

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF THE METRO EAST
SANITARY DISTRICT, ST. CLAIR AND
MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016 AT 1800 EDISON
AVENUE, GRANITE CITY, ILLINOIS AT 9:00
A.M.**

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

The following was the attendance:

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

The Clerk reported that Commissioner Hanfelder called and asked to be excused from the meeting.

Also, attending the meeting were Executive Director Bob Shipley, Attorney George Filcoff, Attorney Larry Calvo, Director of Operations Walter Greathouse, Lansdowne Office Manager Cindy Worthen and Treasurer Ken Davis.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Executive Director Shipley presented a report:

Commissioner McCall asked, “Do you have an update on the union contract negotiations?”

Attorney Calvo responded, “I would like to discuss the union contract negotiations during executive session.”

President Pennekamp, “Will the hiring freeze have any impact on the work completed this summer?”

Mr. Greathouse, “Normally, a few part-time employees are hired during the summer for approximately six weeks. They trim and assist where needed, but we will be able to get everything done without the summer help.”

President Pennekamp, “The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) denied the State of Illinois’ claim for assistance.”

Mr. Greathouse, “The State of Illinois has thirty days to reapply and meet the requirements for assistance. We have found additional items to submit to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA).”

President Pennekamp asked, “What is the total amount being submitted to IEMA?”

Mr. Greathouse replied, “I do not have the total, but I know the amount will go up at least Three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000). One of the pumps at the North Pump Station quit working during the heavy rains and high river. We do not have an estimate to repair the pump, but in the year 2010 a different pump had similar problems and the cost to repair the pump was One hundred seventeen thousand dollars (\$117,000).”

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President Pennekamp, "Hank's Excavating submitted the final invoice of One hundred eighty-three thousand, eight hundred ninety dollars (\$183,890) for the sewer line repairs."

Mr. Greathouse, "I sent the Hank's Excavating invoice to Jim Roth at Hurst-Rosche to review."

Commissioner McCall, "Your report states there are washouts on Cahokia Creek and Harding Ditch."

Mr. Greathouse, "Yes, there are a few slides on Cahokia Creek and Harding Ditch, but the majority of the slides are on Nameoki Ditch. The water was so high in the ditch that the sides of the ditch became soaked, causing the dirt to fall in. Fortunately, there were no levee breaches."

Executive Director Shipley, "There was a slide at the Cahokia Diversionary Canal (Hartford Canal) where the dirt and giant trees slid into the middle of the canal."

Commissioner McCall, "Will MESD staff be able to repair the slides?"

Mr. Greathouse, "Yes, MESD staff will repair the slides. I asked Hurst-Rosche for an opinion on the probable cost of repairing the slides. Hurst-Rosche quoted the price to repair a 2-foot deep and 25-foot by 50-foot surfaced soil slide at Twenty-two thousand dollars (\$22,000)."

Commissioner Laub, "What caused areas of Pontoon Beach to flood?"

Mr. Greathouse, "The heavy rains in January and February caused the flooding. The only part of the drainage system that worked, was the part MESD maintains."

Commissioner Laub, "I went out to the site and everything MESD maintains looks great. I think their problem is caused by the drain pipe that runs under Route 162. The pipe is not large enough to carry the water."

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Attorney Calvo, "The Illinois Department of Transportation has been working in that area."

President Pennekamp, "A meeting was held to discuss the flooding in Pontoon Beach. They are trying to find a solution to the problem, and are hopeful that MESD can assist them. If we are able to help them, we should."

REPORT OF LANSDOWNE OFFICE MANAGER:

Ms. Worthen reported:

1. The closed account reminders were mailed this month.
2. Since January 2016, ten accounts still have their water shut-off due to past due sewage treatment bills.

Last week, fifty-five (55) water disconnect letters were mailed, and payments were received from all fifty-five accounts.

This week, fifty disconnect letters have been mailed and fourteen have paid.

3. A notice of water disconnect was sent to the Southwestern Illinois Correction Center in Washington Park.

Neil Michaels responded that MESD does not qualify for payment. He wanted to know what can be done to stop the water from being disconnected. He is calling me today at 2:00 P.M.

Attorney Calvo, "Please tell Mr. Michaels that I said a court order is needed to disburse the funds. If you provide me with a copy of the bills, I will draft a letter and send it to Mr. Michaels today."

MINUTES:

The minutes for the March 9, 2016 meeting were presented for approval.

President Pennekamp, "I believe there was some confusion regarding the motion on Page 4 of the March 9, 2016 minutes. We agreed that a hiring freeze was in order, except when the Mississippi River reaches a river stage of eighteen feet (18') or higher. At that time, temporary employees will need to be hired to man the pump stations."

Commissioner Laub, "My understanding is that no employees are to be hired."

President Pennekamp, "That is true, but it will cost the District more to man the pump stations with full time employees, then to use temporary employees. The purpose of the hiring freeze is to keep payroll costs down."

Commissioner McCall, "It makes sense to hire temporary employees, if it is less expensive than using full time employees."

Attorney Calvo, "Are the full time employees consulted before hiring temporary employees to man the pump stations? Full time employees must be given the opportunity to work the pump stations before hiring temporary staff."

Mr. Greathouse, "Usually, the full time employees do not want to work the pump stations. They are paid a higher wage when they are mowing or leading a crew."

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Darwin amend the motion in the March 9, 2016 minutes to read, "that no new employees will be hired, unless the Mississippi River reaches a river stage of eighteen feet or higher and at that time temporary employees can be hired to man the pump stations while the river is high."

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: Commissioner Laub.

Excused: Commissioner Hanfelder.

GENERAL FUND CLAIMS:

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

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Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Darwin 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 Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Excused: Commissioner Hanfelder.

LANSDOWNE CLAIMS & SPECIFIC CLAIMS:

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

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Motion Commissioner McCall; 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 Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Excused: Commissioner Hanfelder.

LANSDOWNE REPORT:

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Excused: Commissioner Hanfelder.

PAYROLL:

The Payroll for the period of February 28, 2016 through March 12, 2016 was submitted for approval.

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Excused: Commissioner Hanfelder.

REPORT OF ATTORNEYS:

Attorney Filcoff, "Abengoa Bioenergy US Holding filed Bankruptcy. Abengoa owes the District Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for an easement. I am going to contact Attorney Larry Taliana to discuss the bankruptcy.

We met with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) about the water problems at the Lansdowne Facility. We are going to meet at the site this Friday, March 25th."

Mr. Greathouse, "The water problems at the Lansdowne Facility are due to the new construction on Route 3. Superintendent Presswood will be attending the meeting this Friday."

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Attorney Calvo, "I would like to discuss the status of the union negotiations during executive session."

Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner McCall to enter into Executive Session for the exceptions noted under 5 ILCS 120/2 Open Meetings – The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Excused: Commissioner Hanfelder.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:40 A.M.

Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner McCall to return to regular session at 9:51 A.M.

The Clerk recorded the attendance:

Present: Commissioners Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Excused: Commissioner Hanfelder.

Also, attending the meeting at this time were Attorney George Filcoff and Attorney Larry Calvo.

Attorney Calvo presented the proposed collective bargaining agreements between the Metro East Sanitary District and Teamsters Local Union No. 50, Teamsters Local Union No. 525 and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 148:

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Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the proposed collective bargaining agreements between the Metro East Sanitary District and Teamsters Local Union No. 50, Teamsters Local Union No. 525 and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 148.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Excused: Commissioner Hanfelder.

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 Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Excused: Commissioner Hanfelder.

So adjourned at 9:54 A.M.

Clerk