

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the January 2, 2018, Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. The other member in attendance was Barbara Ghoston. Ralph Simek was ill and unable to attend. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. Staff members present were Executive Director Matt Lake, Attorney James Meyer, Financial Adviser Karl Cender and secretary Liz Bushemi. Also present was Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune*.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF 2018 OFFICERS

Barbara Ghoston made a motion to retain the current officers – L.J. “Bud” Crist as president, Ralph Simek as vice president, and herself as secretary for the year 2018; the motion was seconded by Mr. Crist. There were no other motions or nominations, and Mr. Crist made a motion to close the nominations; the motion to close nominations was seconded by Barbara Ghoston and unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote. A voice vote was taken on Mrs. Ghoston’s motion to retain the current officers, and both members voted to approve the motion that L.J. “Bud” Crist serve as president, Ralph Simek serve as vice president, and Barbara Ghoston serve as secretary for the year 2018, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Crist congratulated Barbara Ghoston on her re-appointment to the SWMB. He said due to the cold weather, stormwater has come to a standstill.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the December 5, 2017 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held December 5, 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 December 12 and December 26, 2017. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from December 12 and December 26, 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 7720-8814 Old Lincoln Highway project, Matt Lake said Rex Construction Company is waiting for the proper weather conditions to start construction.

Members received a copy pictures of the emergency culvert replacement at 3419 West 78th Place and a copy of Delta III, Inc.’s pay request #1 in the amount of \$26,000.00 for work done to date. Matt said an 81” X 59” polymer coated pipe (CMP) was used to replace the old collapsed infrastructure. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve pay request #1 from Delta III, Inc. in the amount of \$26,000.00, 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. Matt said the street would be black topped in the spring

Matt said Delta III, Inc, is waiting for better weather conditions to begin the Sunset Road project.

Matt said plans for the Independence Street project would be complete in February and asked the board for approval to solicit bids on the project. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to solicit bids for the Independence Street 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.

Matt said they are waiting to hear from the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) on the Meadowdale storage area project regarding the \$133,000.00 application submitted for a cost share on engineering, and then they will move forward on engineering. Mr. Crist asked if the funding would be received now, and Matt said it is a reimbursement program. Matt is on the LCRBDC Advisory Board, where Advisory Board members pre-screen applications for cost shares and grants.

Matt said the Stormwater South Shore poster unveiling was held at the Stormwater Resource Center last month, and it was a nice event.

Mrs. Ghoston asked about lunch and learns held at the Stormwater Resource Center and the pipes they've shown, and Matt said the polymer pipes have a 100+-year life. He said the pipe used on the Jennings place project was an elliptical pipe. He said an HDD 40% recycled pipe will be used for the Sunset Road project, and he's encouraging all towns and cities to use the recycled products.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Crist said \$923,415.00 was received from Lake County for the November installment of taxes as the town's share of stormwater fees, and the funds were allocated in Fund 626 for miscellaneous operating expenses and in Fund 627 for stormwater construction projects.

Matt said he received a letter from Tracie Belongia about the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) program. They will conduct a five-year audit this April to review our documentation.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Crist thanked Mr. Cender and Mr. Meyer for their services in the past and said he looks forward to working with them again this year. Mr. Cender said he is pleased to see that the fee increase is bringing money to the town for future stormwater projects. Mr. Meyer said there has been a delay in getting the funding from Lake County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) fund for the Independence Street project.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the Stormwater Resource Center and all non-emergency town departments will be closed on Monday January 15, 2018, for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. He said the next meeting is set for Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary