

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2018**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the May 1, 2018, 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 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 was Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the April 3, 2018 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held April 3, 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 April 10 and April 24, 2018. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from April 10 and April 24, 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

Regarding the Independence Street project, Matt said a pre-construction meeting was held this morning with Dyer Construction and Robinson Engineering. He said \$100,000 will be received from Lake County Community Development Block Grant money to help fund this project. He said they met with Indiana American Water for additional coordination. Matt said he sent Dyer Construction a Notice to Proceed today; Ron Wiedeman said they will start the project in mid-May, and it is expected to be completed by mid-June or the beginning of July.

Matt said the 8720-8814 Old Lincoln Highway drainage project is completed, including the landscaping, and he is waiting for a final pay request from Rex Construction.

Matt said the Sunset Road project is also complete except for landscape restoration and fence replacements in the back yards, which will be done tomorrow. At the members’ places was a copy of Change Order #2 in the amount of \$15,426.20 for sanitary sewer repairs that were not expected but required to be done. Matt said the job is being done at less than the original contract amount of \$257,755.00. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve Change Order #2 in the amount of \$15,426.20, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote. Also at the members’ places was a copy of Delta III’s Pay Request #2 in the amount of \$100,923.30, with the recommendation by Robinson Engineering that it be paid. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve Delta’s Pay Request #2 and Invoice #10590 in the amount of \$100,923.30, 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 said Butler, Fairman & Seufert is still working on plans for the Bon Aire Lake outlet on Taft Place.

Regarding the 6325 Harrison Street sinkhole, Matt said Delta III has ordered the polymer pipe, and as soon as it is delivered, the project will be done.

Matt said Tracy Belongia from the Community Rating System (CRS) had a one-day audit at the Stormwater Resource Center April 11th. He said all CRS documents and extensive paperwork were in order and given to her, and some follow-up documents were emailed to her. Matt said Merrillville residents are receiving tremendous savings in the thousands of dollars because of Merrillville's participation the CRS program. A minimum 5% reduction is seen by homeowners, and those with high-risk policies receive 10% off their premiums.

He also said that he and Darren Olson made a presentation for engineering costs for the Meadowdale storage project in the amount of \$133,000.00 to the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission on April 11th meeting, and he's waiting to hear from them. Matt said we have already completed geotechnical assessment, topographic survey, environmental coordination/wetland delineation and land/easement acquisition/recording which was explained during the presentation.

Matt said Merrillville's IDEM Rule 13 Annual Report for the period covering 2015 to 2017 was submitted electronically and by hard copy this week to the IDEM State Coordinator to maintain compliance with 327IAC15-13.

NEW BUSINESS

Included in the members' packets were copies of pictures of a sinkhole in Chapel Manor on Delaware Street near 78th Avenue. Matt said in order to avoid a situation like the City of Hobart had a few weeks ago, Stormwater barricaded the area so no one drives over it. Matt said he contacted Austgen Equipment to do this emergency repair. Austgen submitted a quote of \$19,514.00 to remove the damaged pipe and replace it with a 117-foot, 36-inch pipe that Stormwater is providing. Matt said the pipe is already at the job site, and Austgen will do the emergency repair tomorrow and met with Bud Crist earlier onsite to assess the emergency work required. Matt is working with Public Works Director Bruce Spires about pavement reconstruction. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to ratify and approve the Austgen Equipment, Inc. quote for \$19,514.00, 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 said the Merrillville Parks Dept. hosted Arbor Day on April 27th with Aquinas School students. A proclamation was approved at the April 24, 2018 Town Council meeting. He said this is part of the recertification process for Tree City USA.

Matt said *Business View Magazine* interviewed him again about a Merrillville article, and the upcoming one will discuss the evolution of low impact development standards.

OTHER BUSINESS

Members had been provided with copies of various Bon Aire Lake documentation, including the listing of almost \$192,000.00 in expenses that the town has paid to date for algae and duckweed applications, fountain installation, removal and repair, and also NIPSCO costs from only 2016 through 2017 and not including NIPSCO bills from 2003 to 2016; the 2017 projected cost of an aeration system of at least \$28,275.00; a copy of the July 5, 2017 SWMB minutes where the Board voted to remove the fountains because they are non-functioning; and a copy of Aquatic Weed Control's contract for 2018 for chemical applications for \$7,350.00. Matt said the fountains were purchased by the town in the early 2000's through a grant. He recently looked at Lake George, Wolf Lake, Lemon Lake and Lake Dale, and none of them have fountains or an

aeration system. He said Bon Aire Lake is a bit shallower than those lakes and therefore, may be more difficult to control algae which is why we outsource the seasonal treatment of the lake. Town-wide there are fountains in only two Merrillville subdivisions (Madison Meadows and Village Green), and they are the responsibility of the property owner's association (POA) to own and maintain. (or homeowner's association (HOA). Bon Aire Lake has about 49 residential properties along the shoreline, and if all paid the annual \$108.00 stormwater fee (\$5,292.00), that would not even cover the electric bills from NIPSCO with regards to fountains. Matt said a few residents have inquired about the fountains; he is hopeful the residents will form a POA, although there are legal ramifications. The Bon Aire Lake Civic Association Inc. disbanded on January 1st 1978, according to records from the Indiana Secretary of State. He said last year, Jim Donahoe from Aquatic Weed Control mentioned that an aeration system does not hinder algae growth, and Mr. Donahoe can be asked to address the Board next month where he can recap information on aeration system functions so that we can have an informed discussion and provide proper feedback to residents. Jim Meyer recommends that a POA be formed, and that they could sign a promissory note to pay for the aeration system but said it's unlikely that local residents will do that. Matt was contacted by a few residents around the lake that may be interested in forming a POA to manage specific aesthetic amenities at Bon Aire Lake. Matt says Bon Aire Lake is a large body of water, approximately fifteen acres of open water, and there can be significant liability associated with that which typically discourages residents from forming a POA or Lake Association. Mr. Simek asked if chemical applications would still be applied to the lake, and Matt said yes, it will be continued for the control of algae, duckweed and watermeal. Matt said the special isolated amenities like the fountains and all the expenses related are considered beyond the town's responsibility for flood management; he said the Merrillville residents who flooded on 59th Place and Grant Street following the February rain event are more concerned about flood control rather than amenities such as fountains.

Mr. Simek asked about the project taking place from 57th to 61st and Harrison Street, and Matt said it is an Indiana American Water (IAW) project where they are replacing water mains and upgrading infrastructure. Matt also said IAW and NIPSCO are speaking at the MS4 annual meeting on the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the town. He said enforcement violations to them have turned into action by those companies.

Mrs. Ghoston asked about signage for projects, and Matt said there will be a "Merrillville stormwater project" sign installed for the Independence Street project.

Matt said Karl Cender's office is processing the real estate tax bills for the stormwater fees for town-owned properties; he said he was contacted by Dept. of Natural Resources about the stormwater fee, and Matt said all parcels are required to pay a stormwater fee. Mr. Cender also said his office is working on how stormwater will pay Public Works for their seasonal stormwater labor.

Matt said he will be making more brochures for the public, including one for homeowners on proper grading procedures. He also said this is the last year that he will be on the MS4 Board of Directors, and that the Board is considering forming its own certification program.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None.

SWMB Meeting Minutes

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said next SWMB meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2018, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi

Staff Secretary