

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2019**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the Tuesday, April 2, 2019, Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. The other member in attendance was Barbara Ghoston; Ralph Simek was unable to attend due to a personal matter. 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 staff secretary Liz Bushemi. Also present were Town Council President Richard Hardaway, Jason Douthett from Robinson Engineering and residents Bob Cotton and Linda Neidlinger.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the March 12, 2019 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held March 12, 2019, 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 REGISTER APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet was a copy of the accounts payable register from March 26, 2019. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the claims on the accounts payable register for March 26, 2019, 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

Matt said Delta III, Inc. will be completing the Windy Hill Court project soon; Delta requested a change from its original quote to add more material and equipment for the project and submitted a change order in the amount of \$1,010.00. Members had a copy of the change order at their places. Matt said the swale leads to the back of the property, and extra grading, seed and blankets were required. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the Delta III change order no. 1 with Delta’s explanation stated on the change order for the extra work in the amount of \$1,010.00, 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. Delta III, Inc. also submitted its pay application #1 for work done to date, including the change order costs, in the amount of \$12,510.00. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve payment of pay application #1 in the amount of \$12,510.00, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. Mrs. Ghoston asked when the project would be completed, and Matt said that all pipes have been installed and just earth work remains to be done, and it should be completed very soon. There were no further questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Matt announced to Councilman Hardaway that a small project was approved for 57th and Massachusetts Street last month, where a new catch basin will be installed to help alleviate flooding at that corner and water will be diverted to Broadway and grading to form swales within existing ditches on the north and south side of 57th Avenue. He said that Delta III, Inc. was awarded that project, and when they are in town to do the Windy Hill Court project, they will do the Massachusetts Street project.

Matt also said that Cardno, Inc. has worked on five (5) ponds in the town using the Marsh Master. He said today he looked at the pond south of the Broadfield subdivision just east of Broadway, and Cardno can use the Marsh Master at that pond for \$1,200.00; he said that work would keep the woody debris down and provide more storage at that location.

He also said Cardno used the Marsh Master at the Taft Street pond on 73rd Avenue and Crescent Lake, where there was a drastic change since it had never been mowed; wetland restoration will be done by Cardno, and Public Works is cutting down woody debris. Wetland signage will be installed, and the Parks Dept. will be working on the park there. Permitting was required, and coordination between the various town departments worked well. Matt also said Cardno used the Marsh Master at the pond just west of the Diocese of Gary property west of Broadway on 93rd Avenue; he is working with the Indiana Dept. of Transportation (INDOT) to clean out catch basins on Broadway because their culvert crosses Broadway. He is looking at the remaining town-owned ponds that need vegetation removal which will maximize storage.

Regarding the Taft Street box culvert, Matt said they are still waiting on the permit from the state; they had several questions from INDOT to address. The design will provide overflow on the west side of Taft Street, through Calumet Park Cemetery and then on to Kaiser Ditch. He said this is the best solution until the cemetery grants an easement. The project will probably be bid in early summer, with construction later in the summer.

Matt said the Meadowdale storage basin design should be finalized in the fall. Since they will be creating storage along Lateral 6, the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR) will be sending a representative for a meeting with everyone involved, including the Lake County Drainage Board, who will be working on removing woody vegetation and sediment removal from 53rd to 61st Avenues. Matt said he will be meeting with Metropolitan Pumps tomorrow regarding a lift station possibly on the west side of the Merrillville Intermediate School (MIS) to alleviate flooding on Taft Place north of 61st Avenue.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Crist said that Councilman Richard Hardaway received a letter from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) notifying him that the Town of Merrillville has again received the Community Rating System (CRS) rating of Class 7; Mr. Hardaway congratulated Matt on the status, and Mr. Crist thanked Matt for all his work. Matt said Merrillville is only one of two communities in Indiana with a Class 7 rating. He said any residents included in a high-risk flood zone automatically have their flood insurance premium reduced by 15% and saves residents money. Matt said Merrillville is ranked best in the state, and he encourages other communities to participate in the CRS program. He will continue to do whatever he can to help residents to protect their homes from flooding issues.

Matt told Bob Cotton in the audience that the SWMB voted last month to contract with Lake & Pond Biologists for algae applications at Bon Aire Lake this year and said they will start next month with algae applications and dye treatments. Matt said the non-toxic approach to treatment of algae is good. He said the culvert work will also be done later this year. Matt asked Mr. Cotton to keep him informed; Mr. Cotton said he'd like some new dissolved oxygen test strips because Jim Sweeney from the Isaak Walton League is giving him River Watch training. Matt will get him more test strips and support him in any way he can.

Mrs. Ghoston said she went to watch the Marsh Master at the 73rd Avenue Taft Street pond and took some pictures as they went across the marshy, murky areas at the pond, and she was impressed. Matt said eventually Stormwater could look at purchasing its own Marsh Master since there's nothing like it to remove vegetation within detention ponds. Matt said he went to

the pond behind Meijer this week, and Meijer will take care of the trees that are growing in their pond. We will continue to inspect privately-owned ponds and ensure that owners maintain them.

Matt said everyone received their Indiana Annual MS4 meeting packets, and he will be attending but not speaking this year. He also will be attending the 6th Annual Conference on the Environment in June in Michigan City, where he will speak on and promote this year's Governor's Award for using the HDPE recycled pipe.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilman Richard Hardaway asked Matt to look into the corner at 58th and Connecticut Street near the church where it stays wet due to constant puddling. He said there is currently a family of ducks in the water. Matt will look into it.

Bob Cotton asked about permitting at the Bon Aire Lake culvert, and Matt said a public meeting will be held, and the project will be done this year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said one lane of northbound Broadway will be closed at U.S. 30 by INDOT in a week or two, where INDOT will be replacing a box culvert. Matt said the project will have a good impact, and the state is stepping in to take care of their infrastructure at the intersection.

Mr. Crist said the next SWMB meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center (since Election Day is the day before, on Tuesday, May 7th).

There being no further business, Barbara Ghoston made a motion to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary