

**REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE
METRO EAST SANITARY DISTRICT
ST. CLAIR AND MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS
HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023, AT 9:00 A.M.
LOCATED AT: 1800 EDISON AVENUE, GRANITE CITY, IL 62040**

9:01 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 Rick Fancher, Attorney Tom Schooley, and Treasurer Kim King

Absent: Attorney Robert Sprague

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Mr. Fancher reported the following:

The project with Explorer Pipeline is ongoing as Attorney Schooley and I are working on getting a few things resolved. Explorer claims they only have about 400 feet of pipeline on our property, and we have over 10,000 feet.

The gates at North Pump Station have been repaired and are working great. Keller Construction did a fantastic job. Because everything went well the original quoted price of \$152,000 is going to be significantly lower.

Curtis Francois with World Wide Technology Raceway would like to meet to discuss installing a pedestrian bridge across Cahokia Canal. The bridge would start from the driving range at Gateway Golf Course, across the Cahokia Canal, and onto their property at the racetrack. There was a lot of issues with this last year, and it did not go through. I explained to Mr. Francois before we get involved the US Army Corps. must be notified. I also explained to him the route 3 extension will be going through where he would like to put the bridge.

- President Oney stated, "The pedestrian bridge is not a permanent structure."
 - o Mr. Fancher added, "We just need to make sure everything is done properly."

In the board packets is a quote from an IT company called Utilitra. An account manager will be assigned to us with an additional 40 plus technicians available 24/7.

- Commissioner Brinza asked, “What is the price difference of the new company verse the old?”
 - o President Oney answered, “We did not have another company. IT was done internally.”

Mr. Fancher commended Attorney Schooley on a great job negotiating the cost of the temporary construction easement with Marathon Pipeline. The easement is complete and their payment of \$140,000 was received last week.

Broadway Ford has a 2022 F550 4x4 truck (with boom and generator) available for purchase. This truck is necessary for relief well testing. A purchase order has been put on the truck as a temporary hold until we can confirm the truck has everything we are needing, and the purchase is approved.

Mr. Fancher reported he spoke with Mr. Townsend regarding the sewer tap-on at 201 Roosevelt in Eagle Park. Mr. Townsend is in the process of finding a contractor. Mr. Fancher told him once he finds a contractor, MESD will work with him to get the tap done.

Insurance has paid to rebuild the lean-to at Missouri Avenue that was destroyed from the updraft winds. The insurance carrier received bids and went with Louco Construction.

- President Oney asked, “Is the property next to the building at Missouri Avenue in Granite City or the County? The property looks horrible.”
 - o Mr. Fancher responded, “It is Venice Township.”
 - President Oney asked, “Have we had issues with them in the past?”
 - Mr. Fancher replied, “Yes. Our fence had to be replaced because they were pushing so much junk up against ours. There are derelict cars and junk just sitting. I will get ahold of the County and have them start citing the people.”

REPORT OF ENGINEER:

Joe Juneau reported from Charlie Juneau's engineer report provided in the packets.

A waiver request for the geotechnical work and an insurance provision will be presented at the next meeting for the Nameoki Ditch project.

Plans on the 24-inch force main are progressing underneath the Merchants Bridge.

- Mr. Fancher asked, "Is there is an estimated time of completion?"
 - o Mr. Juneau responded, "The application should go into the terminal within the next week or two, and then it's a matter of how fast they turn around the permit request. Because we are working within an existing easement, they didn't think it was going to be a big issue, but they do want the formal plans prepared first."

MINUTES:

The Regular Minutes for January 17th, 2023 were presented for approval.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Brinza 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: Jackson

MINUTES:

The Executive Minutes for January 17th, 2023 were presented for approval.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin to dispense with the reading of the Executive 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: Jackson

CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS:

The General Fund and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded 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: Jackson

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin 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: Jackson

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

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

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

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

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

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

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

PAYROLL:

The Payroll for the period of January 8, 2023 through January 21, 2023 was submitted for approval.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded 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: Jackson

The Payroll for the period of January 22, 2023 through February 4, 2023 was submitted for approval.

Motion Commissioner Dixon; seconded Commissioner Brinza 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: Jackson

LANSDOWNE ADJUSTMENT REPORT:

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded 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: Jackson

REPORT OF ATTORNEYS:

Attorney Schooley had no report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Board discussion and/or approval of Thompson & Lengacher Auditing Services.

- President Oney stated the only bid received was from Thompson & Lengacher our prior auditor.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin approval of Thompson & Lengacher auditing Services.

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

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

Board discussion regarding sewer tap-on at 201 Roosevelt, Eagle Park – James & Camille Townsend.

- President Oney reported when he talked to Mr. Townsend, Mr. Townsend wanted financial help with the tap-on. Mr. Oney went on to say, in his opinion when you inquire a piece a property, it is due diligence you know what the cost is to put in utilities. If the District does it for Mr. Townsend, they will have to do it for all.
 - o Mr. Fancher added, “I told Mr. Townsend the lines that run in the middle of the street are not very deep. When he decides where exactly they are going to tap-in, we will pull manholes to make sure the exact depth and be out there to help inspect.”
 - President Oney also added, “Fixing the street is between Mr. Townsend and the City of Madison.”

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2023-0-001 establishing the salary of the District Clerk for the Metro East Sanitary District pursuant to 70 ILCS 2905.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin establishing the salary of the District Clerk for Metro East Sanitary District.

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

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

Discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2023-0-002 establishing the salary of the Superintendent of Madison County for the Metro East Sanitary District pursuant to 70 ILCS 2905.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve Ordinance 2023-0-002 establishing the salary of the Superintendent of Madison County for the Metro East Sanitary District.

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

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

Discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2023-0-003 establishing the salary of the Executive Director for the Metro East Sanitary District pursuant to 70 ILCS 2905.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Dixon to approve Ordinance 2023-0-003 establishing the salary of the Executive Director for the Metro East Sanitary District.

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

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

Discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2023-0-004 establishing the salary of the Superintendent of Maintenance of Pump Stations for the Metro East Sanitary District pursuant to 70 ILCS 2905.

- President Oney noted although Mr. Hillman resigned, he was appointed at the January meeting before his resignation. This salary will not transfer to the new employee.
 - o Commissioner Brinza stated for the record, “As discussed last meeting the raises are all within the percentages that were done on the union contracts.”

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve Ordinance 2023-0-004 establishing the salary of the Superintendent of Maintenance of Pump Stations for the Metro East Sanitary District.

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

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

Discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2023-0-005 establishing the payout of vacation and sick leave of Superintendent of Maintenance of Pump Stations of the Metro East Sanitary District pursuant to 70 ILCS 2905.

- President Oney reported after going back and researching there are no ordinances or guidelines in the handbook on how a payouts have been done in the past. It could not be paid out with nothing to back the decision, that is why it is being brought to the Board. He explained a new ordinance will be established that will direct how an employee is paid out in the future. Vacation by law must be paid out. Sick leave is being paid out at fifty percent which follows the union contract.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Dixon to approve Ordinance 2023-0-005 establishing the payout of vacation and sick leave of the Superintendent of Pump Stations for the Metro East Sanitary District.

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

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

Discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2023-0-006 authorizing a loan agreement with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

- President Oney explained until the Illinois American agreement is done, we will continue with the IEPA loan application. This is not a commitment. It will keep this project moving along in case something would fall through with Illinois American.
 - o Commissioner Brinza asked, “Does this give the President approval to sign the documents?”
 - President Oney responded, “Yes. It allows me to sign the documents to enter into an agreement with IEPA on the loan program.”
 - Attorney Schooley added, “This is part of the application process to get the loan. IEPA needs a board resolution approving a signature. I have been in contact with Ken Jones, the Attorney for Illinois American and he has assured me that

the deal with Illinois American is going to happen. It's just a matter of getting the City of Granite City wrapped up first and then they will come to us. I have the purchase agreement from two years ago and it's just a matter of tweaking the numbers and making sure there's a contingency in there to pay Juneau on all their easement searches. I think that figure is about \$75,000."

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve Ordinance 2023-0-006 authorizing loan agreement with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

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

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

Discussion and/or approval of Ordinance T2023-001 authoring execution of a temporary work area easement agreement to Marathon Pipeline restoration.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve Ordinance T2023-001 authorizing execution of a temporary work area easement agreement to Marathon Pipeline restoration.

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

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

Discussion and/or approval waiving the right of entry fee to Granite City School District for security fencing over Metro East Sanitary District Twin-48 easement.

- Mr. Fancher informed the board, “This is a short area between Coolidge Junior High School and the Granite City High School Annex. Also stated in the agreement, if at any time we would need to get inside the fence and do work on the twin-48s the School District would be responsible for the fencing.”

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Dixon to waive right of entry fees to Granite City School District for security fencing over the Metro East Sanitary District twin 48 easement.

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

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

Discussion and/or approval of Utilitra IT service proposal.

- President Oney reported, “We used to give a stipend of \$5,000 to Scott Hillman for IT services. Since Mr. Hillman has resigned, we have no IT. Utilitra works with Pontoon, Madison and several local communities. Although it’s going to cost \$24,000 a year compared to \$5,000, they are using professionals.”
 - o Commissioner Brinza concurred, “This is what we should have done years ago.”

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Brinza to approve Utilitra IT service proposal.

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

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

Discussion and/or approval to purchase (1) Ford 550 RM-45 from Broadway Ford.

- President Oney stated this is the first step to the relief well testing.
 - o Commissioner Brinza asked, “Was this purchase considered in when we talked about the expense of doing it ourselves?”
 - Mr. Fancher responded, “Absolutely. Also, Kevin Williams of Wood River Levee District has invited us to come watch how the relief well testing process works. I will be sending four employees.”
 - President Oney asked, “Have you decided who you are putting as lead on relief well testing?”
 - o Mr. Fancher answered, “Yes, Luke Shipley and Mike Perjak.”

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Dixon to approve the purchase of (1) Ford 550 RM-45 from Broadway Ford.

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

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

Discussion and/or approval of memorandum of understanding between Metro East Sanitary District, Teamsters Local Union No 525, and Roger Morthland.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; Commissioner Darwin to approve the memorandum of understanding between the Metro East Sanitary District, Teamsters Local Union No 525, and Roger Morthland.

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

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

Discussion and/or approval to release executive session meeting minutes from board meeting dated September 17, 2014.

- Attorney Schooley asked Commissioner Dixon if she still would like the minutes released.
 - o Commissioner Dixon replied, "Yes."

Motion Commissioner Dixon; seconded Commissioner Brinza approving to release the executive session meeting minutes from board meeting dated September 17, 2014.

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

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

There being no further business placed before the Board, Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Brinza to adjourn.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

So, adjourned at 9:29 A.M.


Clerk