

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF THE METRO EAST
SANITARY DISTRICT, ST. CLAIR AND
MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2011 AT 1800 EDISON
AVENUE, GRANITE CITY, ILLINOIS AT 9:00
A.M.**

President Economy called the meeting to order and the Clerk recorded the attendance.

The following was the attendance:

Present: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny, Crockett and Laub.
Absent: None.

Also, attending the meeting were Executive Director Shipley, Attorney George Filcoff, Attorney Todd Neilson, Superintendent John Maeras, Superintendent Walter Greathouse, Superintendent Rick Fancher, Lansdowne Office Manager Cindy Worthen and Treasurer Charlie Hester.

Charlie Juneau from Juneau Associates was also in attendance.

ENGINEERING REPORT:

Mr. Juneau presented a memo dated September 30, 2011 containing an update on current projects:

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Mr. Juneau explained the projects listed on the memo and distributed the bid results for the new bar screen at the Venice (Bremen) Station:

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Mr. Juneau, “Based on the bids and information received, Juneau Engineering & Land Surveying recommends the award of the project to Plocher Construction in the amount of One hundred sixty-one thousand, five hundred dollars (\$161,500.00).”

President Economy, “Plocher Construction quoted \$4,000 to remove the existing bar screen, grate and handrail. MESD employees can remove those items and save \$4,000.”

Mr. Juneau, “We need to contact Plocher Construction to determine if they are agreeable. However, once the bar screen is removed, the new one must be installed as there will be a large hole in the ground. This will be a huge liability, if we cannot coordinate with Plocher Construction to immediately install the new bar screen.”

Executive Director Shipley, “I think this is a very reasonable bid and there are too many factors that can go wrong if MESD removes the old bar screen.”

Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Penny upon the recommendation of the engineer to award the bid for the new bar screen at the Venice Station to Plocher Construction for the amount of One hundred sixty-one thousand, five hundred dollars (\$161,500).

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny, Crockett and Laub.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Mr. Juneau left the meeting at 9:14 A.M.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Executive Director Shipley reported on current projects within the District:

1. I have a meeting scheduled with Madison County Chairman Alan Dunstan and representatives from the Chouteau, Nameoki, and Venice Drainage District (CNV) to discuss property taxes within the CNV District.

Last year, CNV tripled their tax rate to cover the operation and maintenance of their pump station.

MESD annexed the property within CNV boundaries. Next year, the residents within CNV will see CNV and MESD on their property tax bill.

Residents pay CNV for storm water drainage. MESD will receive property tax monies for levee protection.

Originally, I thought the idea was for MESD to absorb some of the smaller drainage districts.

2. Attorney Filcoff and I are meeting with Representatives from the East St. Louis Housing Authority today at 11:00. The Housing Authority obtained the property at the corner of Schoenberger Ditch through the County tax sale.

I believe this will be a fair land swap. Attorney Filcoff is including a clause in the documents, that if the Housing Authority fails to build on the land within ten (10) years, the property will revert back to MESD.

3. MESD received a check in the amount of Six hundred eighty-three thousand, seven hundred twenty dollars (\$683,720) from the State of Illinois for the purchase of property by the Lansdowne facility.
4. Charlie Juneau is designing a screen, similar to a cattle rack, to prevent drift from entering the North Pump Station.
5. The Village of South Roxana began construction of a water line under the diversionary canal and through the levee. We stopped the project, since MESD never authorized the work.

The Mayor of South Roxana called and we agreed to let them continue with the construction of the water line providing we received a letter stating the Village would assume all liability relating to the project.

Attorney Filcoff is drafting an Ordinance between the Village of South Roxana and the Metro East Sanitary District.

6. Last Friday, I received the Operation and Maintenance manuals from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. The manuals include some very useful as built drawings.
7. The union contracts expire December 31, 2011. We will need a committee to negotiate the contracts.
8. The Corps of Engineers permanently closed one tunnel at the Madison Pump Station. I understand, the tunnel now needs to be opened.
9. Terry Kalahan is investigating how the coal dust is entering the MESD sanitary line and how to prevent it from happening.
10. The flap gate will be installed at North Pump Station once Pump No. 5 is repaired and reconnected.
11. We plan to add rip rap then cover with dirt the river side of the levee in East St. Louis. The area is very steep and hard to mow; the added dirt will make it much easier to mow.
12. Cargill Road in Cahokia, Illinois was asphalted recently. We do not know who paid for the road work. If we need to install the closure gate, we will have to cut out part of the road.
13. The lagoon needs to be dredged at the Cahokia Pump Station.
14. ICON Mechanical examined the Mo Pac Gate and recommends the removal of the gate. Funds are available through the Blue Waters Ditch Sinking Fund.

The Village of Alorton and Centreville City have not paid their share of the Blue Waters Ditch Operation and Maintenance Fund or Sinking Fund. Reminders have been sent; next we will request that the State of Illinois withhold their motor fuel tax money.

15. MESD employees did an excellent job dredging behind Mudd Duck and building up the levees.
16. The Granite City Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant meeting is being held today to discuss the new Two million dollar (\$2,000,000) emergency generator.

If the new generator is approved, it will probably cost the MESD Lansdowne Department an additional Twenty-two thousand dollars (\$22,000) per year for the next twenty (20) years.

17. The removal of debris from the river front will be a winter project.
18. Dirt will be hauled to the North Pump Station, East St. Louis Pump Station and Cahokia Pump Station for the next several months.
19. New sewer lines are being installed in Lovejoy, Illinois. Cranes and other large equipment are sitting over the District's force main. I am concerned about the strength of the line after they leave the site.

Attorney Filcoff will send a letter expressing the concerns of the District.

20. ICON Mechanical is examining the 408 Pump Station, which is owned by the Tri City Regional Port District. We are also trying to help teach the Port District how to operate the Pump Station.
21. The emergency closure structures from the Madison Pump Station are being sand blasted to remove rust and then painted.
22. The Pump Stations were inspected by the Corps of Engineers and received all good and satisfactory marks.
23. The City of Granite City has five (5) acres of land for sale at 25th Street and Missouri Avenue. There are a few buildings on the property, but one is large enough to house all of the MESD equipment during the winter months, including the excavator.

The City has spent approximately Twenty-five thousand dollars on the property and is willing to sell the property to MESD for that amount.

The property is located just off a major street and will allow easy access to and from the property.

Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Crockett to purchase approximately five acres of property at 25th Street and Missouri Avenue in Granite City, Illinois from the City of Granite City for the sum of Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000).

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny, Crockett and Laub.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT:

Superintendent Maeras reported:

1. All of the pump stations have been closed.
2. Five mow units are being used today at Lansdowne Ditch and Harding Ditch.
3. A crew is painting and trimming.
4. The slope mower is at Erb Equipment being repaired.

Executive Director Shipley, "MESD employee Steve Cannon passed away. He was a very good employee and will be missed."

Superintendent Maeras left the meeting at 9:45 A.M.

Superintendent Fancher reported:

1. MESD borrowed a dump truck from the City of Granite City.
2. The Terrain King is being operated out by Arlington Subdivision.
3. No Trespassing signs have been posted at all entryways to the levees.

Superintendent Greathouse reported that he is working on several projects with Executive Director Shipley and Attorney Filcoff including the Village of South Roxana and Bunge.

Lansdowne Office Manager Cindy Worthen reported:

1. Collections remain good.
2. The sewage treatment bills for residential and commercial accounts were mailed last Friday.
3. The office staff is reviewing legal accounts and liens and updating when necessary.

Attorney Filcoff, "I am representing MESD in one case, where the sewage treatment customer is suing MESD in small claims court for having their water service disconnected. I am trying to have the case dismissed."

Attorney Neilson, "I attended a meeting regarding the new sewers in Eagle Park. MESD has been billing six properties within Eagle Park that were connected to a sewer line before the new lines were installed. The question arose, should these six accounts pay the monthly maintenance fee of Five dollars (\$5.00)?"

A discussion was held to determine if the six residents should or should not be charged the Five dollar (\$5.00) maintenance fee.

Motion Commissioner Penny; seconded Commissioner Crockett to charge all sewage users in the designated Eagle Park area (including 100, 113 and 114 Booker, 10 Hill, 100 Hill Front and 100 Hill Rear) the Five dollar (\$5.00) service fee.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny, Crockett and Laub.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MINUTES:

The minutes for the September 7, 2011 and September 21, 2011 meetings were presented for approval.

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Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Crockett 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 Economy, Hanfelder, Penny, Crockett and Laub.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

GENERAL FUND CLAIMS:

The General Fund Claims and Specific Claims for the month of September 2011 were submitted for approval:

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Motion Commissioner Hanfelder; seconded Commissioner Laub to approve the General Fund Claims and Specific Claims for the month of September 2011 as submitted and order them paid.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny, Crockett and Laub.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

SPECIFIC CLAIMS:

The Various Specific Claims for the month of September 2011 were submitted for review:

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Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Crockett to accept the General Fund and Various Specific Claims for the month of September 2011 as submitted:

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny, Crockett and Laub.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

LANSDOWNE CLAIMS & SPECIFIC CLAIMS:

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims for the month of September 2011 were submitted for approval:

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Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Penny to approve the Lansdowne Treatment Plant Claims and Specific Claims for the month of September 2011 as submitted and order them paid.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny, Crockett and Laub.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The General Fund and Specific Funds Financial Reports for the month of September 2011 were submitted for approval:

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Motion Commissioner Crockett; seconded Commissioner Penny to approve the General Fund and Specific Funds Financial Reports for the month of September 2011 as submitted and place them on file for audit.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny, Crockett and Laub.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

LANSDOWNE FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Lansdowne Treatment Plant Financial Report for the month of September 2011 was submitted for approval:

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Motion Commissioner Crockett; seconded Commissioner Penny to approve the Lansdowne Treatment Plant Financial Report for the month of September 2011 as submitted and place it on file for audit.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny, Crockett and Laub.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

LANSDOWNE REPORT:

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

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Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Crockett to approve the Lansdowne Adjustment Reports as submitted.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny, Crockett and Laub.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

PAYROLL:

The Payroll for the period of September 4, 2011 through September 17, 2011 was submitted for approval.

Motion Commissioner Penny; seconded Commissioner Crockett to approve the Payroll as submitted.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny, Crockett and Laub.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY:

Attorney Filcoff stated he will present, at the next meeting, an Ordinance granting permission to the Village of South Roxana, Illinois permission to install and maintain a water line over MESD property.

Attorney Neilson reported, "MESD was named as a Defendant in a lawsuit filed by the City of Centreville. A dispute has arisen between Centreville and Alorton regarding the location of the township line. The location of the township line does not affect the assessment, collection or distribution of taxes to MESD. The hearing is set for today at 1:30 P.M. There is no reason for us to attend the hearing."

Attorney Neilson presented an addition to the personnel policy:

Attorney Neilson, "An employee recently contacted his Supervisor and the main office about an on the job injury that occurred 28 days before he reported the accident. The addition of this wording in the personnel policy handbook will encourage employees to report accidents within 24 hours. If the accident is not reported, then the employee is subject to a reprimand."

Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Crockett to add the clause regarding "Accident/Injuries Reporting" to the personnel policy handbook.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny, Crockett and Laub.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

President Economy, "I would like to compliment Attorney Neilson on the personnel policy handbook. It is very easy to understand."

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Director Shipley, "ATEC in St. Louis, Missouri is holding an auction this week. They will be auctioning trucks and heavy equipment. I would like permission to bid at the auction."

Motion Commissioner Penny; seconded Commissioner Laub authorizing the Executive Director of the Metro East Sanitary District to spend up to Two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for the purchase of trucks and/or heavy equipment at the ATEC auction being held this week.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny, Crockett and Laub.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

President Economy and Commissioner Hanfelder both expressed an interest in attending the auction.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny, Crockett and Laub.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

So adjourned at 10:02 A.M.

Clerk