

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the January 5, 2021 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 3:37 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, Financial Advisor Karl Cender and staff secretary Liz Bushemi.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Crist said he hoped everyone had a nice Christmas and wished everyone well for the 2021 New Year. He said Barbara Ghoston submitted a letter of interest to continue her service on the SWMB, and the Town Council will make appointments to boards and commissions at their January 12, 2021 meeting. Election of officers of the SWMB will take place at the meeting on February, 2021.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the November 4, 2020 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held on November 4, 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.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from December 8 and December 22, 2020. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from December 8 and December 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 copy of the December 21, 2020 Cender & Company memo to the Clerk-Treasurer regarding Fund 626 transfers. Karl Cender said it and the December 29, 2020 memo, which was added on to the agenda, were Fund 626 end-of-year budget transfers to cover any deficiencies and balance out in the various line items. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the transfers requested December 21, 2020 and December 29, 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Included in the members’ packets was a copy of the tentative 2021 Schedule of Stormwater Management Board meetings. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the 2021 Schedule of Stormwater Management Board meeting, with any adjustments to the schedule to be made by notification, 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.

Included in the members’ packets was a copy of the email from Karl Cender about the December, 2020, Merrillville stormwater fees paid to Lake County with real estate tax bills in the amount of \$1,020,152.19. He said 59% (\$604,134.13) was put into Stormwater’s Operating Fund 626, and 40.78% (\$416,018.06) was put into the Construction Fund 627. Attached to Karl’s email was a recapitulation of stormwater fees paid since inception of a stormwater fee.

SWMB Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2021

Page Two

Included in the members' packets was a copy of a Hubinger Landscaping invoice in the amount of \$2,985.00 for work done at the Stormwater Resource Center. Bud Crist had approved payment of the invoice on November 18, 2020 since the December, 2020, SWMB meeting was being cancelled, and the invoice was on the agenda for ratifying Mr. Crist's approval. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the ratification of payment of the Hubinger Landscaping invoice in the amount of \$2,985/00, 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 the members' packets was a copy of a Ziese & Sons Excavating invoice in the amount of \$3,400.00 repairs of storm sewers at 5854 and 5796 Taft Place where there were sinkholes by the outlet at Bon Aire Lake. Mr. Crist had also approved payment of the invoice on November 18, 2020 since the December, 2020, SWMB meeting was being cancelled, and the invoice was on the agenda for ratifying Mr. Crist's approval. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the ratification of payment of the Ziese & Sons Excavating invoice in the amount of \$3,400.00, 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.

A Christopher Burke Engineering (CBBEL) invoice in the amount of \$5,613.50 for the Meadowdale project construction observation was included in their packets. Matt said CBBEL has been involved in pre-construction meetings, permitting coordination, etc. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve payment of the CBBEL invoice in the amount of \$5,613.50, 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.

Members also had in their packets a copy of the proposed Lake & Pond Biologists contract for 2021 for treatment and services at Bon Aire Lake. The total proposed contract is not to exceed \$10,159.00. Liz said there was a \$483.00 increase from last year's contract. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the 2021 contract with Lake & Pond Biologists in an amount not to exceed \$10,159.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote. Mrs. Ghoston asked what is shade, and Matt said a non-toxic dye. Mr. Simek asked about permits for the project at Bon Aire Lake, and Matt said they have all been received, he will be getting ready for public hearings, and he anticipates that the project would be out for bid in the spring.

Added on to the agenda was an invoice from Delta III, Inc. in the amount of \$8,190.39 for an emergency ditch repair at 97th Avenue and Grand Boulevard where the road needed stabilization and concrete blocks were installed. Matt said the repair was done, but it is still not a safe scenario; he has talked to the town's engineering administrator about having a guardrail installed. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve payment of the Delta III invoice in the amount of \$8,190.39, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Mrs. Ghoston asked if the work being done at the Ameriplex plaza would affect the Mississippi Street project, and Matt said no. There was also a brief discussion about INDOT's plans to have a roundabout installed at 73rd & Taft Street.

SWMB Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2021

Page Three

Karl Cender said there was memo prepared on November 23, 2020 where he reported an in-kind contribution for stormwater fees and the Merrillville Fire Protection Territory in the amount of \$6,800.00. This was done in lieu of exchanging checks for stormwater fees for Merrillville parcels. Members were given a copy of the memorandum. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the terms of the memo, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. Mrs. Ghoston asked for an explanation, and Mr. Cender said this was in lieu of bills being sent out so that properties do not go on tax sale and said it is a clean way to not bill the Fire Territory for the year 2020. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said he is currently renewing the annual certification for the Community Rating System (CRS) with FEMA,

Mrs. Ghoston asked about NIPSCO bills for Bon Aire Lake, and Matt said there are no NIPSCO bills for Bon Aire Lake now since there are no fountains anymore. Liz said Stormwater is saving money without paying the NIPSCO bills and repairs bills for the fountains. She has records of prior bills paid in office files.

PUBLIC COMMENT. None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next Stormwater Management meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at 3:30 pm at the Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center.

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 4:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary