

**REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE
METRO EAST SANITARY DISTRICT
ST. CLAIR AND MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS
HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024, AT 9:00 A.M.
LOCATED AT: 1800 EDISON AVENUE, GRANITE CITY, IL 62040**

9:00 A.M.- President Oney called the meeting to order, and the Clerk recorded the attendance.

The following were in attendance:

Present: Commissioners, Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and President Oney
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

Others attending the meeting were:

Executive Director Mike Nordstrom, Attorney Tom Schooley, Treasurer Kim King, and Engineer Joe Juneau

Absent: Attorney Sprague

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE None.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHAIRMAN FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Oney made a motion to appoint Commissioner Darwin as the acting Chairman for the election of officers: Commissioner Brinza seconded the motion.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Commissioner Darwin made a motion to nominate Scott Oney as the President of the Board of Commissioners: Commissioner Brinza seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, and Dixon
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

VICE PRESIDENT

President Oney made a motion to nominate Victor Darwin as the Vice President of the Board of Commissioners: Commissioner Brinza seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

APPOINTMENTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

President Oney made a motion to appoint Mike Nordstrom as Executive Director: Commissioner Darwin seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

Attorney Schooley made note that Ordinances will be presented at the February meeting setting the salary for the Executive Director, Superintendents, and District Clerk.

- President Oney added Mr. Nordstrom's previous position of Operations Manager will not be filled.

DISTRICT CLERK

President Oney made a motion to nominate Stacy Partney as the District Clerk: Commissioner Darwin seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

SUPERINTENDENTS

Executive Director Nordstrom proposed to re-appoint Scott Smith as the Superintendent of Madison County and Justin Roehr as the Superintendent of Maintenance of Pump Stations.

President Oney made a motion to concur with Mr. Nordstrom's appointments of Scott Smith as the Madison County Superintendent and Justin Roehr as Superintendent of Maintenance of Pump Stations: Commissioner Brinza seconded the motion.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

TREASURER

President Oney nominated Kim King as the Treasurer of the District: Commissioner Brinza seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

ATTORNEYS

President Oney made a motion to appoint Thomas E. Schooley and Robert Sprague as the District Attorneys: Commissioner Brinza seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

INFORMATION OFFICER

President Oney made a motion to nominate Stacy Partney as the Information Officer for the District: Commissioner Darwin seconded the motion.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Nordstrom reported the following:

Maintenance is ongoing across all levees. Grading at Hartford along the Cahokia Diversionary Canal is complete, and the focus has shifted to grading the Front Levee.

All the yellow tubing around gate structures has been replaced, and all locks have been oiled for maintenance.

Tree trimming is temporarily on hold due to weather conditions. The work will resume once the weather improves.

Maintenance is currently being performed on both tractors and trucks, along with the redecking of a trailer.

The 60-foot culvert pipe project at Camp Jackson Road has been successfully completed.

The Control Gates off Sand Prairie were re-sloped and re-graded along the entire canal. This will assist with water flow and summer mowing. They did a great job.

REPORT OF ENGINEER

Joe Juneau reported the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Twin 60-inch sewer line is on the Granite City meeting agenda for approval. Mr. Juneau reviewed the attorney's modifications to the existing agreement and didn't see any issues.

- Commissioner Brinza wanted to note on record he was questioned about whether MESD put in the line and if MESD was responsible for the maintenance of the line. He states that he answered the question by confirming MESD is not assisting with Granite City property.
 - o President Oney confirmed that MESD installed the line and has been responsible for its maintenance over the years.

MINUTES

The Regular Minutes for December 19th, 2023 were presented for approval:

Motion Commissioner Brinza: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to dispense with the reading of the minutes, approve them as submitted and place them on file.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS

The General Fund and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the General Fund and Specific Claims as submitted and order them paid.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Brinza: seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Lansdowne and Specific Claims as submitted and order them paid.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The General Fund Financial Reports for the month of December 2023 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the General Fund Financial Report as submitted and place on file for audit.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

The Special Funds Financial Reports for the month of December 2023 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Brinza to approve the Special Funds Financial Report as submitted and place on file for audit.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

The Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of December 2023 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Brinza: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to approve the Lansdowne Fund Financial Report as submitted and place on file for audit.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

PAYROLL

The Payroll for the period of November 26th, 2023, through December 9th, 2023, was submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Payroll as submitted.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

The Payroll for the period of December 10th, 2023, through December 23rd, 2023, was submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Brinza: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to approve the Payroll as submitted.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

The Payroll for the period of December 24th, 2023, through January 6th, 2024, was submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Payroll as submitted.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

LANSDOWNE ADJUSTMENT REPORT

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

Motion Commissioner Brinza: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to approve the Lansdowne Adjustment Report as submitted.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

Attorney Schooley reported the following:

On December 12th, 2023, MESD was served with a new litigation case. Randy Presswood has filed litigation against two Madison County Board Members as well Metro East Sanitary District, Scott Oney and Rick Fancher. The case has been forwarded to our liability carrier and they have assigned Attorney Brian Funk to the case. Case information has been sent to Mr. Funk, and we are confident that the resolution will be favorable to MESD, Mr. Oney, and Mr. Fancher. The dispute revolves around Mr. Presswood's appointment and alleged failure to appoint him to the MESD board. Additionally, Attorney Sprague is not present today as he is in court for the initial appearance.

In 2020, a litigation case was filed between Metro East Sanitary District and Terminal Railroad Association regarding the filter blanket project. MESD filed suit in St. Clair County, while TRRA filed suit in the Federal Court. As a local federal sponsor for the Flood Protection District, MESD is trying to get easements for Corps of Engineer projects. MESD initially offered \$430,000 to TRRA for the easements to go through their property, TRRA counteroffered at \$750,000. After three years of litigation, TRRA has now proposed a settlement at \$460,000. This turned out favorable for MESD.

Some upcoming dates for litigation on employment cases are approaching. Attorney Schooley will keep everyone apprised on those.

OLD BUSINESS None.

NEW BUSINESS

Board discussion and/or approval of Thompson & Lengacher auditing services for General Fund fiscal year 2023 and Lansdowne fiscal year 2024.

Motion Commissioner Brinza: seconded by Commissioner Darwin approving Thompson & Lengacher auditing services for General Fund fiscal year 2023 and Lansdowne fiscal year 2024.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

Board discussion and/or approval authorizing the development of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Granite City to establish an employer based CDL training program with shared costs.

- Mr. Oney explained that due to a change in federal law, several hours of training is now mandatory to get a CDL. Mr. Nordstrom and Mr. Roehr met with a Granite City representative to explore a program intended to train one person to efficiently instruct others, reducing time and cutting costs significantly for the District.
 - o Commissioner Brinza asked how much the program will cost.
 - Mr. Roehr answered it is a one-time payment of \$1,950.00. Currently, the District is paying \$3,775.00 to send an employee to Lewis and Clark for an 8-week course.
 - Mr. Nordstrom added the City of Granite City will pay \$1,950 and MESD will make a one-time payment of \$1,950. Thereafter, every employee that is trained it is approximately \$100 to get their license.

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Dixon approving the authorization of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Granite City to establish an employer based CDL training program with shared costs.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

Board discussion of HSA contributions for specific nonunion employees.

- President Oney informed the Board the District matches what the IRS limit is for HSA contributions for the non-union employees. The amounts have gone up for 2024.
 - o Mrs. Partney confirmed herself and Mr. Roehr were \$8,300 and Mr. Smith was \$9,300.

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Dixon approving the HSA contributions for specific nonunion employees.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent Commissioner Jackson

Board discussion for consideration of approving vision and dental insurance coverage, with costs to be covered by the board members.

- President Oney stated this arose due to some confusion when the District switched insurance last year. Vision and dental coverage was not included. Board members may opt to add vision and dental coverage, but Mr. Oney's stance is that if they choose to include it, it will be at their own expense.
 - o Commissioner Darwin inquired about the costs, and Mrs. Partney responded that she would provide the figures for them.
 - President Oney added they may choose to take both or just one, it is up to them.

Motion Commissioner Brinza: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to approve vision and dental insurance coverage, with costs to be covered by the board member.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent Commissioner Jackson

Board discussion and/or approval of Resolution 2024-R-001 authorization of bank signers.

- President Oney stated the resolution removes Mr. Fancher and adds Mr. Nordstrom to the bank accounts.

Motion Commissioner Brinza: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to approve Resolution 2024-R-001 authorization of bank signers.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

Board discussion to review the executive session minutes to determine if the minutes should remain closed.

- Attorney Schooley mentioned under the Open Meetings Act the District is required to review the executive session minutes every six months. Mr. Schooley requested Mrs. Partney include this on the agenda for auditing purposes, even though there were no executive session minutes to review.
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There being no further business placed before the Board, Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Brinza to adjourn.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

So, adjourned at 9:19 A.M.


Clerk