

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2019**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the August 6, 2019, Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 3:01 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, Financial Advisor Karl Cender and staff secretary Liz Bushemi; Attorney Jim Meyer was not present due to the death of his sister. Others present were residents Linda Neidlinger, Bob Cotton, Dolores Flaska and Karen Billick and Ron Wiedeman from Robinson Engineering.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Crist extended condolences to the family of Attorney Jim Meyer on the passing of his sister, Betty, who lived in Missouri.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the July 2, 2019, SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held July 2, 2019, 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.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from July 9 and July 23, 2019. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from July 9 and July 23, 2019, 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.

OLD BUSINESS

Included in the members’ packets was a copy of the bid tabulation form for the Taft Street drainage project. Since Dyer Construction Company was the lowest responsible and responsive bidder with a bid in the amount of \$113,789.18, Mr. Crist requested approval of this bid. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to award the Taft Street project to Dyer Construction Company, Inc. for their bid amount of \$113,789.18, 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. Also included in the members’ packets was a copy of the Construction Agreement with Dyer Construction Company, Inc. for the Taft Street project. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the Construction Agreement with Dyer Construction Company, Inc., 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 there are several sump pump discharge drainage issues in Lakewood Estates due to the high-water table. This discharge tends to cause dangerous icing conditions on the roadways in the winter. Our project will provide inlets and conveyance for this sump pump discharge. He solicited quotes from contractors and received six (6) quotes. He said he has also talked to the developer who is building a few new homes in the subdivision about the high-water table, and he feels this would be the most economical option to assist the residents. Included in the members’ packets was a copy of the Amended Quote Tabulation Form, original Quote Tabulation Form and copies of the quotes received for this project, which are listed in the order that they were received.

(1) Austgen Equipment Company, Inc., Crown Point, IN	\$100,871.00
(2) Hasse Construction Company, Inc., Calumet City, IL	\$95,772.50
(3) Delta III, Inc., Hanna, IN	\$45,350.00
(4) Gough, Inc., Merrillville, IN	\$94,900.00
(5) Dyer Construction Company, Inc., Dyer, IN	\$90,369.80
(6) Grimmer Construction, Inc., Highland, IN	\$52,685.00

Barbara Ghoston made a motion to award the Lakewood Estates project to Delta III, Inc. for their quote in the amount of \$45,350.00, 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 Meadowdale basin project, Matt said Christopher Burke Engineering is close to completing engineering on the project. He expects to solicit bids for the project in late fall. He plans to submit an application for this project to the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission for consideration of cost-share for construction.

Matt said the 83rd Avenue & Indiana Street project should be starting next month by contractor, Ryan Construction. He was hoping the northwest corner would be developed so the drainage would be corrected through the new development, but since it has not, he said it's critical that the project be done before winter because of the roadway conditions caused by the collapsed drain.

He also said they are still waiting on permit approval by the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources for the Bon Aire Lake culvert project, and then bids will be solicited. He said it should not take long to install the new box culvert at the adjusted elevation. Matt said the other day he saw some algae growth in the lake, and resident Bob Cotton said there is about 25% algae at the "finger areas" of the lake. The algae and duckweed growth has been significantly less compared to previous years, and Matt is satisfied with the new contractor, Lake & Pond Biologists at Bon Aire Lake, since they have been implementing the non-toxic dye treatments. Bob Cotton also said the dissolved oxygen level is high and at about 10ppm, and the water temperature has been 80-86 degrees. Matt is considering improving the existing boat launch to assist the contractor's ingress and egress to access the lake.

NEW BUSINESS

Included in the members' packets were copies of the 2020 budgets for Stormwater Utility's Funds 626, 627 and 628. Mr. Crist said Fund 626, Stormwater's operating fund, has a budget estimate of \$1,210,222.00. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the 2020 Fund 626 budget in the amount of \$1,210,222.00, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. Mr. Crist said this is a preliminary budget. Matt Lake said there is a potential that two (2) part-time Stormwater crew members would be hired to help with drainage and ditch work in order to remove some of the jobs from Public Works. Mrs. Ghoston asked if the new operator that Stormwater hired could help with these projects, and Matt said yes; he said the part-time employees would probably not work in the winter time. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

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Mr. Crist said Fund 627 is Stormwater's construction fund which is for the Meadowdale project and large projects, and the 2020 budget is \$830,000.00. Matt said this fund will be used for large projects instead of bonding for them. Financial advisor Karl Cender said the \$830,000.00 is what is net of Mike Mahy's salary deducted earlier this year. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the 2020 budget for Fund 627, 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.

Mr. Crist said Fund 628 is Stormwater's grant fund, which Matt said is maintained for local match money. Matt said most grants are 20% matching, and if the funds are not used, they can be left in this fund. He said the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is a no-match grant. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the 2020 budget for Fund 628 in the amount of \$70,000.00 to be used as match money for grants or could be transferred to another fund, 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.

Mr. Crist said included in the members' packets is a copy of Resolution 19-02 regarding a transfer of \$10,000.00 for the town engineer administrator. Matt said when the town created the position, they asked Stormwater Utility for money to help supplement the salary for the town engineer administrator's salary, and Matt feels Stormwater will get \$10,000.00 in services from the person. He said it may not be a permanent scenario, but Stormwater can support the effort and utilize the position. He feels it is a temporary arrangement; Mrs. Ghoston asked how temporary, and Matt feels possibly this year and next year. Mrs. Ghoston asked if the position exists now, and Matt said yes, the employee started on August 5th, and it was a newly-created town position. Matt's intent is to utilize the engineer administrator for construction observation. Mrs. Ghoston said if the town created the position, they should be funding it, and she does not want it a permanent line item in the Stormwater budget. Mrs. Ghoston requested oversight for this position and would like to see it only temporarily in the Stormwater budget. Matt agreed and said line item 626010149 was created in the Stormwater budget for \$10,000.00, and \$10,000.00 was decreased from line item 626010355-local match or grant. Ralph Simek made a motion to create line item 626010146 for the engineer administrator position with \$10,000.00 and decrease line item 626010355 by \$10,000.00 and also approve Stormwater Resolution 19-02, and Barbara Ghoston seconded the motion, with the condition that the minutes reflect her concerns on this matter. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

A lengthy discussion about a Marsh Master industrial style mower was held. Mr. Crist said Matt, Joe Fish and Mike Mahy looked at one at the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources in Jasper County, which controls vegetation in wetlands and marsh areas. Matt said they are looking at various town-owned detention areas, and he has received calls from several property owner associations (POAs) where the POA is now defunct and they have ponds. Matt just reviewed plans for a new subdivision north of 73rd Avenue, Savannah Cove. He is attempting to have all lots near the pond being owners of the pond portion, encompassing the pond so it would help prevent them from going on tax sale like others have in town. Matt said the town has two large Taft Street ponds and several other town-owned ponds, where Cardno was contracted to mow them. He said specialized mowing equipment like a marsh master may become standard stormwater equipment, like a jet vac truck and camera truck, for many communities. The marsh master company is out of Louisiana, and it costs about \$10,000.00 per month to rent, plus equipment transport fees if Cardno is contracted; Matt is looking at the marsh master as part of

Stormwater's fleet because it has a mower and sprayer for vegetation management. He said he has been in contact with White Industries through their attorney about the possibility of a donation towards purchase of the marsh master. Matt said if the marsh master is used for town-owned properties (the Taft Street ponds and other properties), it should pay for itself in four to six years. Mr. Simek asked if an additional employee would have to be hired, and Matt said Mike Mahy, the laborer employee hired by Stormwater in April, would be the sole operator, along with the jet vac truck and camera truck. Matt said he wanted to introduce the board to it and will provide any updates. Resident Bob Cotton asked about service and labor, and Matt said it would be done locally; they would use a tutorial and have a one-day seminar with a PowerPoint presentation from the manufacturer. Mrs. Ghoston asked if Matt has let other communities know about it, and Matt said it has been mentioned at NISWAG meetings; he said an inter-local agreement could be prepared, where rates would be set for them to have the service of Stormwater's marsh master, similar to when the Town of Winfield used the services of Stormwater's jet vac truck. Matt said other communities don't own a marsh master at this time. Matt said a marsh master is a highly specialized piece of equipment to manage invasive vegetation in difficult terrain; Mr. Simek asked if the marsh matter picks up the debris that is mowed down, and Matt said no, and that the marsh master breaks up and cuts down the debris. Matt said a marsh master is a specialized piece of equipment that only a stormwater department would use. Mr. Simek asked where it would be housed, and Matt said it would be in stored here at the Stormwater Resource Center and eventually hopes the Northwest Indiana Regional SWAT Team will have their own regional facility to store their SWAT vehicles since we will need room on our garage. There may be a grant opportunity for that through homeland security. Karl Cender asked if Stormwater is looking to purchase one soon, and Matt said it would not be purchased until the next season and possibly voted on at the next SWMB meeting, or it could be discussed further. Mr. Simek asked how long the \$184,831.00 quote is good, and Bud Crist said the document states it is good through August 15, 2019. Matt is confident that the quote would be good until one is purchased. Karl Cender suggested that Matt and Attorney Jim Meyer discuss why Coast Machinery, LLC was chosen, as opposed to bidding on this equipment.

