

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the July 7, 2020, Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:30 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, Attorney James Meyer and staff secretary Liz Bushemi.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Crist asked for a moment of silence for Milan Dakich, who passed away on Jun 30, 2020. Mr. Dakich was a former Town Board member, member of the Lake County Drainage Board and friend of us at Merrillville Stormwater Utility.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the June 9, 2020, SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held on June 9, 2020, 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

Included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from June 9 and June 23, 2020. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from June 9 and June 23, 2020, 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

Matt said included in the members’ packets was a copy of the Ziese & Sons Excavating, Inc. invoice for the project at 77th Place and Noble Street in the amount of \$27,000.00, the cost quoted earlier in the year. Matt said after the project was completed, there were some rain events, and this project was a good cause and effect. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve payment of the invoice for drainage improvements by Ziese & Sons in the amount of \$27,000.00, 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.

Also included in the members’ packets was a copy of the Austgen Equipment, Inc. invoice for the project done at 77th Avenue and Marshall Street in the amount of \$53,648.00, which was the original cost, adjustment on catch basin and regrading ditch. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve payment of the invoice for drainage improvements by Austgen Equipment in the amount of \$53,648.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston, who asked about clarity of darkness of documents. Liz advised that she could get better copies, but this was based on their quote and two adjustments. There were no further questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Bud Crist said the spring installment for stormwater fees was received in the total amount of \$1,001,416.77. He said \$593,039.01 was put into Fund 626, and \$408,377.76 was put into Fund 627 – the same percentages as are always used.

NEW BUSINESS

Included in the members' packets were copies of the 2021 budgets for Stormwater Utility's Funds 626, 627 and 628. Financial advisor Karl Cender said these are first drafts of the 2021 budgets. Fund 626, Stormwater's operating fund, has a budget estimate of \$1,210,222.00. Matt said they are keeping the two part-time crew members at \$25,000.00 each for smaller jobs that Stormwater can do since the \$50,000.00 for seasonal maintenance was removed. It is the same amount as last year. Matt said Fund 627, the Construction Fund, is for Meadowdale basin project and other capital projects. He said Fund 628, the Stormwater Grant Fund, budget of \$70,000.00 remains the same. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the budget for Fund 626 in the amount of \$1,210,222.00 and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston with the option to amend it at a later date. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Barbara Ghoston then made a motion made a motion to approve the 2021 Fund 627 budget in the amount of \$830,000.00, 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.

Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the budget for Fund 628 in the amount of \$70,000.00, 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.

At everyone's places were copies of a memorandum from Cender & Company to the Clerk-Treasurer about transfer of funds in Fund 626 for the marsh master and Matt's new vehicle; the amount includes emergency lights for Matt and Joe's vehicles. He said the marsh master and Ford SUV were already paid out of Fund 626's line item 626010394 – contractual services, where in fact they should have been paid out of line item 626010453 – other equipment. The memo outlines the transfer of \$210,000.00 from contractual services to other equipment. The memo also addresses transfer of funds in Fund 627 of \$200,000.00 from the Meadowdale storage basin line item 627010460 to contractual services line item 627010394. Since the Meadowdale project is not ready to bid out, funds are needed for other Stormwater projects taking place. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the transfer of \$210,000.00 in Fund 626 from contractual services to other equipment and also to approve the transfer of \$200,000.00 in Fund 627 from the Meadowdale storage basin to contractual services, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston with a question on clarification of Fund 626. There were no further questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote. Mr. Simek asked when the marsh master would be received, and Matt said it is here, and everyone can see it after the meeting; Matt said the Stormwater laborer Mike Mahy is the operator of it and the jet vac truck and camera truck.

Included in everyone's packet was a copy of a Delta III invoice for \$4,427.60 for a storm sewer manhole replacement 63rd Avenue and Ellsworth Place. Matt said the storm sewer had collapsed. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve payment of the Delta invoice in the amount of \$4,427.60, 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 packet was a copy of a Delta III invoice for \$3,122.00 for installation of a trench drain and pipe at U.S. 30 and Whitcomb Street. Matt said this was a washout at the south end of the bike trail. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve payment of the Delta invoice in the amount of \$3,122.00, 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.

Also included in everyone's packet was a copy of a Delta III invoice for \$6,500.00 for removal and replacement of a 48" pipe at Forest Hills Park. Matt said the ditch in front of Forest Hills Park collapsed. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve payment of the Delta invoice in the amount of \$6,500.00, 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.

Matt said at the June 17 Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) ZOOM meeting, they approved the 50% cost share for construction costs for the first pond at the Meadowdale basin in the amount of \$426,635.00 and also approved a 50% cost share for construction costs for the Bon Aire Lake culvert in the amount of \$74,572.00. He said the LCRBDC previously paid for engineering costs and are not cost-sharing on construction of the projects. For the Meadowdale project, Matt said he is considering bidding the first pond out but may also see about bidding out the second pond soon.

Matt said Indiana American Water still needs to lower their gas line at Bon Aire Lake, which will be done in August. He said the tilapia in the lake is multiplying, and he hopes to find a way to repurpose them once the season is over.

Mrs. Ghoston asked the definition of the acronym HDPE, and Matt said High Density Polyethylene, and said he encourages contractors to use that type of pipe.

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

He said the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 4, 2020, tentatively at 3:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center. A brief discussion was held about the earlier time since the town's hours right now are 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Everyone said they can attend a 3:30 pm meeting.

Mrs. Ghoston thanked the board for their generosity in making a donation to the endowment established for her husband, Richard, who passed away on April 17, 2020. She said that he was buried at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Joliet, IL, with military honors.

Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary