

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the February 2, 2021 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. The other member in attendance was Barbara Ghoston. 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 congratulated Barbara Ghoston on her re-appointment to the Stormwater Management Board by the President of the Town Council.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Barbara Ghoston made a motion to retain all current Stormwater Management Board officers as they currently are for 2021, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There were no other nominations, and there was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the January 5, 2021 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held on January 5, 2021, 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 REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from January 12, 2001 and January 25, 2021. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from January 12, 2021 and January 25, 2021, 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

Matt Lake said the Taft Place/Bon Aire culvert replacement project would be bid at the March 2, 2021 SWMB meeting; he said the ads would be in the newspapers on Friday, February 5, and February 12, 2021. Once the project is completed, we will submit reimbursement for \$75,000 of the construction costs to the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC). The intent is to get this project done before tilapia are introduced in the lake in June. He would like to also have an analysis conducted to evaluate if a regional Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) can be submitted to FEMA to remove residential structures from the high-risk flood zone to lower the flood insurance rates for select residents. This may be possible since the new concrete box culvert outlet structure will be about 8” lower and create an additional 9.37 acre-feet of flood storage and potentially lower the base flood elevation. Mr. Crist asked if a meeting with residents will be held, and Matt said the engineering firm, Butler, Fairman & Seufert, may hold a virtual public meeting. Mr. Crist also asked the status of the tilapia that was put in the lake last year, and Matt said they have not seen any dead tilapia, and some may have been consumed by natural predators since they were not adapted to cold water temperatures below 50 degrees.

NEW BUSINESS

Included in the members’ packets was a copy of the Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. contract for 2021 on-call engineering services in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00. Barbara Ghoston

made a motion to approve the contract with Butler, Fairman & Seufert, Inc. for 2021 on-call engineering services in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Also included in the members' packets was a copy of the Christopher Burke Engineering contract for 2021 on-call engineering services in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the contract with Christopher Burke Engineering for 2021 on-call engineering services in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Included in the members' packets was a copy of the Robinson Engineering contract for 2021 on-call engineering services in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the contract with Robinson Engineering for 2021 on-call engineering services in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Also included in the members' packets was a copy of the VS Engineering contract for 2021 on-call engineering services in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the contract with VS Engineering for 2021 on-call engineering services in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Lastly, included in the members' packets was a copy of the DLZ Engineering contract for 2021 on-call engineering services in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the contract with DLZ Engineering for 2021 on-call engineering services in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. Mrs. Ghoston asked Matt if there is a certain company to choose for a certain task, and Matt said some engineering firms deal with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), some concentrate on stormwater and some develop roadway projects, they have their own styles, and he said all of them are competent firms. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Included in the members' packets was a copy of a McCann Industries invoice in the amount of \$2,889.07 for service, fuels and filters for the Stormwater backhoe. Matt had previously approved the invoice, and it was sent to the clerk-treasurer for processing. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to ratify the invoice and payment to McCann Industries for \$2,889.07, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

Also included in the members' packets was a copy of an invoice from Delta III, Inc. in the amount of \$3,500.00 for a driveway culvert removal and replacement at 9005 East 93rd Avenue. Matt said there was icing on the road, and Delta III extended the culvert and did some additional ditch work since there was a safety issue. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve payment of the Delta III invoice in the amount of \$3,500.00, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Matt said Stormwater submitted reimbursement requests to the LCRBDC for \$54,500.00 for design work done by DLZ on the Kaiser Ditch/Taney Ditch project, where the LCRBDC is paying for 100% of the design work on that project. Also submitted to the Little Cal was reimbursement of \$19,450.00 for the remaining Christopher Burke Engineering design work on the Meadowdale project. The claims will be on their next agenda on February 17, 2021.

Bud said he would like to have a review of Stormwater equipment because some equipment is getting old. Matt said they may have to set up a line item in future budgets for replacement vehicles; Karl will make a note of that for budget preparation for next year. Matt said the jet vac truck has had a lot of work done on it.

Matt said Senate Bill 389 pending in the Indiana legislature eliminates the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM's) protection of isolated wetlands, and he is watching the bill; he said a lot of groups are remonstrating. It has passed the Indiana State Senate and is on to the Indiana House of Representatives. He will talk to Attorney Jim Meyer about the possibility of amending the town's stormwater ordinance to add additional isolated wetlands regulations. Matt said "time is of the essence" on this, and Lake County Surveyor Bill Emerson agrees it is an issue and says we have to have local protection and regulations. He said passage of this bill will create environmental protection issues at the local level, and he is trying to collaborate with other communities because although we have to be pro-growth, we also have to be pro-environment. Bud asked if developers are pushing it, and Matt said yes, as are agricultural landowners. Jim Meyer suggests contacting Indiana Governor Holcomb.

PUBLIC COMMENT. None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next Stormwater Management meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at 3:30 pm at the Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center. The bid opening for the Taft Place/Bon Aire Lake culvert project will also be held.

Barbara Ghoston made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Bud Crist. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 2/0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary