



Minutes

MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD

Tuesday, December 7th, 2021 at 3:30 PM

Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center, 7404 Broadway, Merrillville, IN

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the December 7th, 2021 Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: President Crist led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL: A roll call was taken, members in attendance were, President, Bud Crist, Vice President, Ralph Simek, and Secretary, Barbara Ghoston. A quorum was established. Staff members present were Executive Director Matt Lake, Attorney James Meyers, Financial Advisor Karl Cender and secretary Adra Breclaw-Csanyi.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT: None

MINUTES

Stormwater Management Board Minutes (SWMB) from November 2nd, 2021, approved. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held November 2nd, 2020, it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passes with a 3/0 vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Included in the agenda packet were copies of the Accounts Payable Registers from November 9th, 2021 and November 23rd, 2021. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the Accounts Payable Registers from November 9th and November 23rd, 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

Bud Crist - None

Matt Lake -

Pay Request No 7 Meadowdale Lateral Flood Storage Basing from Dyer Construction (CBBEL Project No. 17-0039.00001) in the amount of \$51,351.38. Motion from Ralph Simek for Pay Request No 7 to be paid to Dyer Construction in the amount of \$51,351.38, second by Barbara Ghoston. Barbara Ghoston questioned 40% reduction in Retainage amount. Matt responded when you retain money in the beginning it is an amount to make sure that everything is working ok, it is now down to 4%. Payment is not made in the full amount until we are confident all work is completed an up to satisfaction. Bud Crist said this is a partial waiver and we will get the final when the project is closed out. All in favor, A voice vote was taken, motion passed with a 3/0 vote, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Bud Crist –

Robinson Engineering (REL) contract for 2022 On-Call Engineering services in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00. Bud Crist said we will be getting quite a few now. Matt Lake expresses that these are our on-call contracts that if we need something we are able to have them look at things as needed. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the Robinson Engineering contract for On-Call Engineering Services in the amount not to exceed \$10,000, Ralph Simek seconded. No questions, all in favor said aye, motion was carried.

Approval of November 29, 2021 Budget Transfer Memo to Clerk-Treasurer from Karl Cender, Cender & Company, LLC. Bud Crist reviewed fund increase of \$2,000 to gasoline and decrease of \$2,000 to diesel fuel. There is an increase \$1,000 to telephone and \$1,500 increase to Repairs to Equipment, then there is a decrease of \$2,500 to local match grant. Karl Cender said that the total is \$4,500 increase/decrease and these are just so that we have enough appropriation balance to finish out the year. Karl asked Adra if she was aware of any other, Matt said we will double check. Matt noted that at the end of the year we want to balance out. Ralph Simek motioned to approve the Budget Transfer Memo from November 29th, 2021 in the amount of \$4,500. Barbara Ghoston seconded. No additional questions. A voice vote was taken, motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

Approval of 2022 Stormwater Utility Board Scheduled Meetings. The first Tuesday of the month at 3:30 pm located at the Stormwater Resource Center, 7404 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410 Barbara Ghoston motioned to approved the 2022 Stormwater Utility Board Schedule Meeting dates, Ralph Simek seconded. Bud Crist asked if we will continue to operate the meetings at 3:30 pm, Matt Lake responded that he is okay with it if everyone else is, all were okay with it. A voice vote was taken, motion passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt Lake -

American Recovery Act Plan – Phase I – Update

The next series of proposals, four of them, will not come out of SW budget, they are part of the American Recover Plan (ARP). We will need to get our process moving, this way they can be voted on. Matt asked Attorney Jim Meyer if there should be signature blocks, Attorney Meyer said to spend the money you do not need the Boards approval but the Council will want something signed by Bud saying this Board is recommending that the Council approved this expenditure of this money for this project. Karl Cender said that the Committee has already put SW projects on the plan that the council has approved some or will be approving it as they go. Karl said from his understanding that with contracts they are going to rely on departments normal process, so here the Board would award, would advertise and if you need to bid, advertise, open the bids, and award here, then any billed payment would be just like you normally do. Matt Lake stated that we would use the ARP form and complete, he will talk with Trista on our first one to make sure we are completing and categorizing everything properly. Bud can then sign these if you approve them, then, Matt will share them with the ARP Committee, he will put a copy in Richard Hardaway's box who is the ARP Committee Chair. Karl Cender asked on these projects if he had gotten bids or got quotes on them, Matt said these are professional services, just engineering. There are four of them, and Matt will announce each ward. We will be having more coming in, some based on projects, wards, and where money is coming in from. Other projects we are looking for Little Cal funds because it qualifies, Kiser Ditch same thing, where they will be cost shared. Matt will run through each, one at a time:

- 1) VS Engineering, this is a proposal for Surveying and Engineering Services related to LOMR/FEMA for the Bon Aire Lake area. This has been discussed in several meetings with resident Bob Cotton and others from Bon Aire. Matt said we would like to do a mass LOMA around the lake rim area and see who we can deem outside the high-risk flood zone, this amount is \$61,360.00, in Ward 1. Bud Crist asked for motion of approval, Barbara Ghoston entered a motion to approve with Ralph Siemek seconded. No questions. Board President Bud Crist reiterated that this money is coming out of ARP not the SW budget. All in favor, aye, motion is carried.
- 2) VS Engineering, this is at the SE corner of Connecticut Street & 69th Place. We are labeling this as a stormwater lift station conversion project, essentially it is a small utility sump area that somewhat serves as a lift station, but is really not a lift station. Matt said we are trying to go gravity with the whole thing. VS has done some preliminary engineering so they have a proposal for an amount for full engineering in the amount of \$59,190.00. Ralph Siemek

- motioned to accept the proposal; Barbara Ghoston seconded. No questions, all in favor, aye, motion is carried. This is in Shawn's Ward.
- 3) Robinson Engineering-Phase II Independence Street, we had done a project Independence Bowl, but this is further south where the conveyance goes under the garage and other things need to be improved. We did have some preliminary engineering, this is for the finalizing for engineering, construction observation, everything, and so the amount is \$38,338.00, Ward 5. Ralph Siemek moved to accept the proposal for Independence Street for \$38,338.00, Barbara Ghoston Seconded. No questions, all in favor, aye, motion is carried. Matt stated that these amounts are not to exceed amounts, if the project gets done sooner then it will be done cheaper.
 - 4) Robinson Engineering-Phase II of the Southmore Park Subdivision drainage improvement. Robinson did Phase I which was half of the area, the subdivision is like an oval, one way in and one way out. Years ago, phase one was completed, this would be the last phase, Phase II. This is everything, full engineering, construction observation, all in the amount of \$84,619.00, in Ward 3. Barbara Ghoston entered a motion to approve Robinson Engineering-Phase II of the Southmore Park Subdivision drainage improvement, Ward 3, not to exceed \$84,619.00, Ralph Siemek seconded. No questions, all in favor, aye, motion is carried.

Also related to ARP, Matt Lake stated that Arbor Metrics has been out marking trees at Meadowdale, Meadowland, and Turkey Creek, which will be the last one. Matt wants them as separate subdivision and that is how they will be bid out, by subdivision. We are getting a lot of calls, most of the calls people are happy and excited that trees will be removed that are in poor condition and impacting the stormwater system. It is noted that there is a lot of positive response from residents.

Matt has also applied for a grant with the Delta Institute to see if we can replace a lot of trees. If we get the grant, we will get close to a thousand trees. Then we can do selective replacement in areas where it the right trees for the right area.

Barbara Ghoston had a question, someone asked her, they do not have sidewalks, there is the street then the property. She thought there was so many feet in from the street, Matt said he can look it up for her, she said there is an easement and Matt noted that there is a right-of-way and often extends beyond the curb, even if there is no sidewalk there is a right-of-way. Technically it is Town owned property, it is there for utilities and if the town ever wants to widen the road they can. If someone needs to get the width Matt can look it up for them. Bud Crist mentioned that some of the time it is lined up with the telephone poles, Matt said you can use that but it is not always the case.

Also, it is not on the agenda, strategically it is time to look at vehicle replacement. The value of trade-ins and other variable, Matt said he is looking to replace the two Explores which we are having some issues with. One has the transmission slipping and front-end problems. Matt said he wants to get two brand new Dodge Durango's, he said they looked at Bloomington Ford which is where the police department get theirs. It is a standard thing with the Town where they get their vehicles. Matt said we have an amount of \$34,740.25 per vehicle, these would be six cylinders, not eight, saving on fuel. I will take about four to eight months to get them. This is another strategic thing, the value of vehicles is going to be going up, so if it is done now it is going to be advantages especially with the trade in values. We are going to keep the lights; we get all of the government discounts it would be up to \$35,000 and not to exceed for two new vehicles. Bud Crist clarified that it is Matt and Joe's vehicles. Bud Crist entertained a motion for approval, Barbara Ghoston clarified vehicle type, Dodge Durango's, Ralph Siemek said, "Ford to Dodge." Matt said that this amount does not include the trade ins. Matt said we did a preorder and that if you don't get them now the prices will go up. Price and availability are a concern, there is not guarantee that they would get them in six months. Ralph Siemek said it would make sense to get them

now. Barbara Ghoston asked about amenities, tow bar, Matt Lake responded, we have stripped down versions, and all that is coming out is the lights. Matt said there is not need for tow packages and things like that. Matt confirmed for Barbara Ghoston that the only things there were added to the existing vehicles were the lights. The lights would be the only thing taken off and reused. Matt said he had ordered a counsel for his because it had a plate and at the time the vehicles were hard to get. When he ordered it took eight months because it was COVID time, he landed up picking one up that was there. These vehicles were specked out with minimal standards and no frills. Matt said he needed a motion for two Dodge Durango's not to exceed \$35,000.00. Barbara Ghoston entered a motion to authorize Matt to pursue the purchase of or exchange of the two Explores for two new Dodge Durango's not to exceed \$35,000 each. President Bud Crist moved to second and asked if any questions, all in favor said aye, motion is carried. Karl Cender asked if these are trade ins, Matt said this does not include the trade ins, Karl said these will be trade ins and Matt said he will have to see options. If there is an offer more than the trade in, he will have to confer with Jim Meyer.

Comment from Vice President Ralph Simek regarding what he called Lake Adams where the street would flood with a little bit of rain let alone a downpour is now gone, when they stripped down the streets at Adams and Jefferson, Matt noted that the street was profiled. When they stripped it down the manhole that could never be found was discovered. With the big rain the other day no lake. Matt said that we have discovered a number of inlets that have been paved over that predates us, we try to take the metal detector if it makes sense that there should be a structure there. Ralph Simek noticed orange cones around the structures so they must be getting ready for a final coat. We have been working with contractors when the mill and resurface and it was flat then they would need to put a crown on it so that water sheets off the road and doesn't sit on the road, if not then there will still be ups and downs where water ponds on the street.

OTHER BUSINESS

President Bud Crist said, "Let it be known that Matt Lake has been spotlighted again," through a group called RISC Solutions – In the Spotlight - Executive Director Matt Lake <https://www.risc.solutions/risc-cluster-members-project-team/>. Matt said that he was recommended nationally for this group, where he sits in on quarterly meetings and discuss things that impact the country from a green infrastructure perspective. Matt noted the impressive group and when you target and have a trillion-dollar infrastructure packages that get passed we will try to capture as much of it as we can. Matt's goal is to bring as much of it as he can to Merrillville. I was recommended that he talk at their next meeting. It is interesting to see what is happening around the country. We would like to bring in other dignitaries such as Mrvan. There will be meetings coming up on how and what to apply for in infrastructure as we are in favor of green infrastructure. Executive Direct Matt Lake does not want projects to sit and that is why some of there projects are pared up as there are, some already have preliminary engineering completed. We don't want to spend money and nothing happens.

Executive Direct Matt Lake displayed the Statement of Diversity, as far as representation of Stormwater, if anyone wants to sign this, we can have you sign this. Let us know. These will be displayed at all municipal buildings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Crist said the next SWMB meeting is set for Tuesday, January 4, 2021, at 3:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

It was also recognized that the birthday celebration will be coming up. First from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm is the business expo and in the evening at 6:00 pm the cocktail party. This is the last event.

This is the last meeting of the year.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Adra Breclaw-Csanyi, Staff Secretary