

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2019**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the Tuesday, June 4, 2019, Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:30 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 previously-scheduled appt. 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 Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering, Thomas Burke from Christopher Burke Engineering and Bon Aire Lake residents Bob Cotton and Linda Neidlinger.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the May 8, 2019 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held May 8, 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 were copies of the accounts payable registers from May 14, 2019 and May 28, 2019. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the claims on the accounts payable registers for May 14, 2019 and May 28, 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

Bud Crist said in December, 2018, Amma Properties, LLC made a \$2,916.00 payment for stormwater fees, but paid the fall, 2018, installment late; Matt Lake said they had combined ten (10) parcels at 7101 Broadway. Karl Cender said the SWMB had deferred the matter until June, 2019, since Stormwater had not received the Amma Properties stormwater fees in 2018. Included in the members’ packets was a copy of Cender & Company’s 2018 refund information. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the refund on stormwater fees paid by Amma Properties for the property at 7101 Broadway in the amount of \$2,916.00, 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.

Regarding the Taft Street box culvert project, Matt said the project plans have been completed, and an advertisement for bids has been sent to the two (2) local newspapers, and the bid opening will take place at the July 2, 2019, SWMB meeting. He said last month, the SWMB approved the Christopher Burke Engineering (CBBEL) construction observation agreement, and he anticipates the project will be started some time in August. Thomas Burke from CBBEL said this is a good solution to the current flooding problem on Taft Street. Matt said they are also looking at the south pond just east of the Dairy Queen on 73rd Avenue because it is surging down to the north pond. Mr. Burke said the water will be throttled to the west of Taft Street.

Matt said most of the permits have been received for the Meadowdale regional storage basin project. Once he receives the engineer’s estimates, they will determine if one or more basins will be built. He may ask the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) to cost-share the project since they are paying for Merrillville’s engineering and also paying for the engineering study in Gary. Mr. Burke said they are also doing a study for the City of Hobart, and since it’s the same watershed, the storage basin(s) could benefit Merrillville, Gary and Hobart. Matt intends to make a presentation to the LCRBDC later this summer.

Included in the members' packets was a quote tabulation form for a small drainage project at Indiana Street and 83rd Avenue, where there was a collapsed line crossing over onto Mississippi Street; members also had at their places the three (3) quotes submitted for the project:

Ryan Construction, Inc., Merrillville, IN - \$20,770.00

Gough, Inc., Merrillville, IN - \$26,000.00

Dyer Construction Company, Inc., Dyer, IN - \$32,526.52

Matt was waiting to see if a new restaurant was going to be built soon at this location, but Planning & Building said no permit has been approved. Since there is a failed pipe, Matt said the project should be done now. He read the amounts of quotes and said Ryan Construction was the lowest bidder on the project and is a reputable company. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to award the bid to Ryan Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$20,770.00 since Matt said the company is a reputable company, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Included in the members' packets was a copy of an invoice from Howard's Tree Service in the amount of \$8,000.000 for Taney Ditch. Matt said Howard's Tree Service did a good job cleaning the ditch from 73rd Avenue to U.S. 30. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to pay the Howard's Tree Service invoice in the amount of \$8,000.00, 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.

Also included in the members' packets were copies of three (3) quotes from local companies to do mowing and trimming at the Stormwater Resource Center:

Neises Lawn Care & Landscaping, Crown Point, IN - \$115.00 per cut

Greener Lawns Mowing & Grading, Crown Point, IN - \$100.00 per cut

South County Landscaping, Inc., Crown Point, IN - \$100.00 per cut

Matt said Stormwater and the town have done business with South County Landscaping, they are a reputable company, and he recommends that the contract be awarded to South County Landscaping. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to award the contract to South County Landscaping based on Matt's recommendation for mowing and trimming services in the amount of \$100.00 per cut, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Matt said he will be speaking on Friday at a Conference on the Environment in Michigan City. Also, he gave the Public Works Dept. a list of small drainage projects for them to do based on Stormwater's contract with them. Robinson Engineering will be looking at 77th and Marshall Street and 61st and Vermont Street for some drainage work that needs to be done at those locations. Stormwater received \$45,000.00 from NIRPC for the cost-share on the 67th and Massachusetts Street project, and the funds were deposited in Stormwater's grant fund. The MS4 Annual Meeting in May had a record turnout of 375 participants; at their next Northwest Indiana Stormwater Advisory Group (NISWAG) meeting, members will discuss the sessions held at the MS4 Annual Meeting.

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Regarding Bon Aire Lake, Matt also said he'd like to have Butler Fairman & Seufert present to discuss the culvert project. He said Lake & Pond Biologists last treated the lake on May 14 and May 31; resident Bob Cotton said the lake looks good except for some duckweed. Mr. Cotton said the oxygen level is good, and the water temperature is already in the mid-70's.

Mrs. Ghoston said she noticed other delegates from local communities at the MS4 Annual Meeting, including Gary, and asked if they have reached out to Matt. Matt said Gary has a low impact development (LID) conference coming up later in June, which he plans to attend. He has always collaborated with Gary and helped them; in fact, they thought of building a stormwater building like Merrillville has. He said he hopes the CBBEL study of Lateral 6 in Gary helps them with stormwater issues. Attorney Jim Meyer said the same people who are the board for the Gary Stormwater District are on the Gary Sanitary District (GSD) board, although separate entities. Matt said there have been some Gary Sanitary District issues for Merrillville residents in their territory, and he hopes the GSD will recommend back water valves to help those residents. He said GSD is lining out some areas now to reduce I&I (infiltration/inflow).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next SWMB meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 2, 2019, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

He also said the August 6, 2019 meeting will be moved to 3:00 pm due to a schedule conflict.

Barbara Ghoston made a motion to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary