

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

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the March 2, 2021, Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 3:32 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. The other members in attendance were Ralph Simek and 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 secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present who signed in were Justin Glaser from LGS Plumbing, Dyer Construction Company, Grimmer Construction, Megan Bibler from Gariup Construction, Brian Staresina from Hasse Construction, Matt Veter from Gough, Inc. and Sean Mikos from Butler, Fairman & Seufert.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. Crist closed the acceptance of bids for the Taft Place/Bon Aire Lake Culvert project.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the February 2, 2021, SWMB meeting. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held February 2, 2021, 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 February 9, 2021 and February 23, 2021. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from February 9, 2021 and February 23, 2021, 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

The opening of the sealed bids received on the Taft Place/Bon Aire Lake Culvert project took place. Attorney James Meyer opened the sealed bids in the order that they were received:

(1) Woodruff & Sons, Inc.	Michigan City, IN	\$188,655.88
(2) Hasse Construction Co., Inc.	Calumet City, IL	\$191,000.00
(3) Grimmer Construction, Inc.	Highland, IN	\$274,964.00
(4) Dyer Construction Co., Inc.	Dyer, IN	\$132,161.84
(5) LSG Plumbing, Inc.	Crown Point, IN	\$190,530.00
(6) Gough, Inc.	Merrillville, IN	\$240,729.00
(7) Gariup Construction Co., Inc.	Gary, IN	\$177,500.00

Bud Crist recommended that the board take the bids under advisement, and Matt recommended that Butler, Fairman & Seufert review the lowest bid to make sure it is in order as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder. He also said that the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (LCRBDC) will pay about one-half (1/2) of the construction costs of the project – about \$75,500.

Matt said he received a construction schedule from Matt Rosa from Christopher Burke Engineering (CBBEL) on the Meadowdale project, and he will get everyone a copy. Dyer Construction will mobilize for the project on April 15; preliminary work has been done to remove trees. Jim Meyer asked the length of construction, and Matt said they will de-mobilize on August 19. The project is moving forward.

Matt said he talked to Lake County Surveyor Bill Emerson today about the possibility of doing some Turkey Creek projects.

Matt said he received an evaluation on the 69th Place and Connecticut Street lift station from VS Engineering with a preliminary set of drawing on what can be done for this project. He will meet with them again soon.

Matt said Senate Bill 389 pending before the Indiana General Assembly still exists, and he said hopefully the legislature will decide what is best for wetlands.

Matt said added on to the agenda was a fence project to be done at the Stormwater Resource Center to fence in materials for future projects. At the members' places were copies of four (4) proposals:

Reeves Fence Services, Inc., Crown Point, IN	\$8,500.00
Acorn Fence, Hammond, IN	\$9,795.00
Hammond Fence Co. of Indiana, Inc., Hammond, IN	\$9,550.00
Fence Master, Inc., Chicago Heights, IL	\$13,132.00

Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the proposal from Reeves Fence Services in the amount of \$8,500.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. Mrs. Ghoston asked for further details, and Matt said it would be six (6) feet high with privacy slats. Mr. Simek said he feels barb wire is offensive, and Matt said the barb wire can be removed. There was no further discussion. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said the town had two (2) 2017 Nissan Leaf electric vehicles that were no longer being used by other town employees, and they were delivered to the Stormwater office. He said he has contacted South Shore Clean Cities about a grant for a charging station since he said Stormwater is starting a "green fleet". He also said that the Indiana Dept. of Environmental Management (IDEM) is revamping the Clean Communities program, and he will serve on that committee. Matt is also a member of a greenhouse gas program, and he thinks interns for the greenhouse gas program could use the Nissan electric vehicles.

Matt said Stormwater recently received \$73,694.50 from the LCRBDC as cost shares on two projects: \$19,194.50 for the final design work by CBBEL on the Meadowdale project and \$54,500.00 that was submitted for design work by DLZ Engineers on the Kaiser/Taney Ditch project. The total \$73,694.50 was deposited by the clerk-treasurer into the Stormwater Fund 626 revenue fund for miscellaneous income.

Matt said he and Sean Mikos from Butler, Fairman & Seufert will be scheduling a public meeting for the Taft Place/Bon Aire Lake culvert project soon, and it will be held at the town's new community center.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt said Stormwater is moving forward with its IDEM Rule 13 permit, and April 1 is the annual report deadline, which he will be submitting later in the month. Matt thinks IDEM may revise the permitting and annual report process because of everyone's comments.

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Ralph Simek asked about Senate Bill 389 and eliminating IDEM. Matt said developers were concerned about isolated wetlands, and the bill would take away IDEM's jurisdiction, and there would be no protection. He said then any farmer or developer could then eliminate their isolated wetlands. Matt said there has been a lot of remonstrations against the pending Senate bill. Matt and Jim Meyer are looking into drafting a local ordinance that would place restrictions on isolated wetland impacts on public and private properties. Matt said the legislation impacts Stormwater Rule 13. They will keep the board informed.

Mr. Simek asked how long it will take for review of Dyer Construction's bid submission, and Matt said time enough for Butler, Fairman & Seufert to review the entire bid package and contact Jim Meyer and Matt if there are any problems. Jim Meyer said Ralph could make a motion to approve Dyer Construction Company, Inc. as the lowest most responsive bidder, pending review by Butler, Fairman & Seufert and as long as all bid requirements have been met. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the bid of Dyer Construction Company, Inc. as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder on the Taft Place/Bon Aire Lake Culvert project in the amount of \$132,161.84, 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.

Liz asked about the fence proposal from Reeves Fence Services since Mr. Simek wanted to have the barb wire removed. Mr. Simek said he was amending his motion to approve the Reeves Fence proposal in an amount not to exceed \$8,500.00.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next SWMB meeting is set for Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 3:30 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 4:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary