

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2018**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the March 13, 2018, Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:29 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 Adviser Karl Cender and secretary Liz Bushemi. Also present were Councilwoman Chrissy Barron, Town Manager Bruce Spires, Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering and resident Ric Holtz.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Bud Crist said he visited several flooded areas and construction sites after the February rain event and attended a recent Plan Commission meeting where a possible stormwater issue was discussed.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the February 6, 2018 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held February 6, 2018, 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 February 13, February 27 and March 13, 2018. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers February 13, February 27 and March 13, 2018, 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.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Crist said included in the members’ packets was a copy of the recommendation from Robinson Engineering that the board award the Independence Street drainage project to Dyer Construction, the lowest and most responsive bidder, for \$307,631.71. Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering said they tallied the bids and sent Dyer’s bid to Lake County; a pre-construction meeting will be held. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the awarding of the Independence Street project to Dyer Construction Company, Inc. for the sum of \$307,631.71, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There were no questions. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Included in the members’ packets was a copy of Robinson Engineering’s contract for construction observation for the Independence Street project in an amount not to exceed \$16,654.00. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the Robinson Engineering construction observation contract in an amount not to exceed \$16,654.00, 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.

Also included in the members’ packets was a copy of Rex Construction Company, Inc.’s pay request #1 in the amount of \$35,550.00 for the culvert project at 8720-8814 Old Lincoln Highway. Matt said 10% of the project cost is being retained for seed and blanket restoration.

Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve Rex Construction Company, Inc.'s pay request #1 in the amount of \$35,550.00, 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.

Regarding the Sunset Road drainage project, Matt said they are waiting on one item to be completed and restoration work. Included in the members' packets was a copy of Change Order No. 1 for reduction of work done on the Sunset Road project for tree removal and changing the new contract price with Delta III, Inc. to be \$239,905.00. Members also had a copy of the invoice from contractor Outdoor Tree Service for \$9,700.00 for the tree removal on the Sunset Road project. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve Change Order No. 1 and the Outdoor Tree Service invoice for \$9,700.00, 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 also had at their places an amended Pay Application No. 1 from Delta III, Inc. for work done to date on the Sunset Road project in the amount of \$47,901.24. Ralph Simek made a motion to pay Delta III, Inc.'s pay request #1 in the amount of \$47,901.24, 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.

Matt said the application for funding of engineering services for the Meadowdale storage area will be on the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission April agenda, and he and Darren Olson will be attending. Matt attended the LTAP stormwater conference in February and LTAP's Road School in March, where he attended some good sessions; there was also a Porter County contractors' workshop that he and Joe Fish attended in February.

NEW BUSINESS

Members received some initial information about the Indiana MS4 Annual Meeting to be held in Indianapolis in May and a draft agenda. All members said they will attend, and Liz will register them for the conference.

Included in the member's packets was a flood assistance quick reference list that Matt had prepared following the February 19, 2018 rain event and after. He attended a regional flooding meeting in Lake Station, where the American Red Cross had shelter information and cleanup kits available; he said any residents that had damage following the rain event must retain all receipts for reporting any non-insurance covered items. He said the Indiana Dept. of Homeland Security is in charge until FEMA declares a natural disaster. Matt said that Butler, Fairman & Seufert is conducting a preliminary damage assessment of Merrillville areas, especially the flooding that took place at 59th and Grant Place, where they may be looking at a potential lift station.

Following the rain event, 74th and Iddings Court had a road washout and culvert collapse, and Delta III, Inc. did an emergency culvert replacement at the area. Members were provided with before and after pictures of the road and culvert, along with a copy of Delta's invoice for labor and materials in the amount of \$29,800.00. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to pay Delta III, Inc.'s invoice in the amount of \$29,800.00, 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. Matt told Bruce Spires that there had been a guard rail at the site, but said it was removed at the time of the work and asked if he wanted it installed again; Mr. Spires will look at it. Matt said he will submit the invoice to the Indiana Dept. of Homeland Security for possible reimbursement.

Matt said Merrillville ranked the highest in the State of Indiana for the Community Rating System, where Merrillville scored a seven (7). Being involved in the Community Rating Systems helps residents with a reduction in their flood insurance premiums. Members had in their packets a copy of a proposal for engineering services by Christopher Burke Engineering to prepare for and participate in the two-day audit in April for \$6,190.00. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the proposal with Christopher Burke Engineering for \$6,190.00, 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.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Crist said there is another washout across from Turkey Creek Country Club on 64th and Harrison Street. Matt said requests for quotes were sent to six (6) contractors, where a polymer coated CMP pipe will be used for about 80 feet. Because of the high cost to do the entire job to 61st Avenue, it will be done a portion at a time

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Ric Holtz, 1430 West 75th Avenue, addressed the board about stormwater issues in Savannah Ridge. He said he has a problem with flooding every time it rains and said his sump pump runs constantly and can barely keep up. He said 15 years ago, the town put up a berm, and water ends up coming in from Grant Street. He said the entire subdivision outlets at 73rd Avenue near the assisted living facility. He said it plugs up at 72nd Place and blocks everything up. He said last year his back yard was totally flooded. He also said an area on 75th Place was dug up for a retention pond. Matt told him that he would visit the site tomorrow.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the Stormwater Resource Center and all non-emergency town departments will be closed on Friday, March 30, 2018, for Good Friday, and the next SWMB meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2018, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary