

**REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE  
METRO EAST SANITARY DISTRICT  
ST. CLAIR AND MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS  
HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023, 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, Jackson, and President Oney  
Absent: None

Others attending the meeting were:

Executive Director Rick Fancher, Attorney Tom Schooley, Attorney Robert Sprague, Treasurer Kim King, and Mr. James Townsend

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Commissioner Brinza motioned; commissioner Dixon seconded the motion to open the floor for public comment.

Mr. Townsend addressed the Board regarding assistance with a sewer tap-on at his property located at 201 Roosevelt Street, Eagle Park.

President Oney asked Mr. Townsend if he is asking MESD to wave the tap-on fee?

Mr. Townsend responded he is not asking for the fees to be waived, he is aware of the fees associated with tap-on but would like assistance with the installation. Because the sewer line is in the middle of the road, he would like to meet at the end of the easement. Mr. Townsend explained the contractor costs are a financial burden.

President Oney let Mr. Townsend know that during this time in the meeting it is just for public comment. He thanked him for his time and let him know the Board will discuss the matter and Mr. Fancher will get back with him.

**PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE: NONE**

**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHAIRMAN FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Commissioner Darwin appointed Charles Brinza; Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion to appoint Charles Brinza as the acting Chairman for the election of officers.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS: PRESIDENT**

Commissioner Brinza nominated Scott Oney as the President; Commissioner Darwin seconded the motion to appoint Scott Oney as the President of the Board of Commissioners.

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

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

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS: VICE PRESIDENT**

President Oney nominated Victor Darwin as the Vice President; Commissioner Brinza seconded the motion to appoint Victor Darwin as the Vice President of the Board of Commissioners.

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

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

**DISTRICT CLERK:**

President Oney nominated Stacy Partney as the District Clerk; Commissioner Darwin seconded the motion to appoint Stacy Partney as the District Clerk.

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

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

**TREASURER:**

President Oney nominated Kim King as the Treasurer of the District; Commissioner Darwin seconded the motion to appoint Kim King as the Treasurer of the District.

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

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

**INFORMATION OFFICER:**

President Oney nominated Stacy Partney as the Information Officer for the District; Commissioner Darwin seconded the motion to appoint Stacy Partney as the Information Officer for the District.

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

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

**APPOINTMENTS:**

President Oney made a motion to appoint Rick Fancher as Executive Director; Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion to appoint Rick Fancher as Executive Director.

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

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

President Oney made a motion to appoint Scott Smith as the Madison County Superintendent; Commissioner Brinza seconded the motion to appoint Scott Smith as the Madison County Superintendent.

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

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

President Oney made a motion to appoint Scott Hillman as the Stormwater Maintenance of Operations Superintendent; Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion to appoint Scott Hillman as the Stormwater Maintenance of Operations Superintendent.

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

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

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

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

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

Attorney Schooley made note the Attorney appointments would be under the same terms and conditions as previously held. He also stated he will prepare pay rate ordinances for the appointed employees to present at the February meeting.

## REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Mr. Fancher reported the following:

A new piece of the rail system is being manufactured for the North Pump Station gates. The piece will be put in place by the end of January. At this point, in the case of an emergency the gates can be opened and closed.

- Commissioner Brinza asked if repairs were still going to be made even though the gates are working.
  - Mr. Fancher answered the studs did not pull out of the concrete, so the gates were able to be put back up. However, the middle piece of the rail frame was rusted out, so it was decided to have a new piece manufactured.
    - President Oney responded he believes the question Commissioner Brinza is asking, since the water level is low are all necessary repairs being done while they are able to get in there and work.
      - Mr. Fancher answered yes. MESD is working with the Engineers to put a plan together on exactly what all needs to be replaced, if needed.

Lansdowne Pollution Clerk, Ebony Wiley turned in her resignation. Her last day of work will be Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

- Commissioner Brinza asked if this is an employee the District was going to keep if and when the Illinois American Lansdowne sale goes through.
  - President Oney responded yes; the office is now down to two employees that would be kept under the agreement.

An agreement has been reached with Missouri Network Alliance D/B/A Bluebird Network in regards to putting in a fiber line under the levee. The line will go under the levee, across the river, and out the other side. It is a \$10,000 a year easement for MESD plus temporary construction easements and right of entry fees.

Operating Engineers Local 148 voted and ratified their collective bargaining agreement. The terms of the contract are basically the same as Teamsters. Mr. Fancher advised all contracts are done.

The two new employees in the billing office are doing well with training.

Regular maintenance is being done on equipment and roads are being graded.

Mr. Fancher reported he has not heard any response back from Marathon.

- President Oney asked at what point does MESD draw the line with Marathon.
  - Attorney Schooley answered after their last meeting with Marathon, Marathon was going to take the information and verify what we gave them was correct. Attorney Schooley advised Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and the Attorney General's Office are monitoring this as well. Marathon is under a court order to make sure they clean up pursuant to IEPA regulations.

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## **REPORT OF ENGINEER: NONE**

- Commissioner Brinza requested to see the FEMA layover maps from Juneau. He explained he received maps from Mr. Hillman with the coordinates but would like to see the layover that shows the differences.
  - President Oney requested Mr. Fancher reach out to Joe Juneau and ask a copy of the layover be emailed to Commissioner Brinza. He also stated there is a public hearing January 18<sup>th</sup> at the Granite City Township and January 19<sup>th</sup> in Wood River.

**MINUTES:**

The Regular Minutes for December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 were presented for approval.

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded 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, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

**MINUTES:**

The Executive Minutes for December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 were presented for approval.

Motion Commissioner Jackson; 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, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None  
Absent: None



**CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS:**

The General Fund and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded Commissioner Brinza 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, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Jackson; 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, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

The General Fund Financial Reports for the month of December 2022 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Jackson; 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, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

The Special Funds Financial Reports for the month of December 2022 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded Commissioner Dixon 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, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

The Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of December 2022 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded Commissioner Brinza 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, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

**PAYROLL:**

The Payroll for the period of December 11, 2022, through December 24, 2022 was submitted for approval.

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the Payroll as submitted.

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

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

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The Payroll for the period of December 25, 2022, through January 7, 2023 was submitted for approval.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Jackson to approve the Payroll as submitted.

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

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

**LANSDOWNE ADJUSTMENT REPORT:**

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

- President Oney asked if Mrs. Krekovich has taken over the billing position.
  - o Mr. Fancher replied yes she is training with Mrs. Ragsdale.

Motion Commissioner Jackson; 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, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

**REPORT OF ATTORNEYS:**

Attorney Sprague had no report.

Attorney Schooley had no report.



**OLD BUSINESS:**

Board discussion and/or approval of RFP for auditing services.

- President Oney asked Mrs. Partney if she reached out to Lengacher and the other auditor that showed interest in putting in a proposal.
  - o Mrs. Partney responded she did reach out and both were going to send proposals but had yet to receive anything. She will email them both again today.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin to table the auditing services until the February 2023 meeting.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

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Board discussion and/or approval of specific employee severance package.

- President Oney would like to table this until the February 2023 meeting as they will be meeting with the employee after the board meeting today.

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded Commissioner Darwin to table specific employee severance package until the February 2023 meeting.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Discussion and/or approval to amend Ordinance 2022-0-031 temporary pay increase for Della Ragsdale for assuming additional responsibilities as Claims Clerk with Ordinance 2023-0-032.

- Attorney Schooley reported the original ordinance was passed at the December 2022 meeting. This ordinance is to amend the date to retro-pay Della back to the date she started performing the duties.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve temporary pay increase for Della Ragsdale for assuming additional responsibilities as Claims Clerk with Ordinance 2023-0-32.

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

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

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Discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2023-0-033 consistent with Ordinance 2021-0-013 establishing uniform rates for digital, optical fiber, analog cables/conduits to Missouri Network Alliance, LLC D/B/A Bluebird Network.

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve Ordinance 2023-0-033 consistent with Ordinance 2021-0-013 establishing uniform rates for digital, optic fiber, analog cables/conduits to Missouri Network Alliance, LLC D/B/A Bluebird Network.

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

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

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded Commissioner Brinza to enter into Executive Session for employee/personnel matter per 2(C)(1) of open meetings act – discuss specific personnel employment status.

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

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

**BOARD ENTERED INTO CLOSED SESSION AT 9:24 A.M.**

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**BOARD RETURNED TO REGULAR SESSION AT 9:31 A.M.**

The Clerk recorded the attendance:

Present: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney  
Absent: None

Executive Director Rick Fancher, Attorney Schooley, Attorney Sprague, Treasurer Kim King

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, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

So, adjourned at 9:31 A.M.

  
Clerk