Matt said the town has been milling and resurfacing the road at 78th Avenue and Jennings Place, where the bridge over Kaiser Ditch had to be repaired. Matt said then-town manager Bruce Spires received a quote from Ellas Construction to remove and replace the section of the bridge on the south end and curb for \$45,000.00, and they discussed a 50% cost-share between the Public Works Dept. and Stormwater, with the price good for 30 days; the materials will take approximately 60 days to deliver. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the 50% cost share with the Public Works Department and pay \$22,500.00 for the 78th Avenue & Jennings Place bridge repair, 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 a Memorandum Memorializing Transfer of the Allianz Street Sweeper with Merrillville Stormwater Utility and the Public Works Department. Attached to the Memorandum of Transfer was a copy of the May 10, 2019, Policy Regarding Responsibility for Tasks Relating to Cleaning and Maintaining the Towns' Streets and Storm Sewers. Matt said it is Public Works' responsibility to take care of streets and Stormwater's responsibility to take care of stormwater. Since the sweeper in on top of the street, it is Public Works' task and responsibility to take care of street surface, and it is Stormwater's responsibility to take care of any failure of the structures in the drains. He said Attorney Jim Meyer prepared the documents, which clearly define the responsibilities of each department.

The staff secretary, Liz Bushemi, was required to leave the meeting at 4:00 pm, and SWMB secretary Barbara Ghoston took minutes for the remainder of the meeting.

Robinson Engineering's Addendum No. 2 for on-call engineering services in the amount of \$10,000 and not to exceed the total amount of \$20,000 was approved. Barbara Ghoston underscored the need for site observation referencing a previous company finding of some non-platted utility lines under the Stormwater Utility building that were addressed pre-construction as opposed to a more costly post-construction removal. She suggested adding more money in the 100 series of the Stormwater budget for next year.

OTHER BUSINESS

Matt said 54th and 57th Avenues from Broadway going west have vegetation overgrowth often covering or obscuring the sidewalks and signs which may direct pedestrian traffic to walk towards street which may be a public safety concern. Public Works does selective trimming within the road right-of ways to address these types of issues. At 57th & Grant Street, there are crossings by lateral #6 that has overgrowth near a sidewalk, and a project to trim and maintain that vegetation within the right-of-way will begin shortly.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A discussion about algae developing at Bon Aire Lake was held. Matt said lowering the culvert will probably not reduce algae growth and that the amount of algae you see at the surface is not an indicator of how extensive the growth is underneath. Matt said according to our contractor from Lake and Pond Biologists, it should be treated and then allowed to run its course. Mrs. Ghoston asked for a definition of "run its course", and Matt said that our contractor can only apply a limited amount of chemicals as allowed by their license, the rest is a natural process. Matt said replacement of the culvert controls flooding, not algae. Bob Cotton asked what the holdup is for lowering the culvert, and Matt said the Indianan Department of Natural Resources; Butler, Fairman and Seufert said IDNR has changed some requirements associated with the permit process and regulations, thereby causing a delay in the permitting.

Attorney Jim Meyer suggested documenting the Marsh Master as equipment built to order and to show the price difference as one with an overhead rack for storage/transport of other equipment and a transport vehicle, and the other does not.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next SWRC meeting is set for Tuesday, September 3, 2019, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary
and
Barbara Ghoston
SWMB Secretary