

**PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING OF
THE METRO EAST SANITARY DISTRICT, ST.
CLAIR AND MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2017 AT
1800 EDISON AVENUE, GRANITE CITY,
ILLINOIS AT 9:00 A.M.**

President Pennekamp called the Public Hearing to order and the Clerk recorded the attendance.

The following was the attendance:

Present: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.
Absent: None.

Attending the meeting were Executive Director Bob Shipley, Attorney George Filcoff, Attorney Larry Calvo, Director of Operations & Maintenance Walter Greathouse, Superintendent Randy Presswood, Lansdowne Office Manager Cindy Worthen and Treasurer Ken Davis.

Also attending the meeting were Linda Knogl and Kathy Goclan.

President Pennekamp read Ordinance Number 2017-0-003 regarding the Budget and Annual Appropriation to defray the necessary and ordinary expenses of the Metro East Sanitary District for the Fiscal Year 2017, beginning on the first day of January 2017 and ending on the thirty-first day of December 2017.

President Pennekamp stated that the Public Hearing Notice and Proposed Budget were posted on the District's website and at the main office.

President Pennekamp then asked if there were any comments regarding Ordinance Number 2017-0-003.

Ms. Knogl commented that she hoped the District was being financially responsible, and that the budget was in line with previous years.

President Pennekamp asked if there were any other comments regarding the budget, hearing none he asked that the Public Hearing be closed.

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Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Laub to close the Public Hearing at 9:04 A.M.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

President Pennekamp called the regular meeting to order and the Clerk recorded the attendance.

The following was the attendance:

Present: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Absent: None.

Attending the meeting were Executive Director Bob Shipley, Attorney George Filcoff, Attorney Larry Calvo, Director of Operations & Maintenance Walter Greathouse, Superintendent Randy Presswood, Lansdowne Office Manager Cindy Worthen and Treasurer Ken Davis.

Also attending the meeting were Linda Knogl and Kathy Goclan.

BUDGET AND ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017:

An Ordinance concerning the Budget and Annual Appropriation to defray the necessary and ordinary expenses of the Metro East Sanitary District, of St. Clair and Madison Counties, in the State of Illinois, for the Fiscal Year 2017, beginning on the first day of January 2017 and ending on the thirty-first day of December 2017 was presented. Ordinance Number 2017-0-003 was assigned to this document.

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Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Laub to adopt Ordinance Number 2017-0-003 concerning the Budget and Annual Appropriation to defray the necessary and ordinary expenses of the Metro East Sanitary District, of St. Clair and Madison Counties, in the State of Illinois, for the Fiscal Year 2017, beginning on the first day of January 2017 and ending on the thirty-first day of December 2017.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

The Executive Director presented his report:

Commissioner McCall, "Thank you for including your report in the meeting folders."

Executive Director Shipley, "I send the Clerk a copy of my report daily. If you ever want a copy, just ask her to email it to you."

Superintendent Presswood, "We have been clearing the silt from under the South Pump Station, but it just keeps collecting there. I believe Harding Ditch and Prairie DuPont Ditch are higher than the South Pump Station, so the silt cannot flow out from under the Station. Dredging the ditches would be a major project."

Mr. Greathouse, "Prairie DuPont Ditch begins in Fairview Heights; there is nothing to stop the dirt from running downhill to the South Pump Station."

Commissioner McCall, "Do you have any information regarding the project on Cargill Road and Route 157?"

Executive Director Shipley, "That is a Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District (FPD) project. Keller Construction is replacing the plastic pipes connecting the relief wells to the pump station at Levin Drive with concrete pipes. According to the Corps, this will meet the 500 year flood plan."

President Pennekamp mentioned that the Corps is going to repair the slides in Cahokia, Illinois with federal funds under Public Law 84-99.

REPORT OF LANSDOWNE OFFICE MANAGER:

Ms. Worthen reported:

Next week, I plan to send the survey that Horner & Shifrin prepared to twenty-one (21) businesses.

Two hundred (200) water disconnect letters were mailed this week. We sent eight for shut-off and two of those paid.

Andy Costello from the Granite City Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant picked up the packet of information that Horner & Shifrin gave to the Board. He also dropped off the Granite City Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Ordinance.

Attorney Filcoff spoke with Brian Konzen, the Attorney for the City of Granite City. Attorney Konzen provided Attorney Filcoff with a copy of the Granite City Sewage Treatment Ordinance. The Ordinance is eighty (80) pages long. The Ordinance gives businesses thirty (30) days to respond and allows for a show cause hearing. The MESD Ordinance does not include a show cause hearing.

President Pennekamp stated that at the last meeting, the question arose as to if MESD has the same rights as Granite City to enter private property.

Attorney Filcoff said that he is reviewing the Ordinances and if necessary, that will be part of the new ordinance.

Executive Director Shipley, "Walter Greathouse and Randy Presswood met with representatives from the St. Louis Auto Shredder. We are going to start billing them according to their actual flow instead of a flat rate."

MINUTES:

The minutes for the February 8, 2017 meeting were presented for approval:

Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner McCall to dispense with the reading of the minutes, approve them as submitted and place them on file.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:

The executive session minutes for the February 8, 2017 meeting were presented for approval:

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Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the executive session minutes as submitted and place them on file.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

GENERAL FUND CLAIMS:

The General Fund Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

President Pennekamp asked Superintendent Presswood to explain the payment to Jerry Clark Equipment, Inc. (Check No. 26042).

Superintendent Presswood, “We originally took the excavator to Jerry Clark to repair the under carriage including the tracks, bottom rollers, sprockets, front idlers and top carrier rollers, which was under Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

While repairing the excavator they noticed the cylinder was leaking and the boom linkage also needed to be repaired. These were three separate issues and three purchase orders were given for the repairs.”

Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Hanfelder to approve the General Fund Claims and Specific Claims as submitted and order them paid.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

LANSDOWNE CLAIMS & SPECIFIC CLAIMS:

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

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Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Laub to approve the Lansdowne Treatment Plant Claims and Specific Claims as submitted and order them paid.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

LANSDOWNE REPORT:

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

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Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the Lansdowne Adjustment Reports as submitted.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

PAYROLL:

The Payroll for the period of January 29, 2017 through February 11, 2017 was submitted for approval.

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

REPORT OF ATTORNEYS:

Attorney Filcoff said he is continuing to work on the Ameren expired Ordinances.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter from Attorney Glenn Bradford serving as official notice to the District that he is filing a “Notice of Attorney Lien” in regards to all pending cases wherein, judgments were ordered by the Court was presented:

Attorney Calvo explained:

It was agreed that upon Attorney Bradford's retirement, his files would be delivered to my office. The files take up an entire room.

Cindy Worthen and I need to go through and organize the files. The goal is to have District employees do as much of the work as possible. This should increase the amount of money the District receives from the debtors.

I want to scrutinize the entire system to determine what is most effective in collecting past due sewage treatment accounts. For instance: is the money being spent on service fees helping or is it just being written off at a later date.

I am not going to recommend paying Attorney Bradford from the list he provided. We need to go through the accounts first.

Ms. Worthen added, "Several of the accounts on Attorney Bradford's list have been written off by the MESD Board as uncollectible."

Attorney Calvo, "We are a municipality, and have a responsibility to the people within our District. We cannot give money away. We will review the accounts and then pay Attorney Bradford what is due to him."

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Greathouse said that he was contacted by Fred Schreiber, the District's energy consultant. The District's current electric contract expires May 2017. Mr. Schreiber negotiates the best electric rates for the District. The District can then sign a contract for a minimum of one year or a maximum of five years.

These electric rates are the lowest rates available, and are used at the pump stations to save money. MidAmerica is the current carrier.

Executive Director Shipley added that once Mr. Schreiber obtains the new rate, MESD has twenty-four (24) hours to accept the rate.

Mr. Greathouse said he will ask Mr. Schreiber if he can provide the rate the day before a regular board meeting.

Ms. Knogl asked, "Can the water level at Horseshoe Lake be lowered before the spring rains?"

Executive Director Shipley explained that the Corps of Engineers wants the lake kept at 404.

Ms. Knogl questioned if the duck hunters have any influence over the level of the lake.

Executive Director Shipley replied, "No, the duck hunters have no influence over the level of the lake."

President Pennekamp said the Mayors have asked Illinois State Senator Bill Haine to obtain approval to lower the level of Horseshoe Lake to 400 or 401.

Mr. Greathouse explained that Horseshoe Lake empties into a private lake, called Canteen Lake and then the water comes to MESD. MESD tries to regulate the water level at Horseshoe Lake and keep it at 404.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

There being no further business, Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Darwin to adjourn.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

So adjourned at 9:43 A.M.