the only bid received was from Delta III, Inc. in the amount of \$18,300. Matt said the job will not take long, but he would like three quotes. Ralph Simek made a motion to table the matter until next month, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to table the matter until next month, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Regarding the 60 acre feet of storage at 57th Avenue, Matt said pursuant to a memo from Darren Olson from Christopher Burke Engineering, they hope to meet with Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission members about the possibility of a cost share for this project.

Included in the members' packets was a copy of proposal #A-11 from Robinson Engineering for preparation of the Sunset Road project right-of-entry documents in an amount not to exceed \$3,653.00. Ron Wiedeman said these documents would give them more access to the residents' properties. Matt said Robinson will prepare the documents and Stormwater will mail them out. Attorney Meyer said Stormwater has a right to be on the easements, but these documents allow the contractor to be on the residents' properties. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the Robinson Engineering's proposal A-11 for Sunset Road Right of Entry Documents Preparation in an amount not to exceed \$3,653.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There was no further discussion, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Mark Chmeliwskyi from Butler, Fairman & Seufert advised the board of status of the Bon Aire Lake outlet and 55th Avenue & Cleveland/Taft Street culvert projects. He gave the members a copy of the culvert replacement design. He said the Cleveland Street pipes will be upsized, and further surveys are being done for utility conflicts. He also said the Bon Aire Lake culvert was

raised several years ago, and their intent is to lower the culvert to provide more storage. They will coordinate with Lake County since it is a lateral drain. Matt said by lowering the water level, it may take some residents out of FEMA's Zone A for flood insurance purposes.

OTHER BUSINESS

Financial advisor Karl Cender said his office has combined all the town's stormwater parcels to minimize the stormwater fee that Stormwater Utility is paying for all town parcels. There has been one refund to a resident on stormwater fees paid, and his office is working on another refund.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the Stormwater Resource Center will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, 2017, for the Independence Day holiday, and the next SWMB meeting will be held the following day, on Wednesday, July 5, 2017, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

Matt said Stormwater Utility will sign up to participate in the Independence Day parade.

Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary