



## Minutes

### **MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD** **Tuesday, December 6th, 2022 at 3:30 PM** **Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center, 7404 Broadway, Merrillville, IN**

#### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the December 6th, 2022 Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Crist led the pledge of allegiance.

#### **ROLL CALL**

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 Cendar, and Secretary Adra Breclaw-Csanyi.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

President Crist would like to recognize the passing of Matt’s Dad and Crissy Barron. For Matt’s Dad we planted a tree in his name. As we know more about Crissy’s services we will donate where the family wishes. As far as we know she was on vacation with her husband when she fell ill and passed away. Bud entertained a motion for a moment of silence; Barbra Ghoston entered a motion to observe a moment of silence for Matt’s Dad and Crissy Barron.

#### **MINUTES**

Stormwater Management Board Minutes (SWMB) from November 1st, 2022, approved. Vice President Simek made a motion to approve the minutes from the SWMB meeting held November 1st, 2022, motion seconded by Secretary 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 for November 8th, 2022 and November 22nd, 2022. Secretary Barbara Ghoston made a motion to accept the Accounts Payable Registers from for November 8th, 2022 and November 22nd, 2022, seconded by Vice President Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Included in the agenda packet were copies of claims for Accounts Payable Register for ARP for November 8th, 2022 and November 22nd, 2022. Vice President Simek made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable Register for ARP for November 8th, 2022 and November 22nd, 2022, seconded by Secretary Ghoston. 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 – In the members packet are invoices for the following:

Director Matt Lake read invoices for approval for the following projects listed below:

Microbac invoice for field sampling, in the amount due this Q4 Invoice for sampling outfalls, in the amount of \$6,555.00 (**VOICE VOTE**). The data will be included in our annual reporting for MS4 compliance. President Crist made a motion for approval, Secretary Ghoston entered a motion that we approve the invoice from Microbac in the amount of \$6,555.00; it was seconded by Vice president Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

VS Engineering for professional services for Bon Aire Lake Shoreline LOMR thru 9/30/2022, in amount due this invoice for \$4,320.00 (**VOICE VOTE**). Secretary Ghoston entered a motion that we approve the invoice from VS Engineering for professional services for Bon Aire Lake Shoreline LOMR thru 9/30/2022, in amount due this invoice for \$4,320.00 it was seconded by Vice president Simek. Ralph Simek asked what the difference is between this invoice and the next one where there is a thousand different. Matt responded that it the time spent and the properties, he noted that he can bring in a map to show everyone. They are studying the areas around the lake, shoreline and trying to do a map amendment for each property throughout the whole area in order to try to lower flood insurance. Once invoice was work done for September and the other for October. With money left over they would like to do a Hec-Ras analysis of the area as well. Matt has met with Bob Cotton on this and will go forward with this as there is money left over. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

VS Engineering for professional services for Bon Aire Lake Shoreline LOMR thru 10/31/2022, in amount due this invoice for \$5,596.00 (**VOICE VOTE**) – *ARP Appropriation*. Secretary Ghoston entered a motion that we approve the invoice from VS Engineering for professional services for Bon Aire Lake Shoreline October invoice in the amount of \$5,596.00; it was seconded by Vice president Simek. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

VS Engineering for professional services for Storm Water Lift Station Conversion thru 9/30/2022, in amount due this invoice for \$10,728.00 (**VOICE VOTE**). Matt said these plans are essentially done. The broke down their billing into different months. Secretary Ghoston entered a motion that we approve the invoice from VS Engineering for professional services for Storm Water Lift Station Conversion for September in the amount of \$10,728.00; it was seconded by Vice president Simek. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

VS Engineering for professional services for Storm Water Lift Station Conversion thru 10/31/2022, in amount due this invoice for \$2,653.50 (**VOICE VOTE**) – *ARP Appropriation*. Secretary Ghoston entered a motion that we approve the invoice from VS Engineering for professional services for Storm Water Lift Station Conversion for October in the amount of \$2,653.50; it was seconded by Vice president Simek. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC for professional services for Hickory Ridge Flood Control Improvements-Final Design & Permitting, in amount due this invoice for \$12,945.00 (**VOICE VOTE**) - *ARP Appropriation*. Vice President Simek moved to accept the invoice from Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC for professional services in the amount of \$12,945.00; it was seconded by Secretary Ghoston. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC for professional services for Hayes Farm Drainage Improvements, in amount due this invoice for \$2,395.00 (**VOICE VOTE**). Secretary Ghoston entered a motion that we approve the invoice from Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC for professional services for Hayes Farm Drainage Improvements, in the amount of \$2,395.00; it was seconded by Vice

President Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Howard's Tree Service invoice for Removal of 26 trees, stump grinding, hauling and disposal at N side of 58<sup>th</sup> and Massachusetts in the amount due this invoice for \$6,500.00 (**VOICE VOTE**). Secretary Ghoston entered a motion that we approve the invoice from Howard's Tree Service invoice for Removal of 26 trees, stumps, grinding, hauling and disposal at N side of 58<sup>th</sup> and Massachusetts in the amount of \$6,500.00; it was seconded by Vice president Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Howard's Tree Service invoice for Removal of 27 trees, stump grinding, hauling and disposal at 58<sup>th</sup> and Massachusetts in the amount due this invoice for \$4,500.00 (**VOICE VOTE**). Matt noted that one is on the North side while the other is on the South side. This one is on the south side. This is less but it is one more tree, it is about the size of the tree as well, that's why the numbers are different. Vice President Simek moved to accept the invoice from Howard's Tree Service for the Removal of 27 trees at 58<sup>th</sup> and Massachusetts in the amount of \$4,500.00; it was seconded by Secretary Ghoston. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Secretary Ghoston has a comment regarding the South side, "it looks great." Matt said, "That it will look better, we are not done yet." We had Hubinger plant trees and do some finishing, seeding. Matt has gotten with Vickie from Code Enforcement where there are two lots on the corner almost abandon, we want to get that cleared out by the owner, then take Pat through that area and look at other improvements including sidewalks and other things. The apartment complex people try to walk out to Broadway, and there aren't any sidewalks. Barbara said kids stand in the street to catch the bus. The town needs to invest in new sidewalks and plan it out. Matt has sent an email to Pat about it and they are going to go over the whole area next week. They can come up with a punch list. Barbara Ghoston said that people are actually out improving their own properties so it spurs something in people in community, they pick up garbage. Matt said when Howards was out there people were happy, the town is doing something out here. Possible ARP funds can be used there and code enforcement. Some people want to do it but financially can't do it, ARP grants may help out. There are others who just don't want to do anything.

Vice President Simek saw something online caked Next Door, Matt said he has the App, it was regarding a lady from Crown Point who saw they are removing a lot of trees in Merrillville and she really upset with it, taking a lot of green out. Matt said we are putting a lot of green back; we just planted 44 trees and have more coming from utility projects. These trees are all free, we just got 15 or so trees planted through Little Cal and are getting fully reimbursed. We are replenishing too. The App is like a neighborhood watch app; Ralph Simek said it is interesting and that there are more complaints and comments. When you see trees that had fallen on house in the area where we were working then it's good we took out what we did.

Official Approval of Delta III, Inc proposal for Taft Place to install new 10"-200' new Storm Sewer, HDPE perforated pipe, in the amount of \$26,650.00 (**VOICE VOTE**). Secretary Ghoston entered a motion that we approve the proposal from Delta III, Inc. to install new 10"-200' new Storm Sewer, in the amount of \$26,650.00. Attorney Meyer asked if there were additional quotes. Matt said Joe has taken care of this one and will confirm that Joe had two others. We can table this one until we can provide them. Attorney Meyers said no, if you know it's been done. It will be confirmed. President Crist made a motion for approval, Secretary Ghoston entered a motion that we approve the invoice; it was seconded by Vice president Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

## Updates

- Tree removal for phase 2 – meadowland subdivision project is complete. The next area that will be targeted is Turkey Creek. This will be determined by what is left in the ARP budget. We will not be able to get all of it but maybe make a dent.
- Marcella road storm sewer project – Frank Stewart from DLZ is here, we pretty much have everything wrapped up. There are a few change orders to finalize. We will need to close out our documentation, and then get reimbursement for our Community Development Block Grant. We will meet with them and see what they need for proper reimbursement. This will about \$144,000.00. Matt asked Frank if there was anything to add regarding Marcella, Frank said, “No, we were a little lucky on the last one and found a structure.” There was a structure buried three feet deep.
- Kaiser Ditch Lateral Project – we are coordinating with Gough, tomorrow will be the preconstruction meeting at 10:30am. After we will issue a Notice to Proceed. They can then move along and mobilize. This is half ARP and half Little Cal.
- 101<sup>st</sup> & Clay Street Drainage Project – This is a DLZ project, Frank Stewart said they did put it out for bids but there seems to be a problem with the adjoining property owners who have raised a concern. Frank said they are working through it.
- Hickory Ridge Lake Apartment Regional Basin Design – Matt spoke with Dave Buckley from Christopher Burke Engineering and said they are almost 100% done with the engineering. It went faster than Matt thought. This will be a high dollar project. We will put together an application to Little Cal strategically and get with Dan Repay and talk to him about it, then submit it accordingly, assumingly for 50% construction.
- Southmoor Park Drainage Project – The project is on the self, we are done with engineering thru Robinson Engineering, waiting Merrillville Conservancy District (MCD).
- Independence Street Drainage Phase 2 – Again, sitting on the shelf, waiting until next year to do this. This is a Robinson project and we are waiting on an easement to clear up. Matt has to get with Jason on this.
- Grassfield Subdivision/9401 Randolph St Drainage – Matt just has a zoom meeting with Darren Olson with Christopher Burke. They are going to meet with Marty Mopen from IDEM. There is one area that is a low-quality wetland and Matt wants him to validate what we can and can’t do there and what can be done with and without permitting. He can then do a determination; they we will know what direction we can take. We are in the preliminary design phase. It should go pretty quickly, it’s through a farm field, but there is a wetland in the way, a Class 1 is suspected.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Bud Crist – Approval of the 2023 Stormwater Utility Board Schedule. President Crist made a motion for approval; Vice President made a motion to accept the 2023 Stormwater Utility Board Schedule; it was seconded by Secretary Ghoston. Matt wants to check on election schedule, we may have to move dates. It was noted that our meeting falls on the fourth of July so we will have to adjust accordingly. The Town is up in 2023. Karl mentioned that he thought that there are elections the first Tuesday in November. We will have to adjust when confirmed. The board will decide at that time how and when it will be adjusted. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

President Crist said over the last several months they have been looking at a truck to replace the twelve-year-old Ford. It will not pull our Marsh Master. We have the dump truck to pull it but it's a lot of truck to be driving around. President Crist found one at Summerfield that was a year old; it was \$61,000 and started looking, then found a 2023 one tone truck for \$47,630.00 in Fort Wayne, we'll have to pick it up. Matt said it is new, it is a white utility Chevy truck, still a pick up yet powerful enough to pull our Marsh Master, we will have to take our power Gate off the ½ ton and put it on the one ton. Matt said we would go to Lindco. President Crist made a motion for approval. Secretary Ghoston asked about lettering. Matt said yes, we will get lettering/logo. Vice President Simek moved to accept the invoice to Kelly Chevrolet in the amount of \$47,630.00 for a new 2023 Silverado 3500 HD Crew Cab 1 LT. Karl Cender asked about the invoice, Matt said we get that. Attorney Meyer asked if we are going to trade the other, Matt said no, we are going to keep it for now, we have some transitional items to do and the trade in amount wasn't good; it was seconded by Secretary Ghoston. We looked at our Durango's and it took months; this is available now. A voice vote was taken, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

We will get with Karl for end of year items.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Crist said the next SWMB meeting is set for Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023, at 3:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Adra Breclaw-Csanyi, Staff Secretary