

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2020**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the October 6, 2020 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 3:30 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, Attorney James Meyer and staff secretary Liz Bushemi. No others were present.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Crist said that he appreciated Matt’s article in the town’s fall newsletter.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the September 1, 2020, SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held on September 1, 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

Also included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from September 8 and September 22, 2020. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from September 8 and September 22, 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.

OLD BUSINESS

Included in the members’ packets was a recommendation from Christopher Burke Engineering that Dyer Construction Company’s bid be awarded. Mr. Crist said approval was needed for Option 1 or Option 2 for the Meadowdale lateral project; he said Option 2 is both the north and south ponds and recommended that Dyer Construction’s Option 2 be approved in the amount of \$1,367,254.84. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve Dyer Construction Co., Inc.’s Option 2 bid amount in the amount of \$1,367,254.84, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. Mr. Crist showed the maps with two options. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote. Matt said that 439 structures (homes) would be affected by this project, and 50 of them will have 100-year level protection. He said 4.5 acre feet of storage (14.6 million gallons of storage) would be seen from this project. He also thanked the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission for their cost share for this project.

Also included in the members’ packets was a copy of Christopher Burke Engineering’s (CBBEL’s) amended contract for construction observation for the Meadowdale project. Matt said that with knowing that Dyer Construction Company (Dyer) is the contractor for this project, his intent is to limit construction observation and said CBBEL would present pay requests and as-builts for the project. He plans to meet with Greg Furman from Dyer on an as-needed basis; he said that some money may need to be moved to pay for the project. Mr. Simek asked about the end date for the project, and Matt said it will depend on Dyer’s schedule. Mr. Simek made a motion to accept the contract with CBBEL for Option 2 in an amount not to exceed \$100,467.50, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston with a question about meeting with them to tweak the contract. Matt said he is confident that the construction observation can be limited to possibly a couple of half (1/2) days per week, and CBBEL would make sure the work is satisfactorily done, make recommendations for pay requests and submit as-builts. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Included in the members' packets was a copy of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) for their cost share in the amount of \$426,625.00 for the Meadowdale project. Matt said he has a call in to the LCRBDC Executive Director Dan Repay since Stormwater is approving Option 2 (both ponds) to see if Stormwater can apply for more cost share funding, but says there is no guarantee. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) for their cost share in the amount of \$426,625.00 for the Meadowdale project, 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 Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) for their cost share in the amount of \$74,572.00 for the Taft Place/Bon Aire Lake culvert project. Matt said this project is not yet out to bid. Mr. Simek asked if the state permit was received, and Matt said yes. Matt wants to wait until the tilapia season ends so not to interrupt this algae procedure but hopes to talk to Butler Fairman & Seufert about possibly setting it out for bid later this year. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) for their cost share in the amount of \$74,572.00 for the Taft Place/Bon Aire Lake culvert project, 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Included in the members' packets was a copy of a change order for labor and delivery of rip rap in the amount of \$550.00 from Delta III, Inc. and invoice in the full amount of \$4,650.00 for pipe replacement at 7521 Independence Street. Matt said there was a failure in a large culvert crossing a driveway where it was collapsing. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the change order in the amount of \$550.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston, with a question if the job was completed; Matt said yes. There were no further questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion to approve the change order unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote. Mrs. Ghoston then made a motion to pay the Delta III, Inc. total invoice in the sum of \$4,650.00 for the full pipe replacement job at 7521 Independence Street, 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 Delta III, Inc. is doing a large project somewhere in Hobart across Mississippi, and they are able to provide fill from that project to the town's 83rd & Georgia Street pond located by Red Roof Inn at no cost to Stormwater. Matt said Delta will haul the fill to the basin and grade it down, filling it to the exiting normal water level elevation, at no charge to Merrillville. He said instead of it being a wet basin, the pond will be redesigned into a dry basin. He said no storage will be lost with it being a dry basin. Matt said he feels the current pond is more of liability, and this modification will make the basin safer. Mr. Simek asked if there is a need for a fence, and Matt said after a rain event, the pond will store the stormwater for less than 24 hours and be completely drained/dry after the release. Mrs. Ghoston asked if Delta will be making multiple loads of fill to the basin, and Matt said yes.

Matt said he has contacted the Hickory Ridge Apartments regional manager, who is reviewing the easement agreement that had been presented to them before. A regional stormwater detention project could take place there in the future. If the easement agreement is signed, we can move forward with engineering.

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Matt also said that the town previously acquired the Sedona subdivision pond, which is being maintained by Stormwater. We may also modify this pond in the near future to have a dry bottom which would improve the accessibility for maintenance and reduce liability.

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next Stormwater Management meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, November 4, 2020, at 3:30 pm at the Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center. It is being held on Wednesday since Tuesday, November 3rd, is General Election Day.

Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary