

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the November 7, 2017, Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:29 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. The other member in attendance was Ralph Simek. Barbara Ghoston was not present due to a family commitment. 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 Councilwoman Chrissy Barron, Randy Strasser from VS Engineering, Dolly Flaska, Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune*, Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering and Darren Olson from Christopher Burke Engineering.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Crist said there was a rain event on October 11th where there were about three (3) inches of rain, and that he, Matt and Joe cleaned sewers in Meadowdale, Turkey Creek and the “Independence Bowl” (Independence Street) areas.

MINUTES

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

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from October 10 and October 24, 2017. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from October 10 and October 24, 2017, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding the Sunset Road Project, members had in their packets a copy of Robinson Engineering’s recommendation that the bid be awarded to the lowest, most responsive bidder, Delta III, Inc., for \$257,755.00. Ralph Simek made a motion to award the Sunset Road project bid to Delta III, Inc. for \$257,755.00, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There were no questions. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

The Board has also reviewed the Agreement that was prepared by Robinson Engineering for Delta III, Inc. to do the work for the bid amount; Mr. Crist pointed out that there needed to be some cleanup language on the agreement naming Merrillville Stormwater Utility as the Owner. Ron Wiedeman from Robinson said the original contract is in the possession of Delta III, Inc., and he would make the necessary changes. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the agreement as corrected, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Additionally, the Board received in their packets a copy of the contract with Robinson Engineering for construction observation of the Sunset Road project. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve Robinson Engineering’s Proposal A-12 for construction observation in an amount not to exceed \$11,326.00, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Also included in the members' packets was a copy of the letter from Robinson Engineering recommending payment of Dyer Construction Company's Pay Request #1 in the amount of \$142,940.97 for the Southmoor Park project. Matt said this amount is the majority of what is owed for the project. Ralph Simek made a motion to pay Dyer Construction's invoice in the amount of \$142,940.97 for Pay Request #1 on the Southmoor Park Project, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

The Delta III, Inc. invoice for \$9,100.00 for the 84th Drive culvert replacement was part of the agenda packet. Matt Lake said it also included a change order in the amount of \$600.00, and the work has been completed. Ralph Simek made a motion to pay the Delta III, Inc. invoice in the amount of \$9,100.00, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering addressed the board on the Independence Street project and said the design work is almost complete, but the "Independence Bowl" area still needs to be addressed. He said Robinson's goal is to have everything completed for Matt's review by Friday, November 17th, and then it would be sent to Lake County for final approval since Community Development Block Grant monies will be used for part of the project.

Regarding the Meadowdale project, Matt said the draft easement agreement has been submitted to Hickory Ridge Apartments. He said they intend to submit an application to the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) for a cost share since this will be a large storage basin.

Matt said there is now signage at the pond slope stabilization project and pave drain project at the Stormwater Resource Center (SWRC). Stormwater is still waiting for T&J Landscape to complete the no mow fescue at the north part of the property. He said as companies offer free samples of materials to Stormwater, they can be displayed on the premises. A low impact development (LID) seminar will be held at the SWRC on November 13th, sponsored by D2 Land & Water.

Matt said as part of the Stormwater Master Plan, Butler, Fairman & Seufert is working on the culvert on State Road 55 (Cleveland Street) and lowering the culvert at Bon Aire Lake to create more storage at the lake itself. He said the culvert on Cleveland Street north of 57th Avenue will flow into the easement area at Hickory Ridge Apartments.

Darren Olson from Christopher Burke Engineering (CBBEL) addressed the board and showed several drawings of the proposed Meadowdale storage basin area that they are working on. He said the Hickory Ridge Apartments sit low, and they are attempting to divert water from Cleveland Street to a pump station owned by the apartments and located on their property. The easement they are seeking from Hickory Ridge Apts. would allow the town to use their property for flood control, which would also help the apartment residents, as well as the intersection of 56th Avenue and Grant Street east of the apartments. The entire project will have about eight (8) acre feet of stormwater storage by constructing dry detention basins. Attorney Meyer asked if they are using a 100-year storm event, and Mr. Olson said the area is so low that it will take several projects from the Stormwater Master Plan. Matt said the money collected from the stormwater fee increase is going into the Meadowdale watershed projects. Mr. Olson said the

second project is the Merrillville Community School Corporation (MCSC) easement for property the MCSC owns south of 57th Avenue. He said two basins will be created at that area. One area will be lowered to provide fifteen (15) acre feet of new storage. Another area is the portion of land owned by the town which is currently open space directly south of the MCSC property, where thirty (30) acre feet of storage will be created there, for a total of forty-five (45) acre feet of storage (14.7 million gallons) at the one sight. He said this more than doubles the twenty (20) acre feet of flood storage at the Taft Street ponds. Matt said they will be submitting an application to the LCRBDC strictly for flood storage west of the Pruzin Center. With the MCSC having provided the easement, this flood storage will also help the school. Matt said this will create large amounts of storage for the major storm events.

NEW BUSINESS

Included in the members' packets was a copy of the Hubinger Landscaping Corp. invoice for \$7,920.00 for 44 trees planted at the 58th & Jackson drainage project; Matt said trees were planted instead of re-installing the fence that was previously there, and there will be a full reimbursement by the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission for this invoice. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the invoice in the amount of \$7,920.00, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Members received a copy of the Fall, 2017, town newsletter, where Matt's article addressed flood insurance, which is critical for some Merrillville residents. Matt said he is working on the annual renewal of the Community Rating Service (CRS), which offers a percentage off to residents on their flood insurance premiums. He is keeping residents informed about this.

OTHER BUSINESS

Karl Cender said he will be meeting with Matt and Liz to discuss end-of-year budget transfers that need to be made in December.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the Stormwater Resource Center and all non-emergency town departments will be closed on Friday, November 10, 2017, in observance of Veterans Day and also on Thursday, November 23, and Friday, November 24, 2017, for the Thanksgiving holiday. He said the next SWRC meeting is set for Tuesday, December 5, 2017, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary