

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the June 1, 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 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 secretary Liz Bushemi.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

None.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the May 4, 2021, SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held May 4, 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.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet were copies of the accounts payable registers from May 11 and May 25, 2021. Ralph Simek made a motion to accept the accounts payable registers from May 11 and May 25, 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.

OLD BUSINESS

Matt said included in the members’ packets was a copy of a letter from Matt Rosa from Christopher Burke Engineering recommending that Pay Request #2 from Dyer Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$138,547.27 be paid. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve payment to Dyer Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$138,547.27, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. Bud said Greg Furman called him today and said tomorrow they will be bringing dirt from the project to Merrillville and clay to Hobart (300 truckloads per day). There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote. Ralph Simek said he noticed that 108 trees were removed and asked about them; Matt said most of them are scrub trees, and that trees would be installed at the project once completed.

Matt also said Dyer Construction Company has installed the box culvert at the Bon Aire Lake culvert project and passed around pictures; he said the project should be completed in a week or so, and rip rap will be installed along the slopes adjacent to the outlet which is still town-owned property. The lake level is expected to drop about seven (7) inches. He said the tilapia were stocked in Bon Aire Lake last week. When the temporary coffer dam is removed we will trap the fish within the lake using a section of chain link fence until the lake returns to normal water level. Resident Bob Cotton has been monitoring the fish activity and reported seeing tilapia near the outlet of the lake.

NEW BUSINESS

Included in the members’ packets was a copy of an invoice and proposal from Delta III, Inc. for installation of a 12” HDPE pipe at 9309 Clay Street in the amount of \$9,800.00, along with a copy of a second invoice for erosion blanket and seeding in the amount of \$1,250.00 – for a total of \$11,050.00 for both invoices. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve payment of the two invoices in the total amount of \$11,050.00, 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.

Also included in the members' packets was a copy of an invoice from Delta III, Inc. for an emergency job at 5350 Chase Street where a pipe from the catch basin was replaced, in the amount of \$6,800.00. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve payment to Delta III, Inc. in the amount of \$6,800.00, 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 an invoice that had already been submitted to the clerk-treasurer in the amount of \$2,979.98 for an air compressor and two-year warranty purchased at Northern Tool & Equipment; Liz said the Capitol One Trade Credit invoice had already been turned in since it was a credit card bill and was due June 1, 2021, and this was on the agenda for approval since the cost was over \$2,500.00. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve payment to Capital One Trade Credit and Northern Tool in the amount of \$2,979.98, 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.

Attorney Jim Meyer discussed the resolution included in the members' packets regarding the board's participation by electronic means of communication and attendance at Board meetings electronically. He said (1) a majority of Board members have to be present in person, (2) the person participating by phone must be able to hear everything that is said, (3) the people present at the meeting must be able to hear everything said, and (4) the public must be able to hear everything too. He said if the Board does not adopt the resolution, there is no way to vote electronically or have a quorum. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the Resolution, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. Mr. Meyer also said the person attending by phone (or Zoom) should call the Board president in advance and advise him they plan to participate by phone. A voice vote was taken, and the resolution unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Information about the 2021 MS4 Annual Meeting was provided to members in their packets. Matt said the MS4 Annual Meeting committee had already booked the hotel in Indianapolis, and they were able to move it this year to October 26th. He asked members to let Liz know if they plan to attend.

OTHER BUSINESS

Matt said he submitted an application for a Lake County Community Development Block Grant for a project from 53rd to 55th and Marcella Road in the Georgia Heights subdivision. It includes replacing all of the stormwater infrastructure within the road right-of-way. He said this block grant required a local income survey, which he conducted in order to qualify for submitting the grant. He said DLZ Engineering had done some preliminary engineering in this area, as well as cost estimates. Matt said the application requested \$144,300.00.

He also said there are SWIF funds (\$60 million) through SRF ARP (\$30 million in 2021 and \$30 million in 2022) statewide for grants specifically for stormwater and transportation infrastructure projects. We will submit an application this month and anticipating a project in Independence Hill 3rd Addition Infrastructure (approx. \$1.3 million), which has preliminary engineering complete. He is also continuing to meet and discuss funding coming to Merrillville from the American Recovery Act. He said Stormwater infrastructure projects qualify for Recovery Act money because it also includes infrastructure projects.

SWMB Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2021

Page Three

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next SWMB meeting is set for Tuesday, July 6, 2021, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center since Liz has diversity training on July 6 from 2:30 to 4:00 pm at the community center. Everyone was agreeable to moving the meeting to 4:30 for that day.

Barbara Ghoston asked if the town is having a parade, and Matt said it was cancelled by the town. Ralph Simek asked about fireworks, and Ralph was referred to contact the Ross Township Trustee since they host the fireworks at Hidden Lake.

Barbara Ghoston made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bushemi

Staff Secretary