

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS OF THE METRO EAST  
SANITARY DISTRICT, ST. CLAIR AND  
MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2017 AT 1800 EDISON  
AVENUE, GRANITE CITY, ILLINOIS AT 9:00  
A.M.**

Vice President McCall called the meeting to order and the Clerk recorded the attendance.

The following was the attendance:

Present: Commissioners McCall, Darwin and Sawicki.

Absent: Commissioner Brinza.

Vice President McCall asked if Commissioner Hawkins resigned from the Board.

Executive Director Adler stated that Commissioner Hawkins submitted her resignation from the Metro East Sanitary District to Madison County Board Chairman Kurt Prenzler.

Attending the meeting were Executive Director Stephen Adler, Attorney Larry Calvo, Lansdowne Office Manager Cindy Worthen, Payroll Clerk Kim Hogue, Superintendent Presswood, Superintendent Maeras and Superintendent Fancher.

Attorney James Craney telephoned into the meeting.

Also, attending the meeting were:

Charlie Juneau, Juneau Associates

Amanda Greathouse

Linda Knogl

Kathy Goclan

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Amanda Greathouse read the following statement:

I'm not a politically motivated person, it's not about politics with me. It's about trying to survive and raise our two small boys while going thru this very hard time. We are good hard-working people who should not be discarded because of your politics.

My husband Walter Greathouse loved and enjoyed working at MESD. He took pride in the work he did for the community and for providing for his family. Mr. Adler, we know you have no intention of recalling any of the Union Laborers, you are here to clean house just like you've done before, or in your words drain the swamp. Your comment regarding calling back employees is to save face. This isn't about common sense and saving money, if it were, certain people and groups would not have been targeted and discriminated against. Instead, you would have gone after the source of the financial strain and stopped playing the blame game in attempts to divert from the real issues. If this truly was about saving money you would not have taken a \$4100 pay increase, which is \$600 more than your previous salary as Deputy County Administrator. (See attachment 1)

As I'm sure you all know there is a difference between Contracted Union Employees and "At Will" employees. Each time a grievance is filed, heard and awarded; it will be at the expense of MESD. Each time a grievance is awarded it also becomes the "new" last day of work for said employee. On July 30-31 2 employees from the Operators Engineering Union were manning the pump stations (which violated union contract) making over \$30 an hour. They were paid, grievances were filed- and once they are heard and awarded; MESD will have paid 2 people for one shift of work. Does that cost make common sense...? - I think not. That's just one example of many grievances to be heard. (see attachment 2)

Mr. Adler, to quote you "we hired lawn mowers and kept them all year" yes cutting is seasonal but so is operating heavy equipment. Mowing is just a fraction of the work that the Laborers do. Laborers get paid far less than Equipment Operators, and thank God, the Laborers were around to man the pump stations these past 2 years. Due to all the rain Walt was in the pump stations more times than not. He was even operating them on Christmas Day in 2015. (See attachment 3)

It appears to me that this administration is as guilty of doing the same things that they are accusing/blaming the previous administration of doing. The only difference is this administration has been very inhuman and intentionally seeking to take away the jobs of the working-class laborers at MESD, they didn't ask to be a casualty in this political game your playing-all they wanted was to go to work and provide for their families.

It's been stated that taxpayer money has been "wasted" on "unneeded political hiring's" - What about the costs associated with removing 4 board members and 2 directors? Replacing one director at higher salary than his predecessor? Not to mention the hiring of Virginia Rulison Weber as a part time employee.

I guess being a Township Supervisor, contributing \$400 to Citizens for Kurt Prenzler fund on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2017 goes a long way for job security, being able to target the employees he wanted gone from MESD, and possible attempt at purchasing Hawkins vacant County Board Seat Appointment for his wife. Coincidence, Collusion, Hypocrisy take your pick. (See attachment 4)

A grave injustice has been committed and  
we are not going to go away.

**ENGINEERING REPORT:**

Mr. Juneau gave the following report:

The sewer repairs by the Madison Pump Station have been completed.

Yesterday, the District received the Compliance Commitment Agreement (CCA) from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). This is in regards to the Violation Notice from IEPA concerning the sewer break near the Madison Pump Station.

I recommend that the Executive Director sign the CCA, as it is confirmation that MESD repaired the sewer breaks and quit by-pass pumping before the August 16, 2017 deadline. However, I would ask that the MESD Attorney review the CCA before signing.

A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to discuss the formation of the Special Service Area for the construction, improvement and maintenance of the District's receptor sewer lines. The facility Plan has been submitted to IEPA and I am still waiting on their response.

Executive Director Adler asked, "What percentage of the repairs to the sewer lines is the City of Madison's responsibility?"

Mr. Juneau responded that he cannot make that determination. The 42" gravity sewer line failed, causing the District's 24" forcemain to break. However, the forcemain was not shut down immediately and caused a large sinkhole.

Attorney Craney stated that he has been trying to contact the Attorney that represents the City of Madison.

**REPORT OF LANSLOWNE OFFICE MANAGER:**

Ms. Worthen reported:

Collections have been good; the office staff is working hard.

We met with Engineer Jim Roth to discuss St. Louis Auto Shredding. Their flow has been very low, and we want to make certain we are sampling and billing for TSS and BOD's correctly.

I contacted the Southwestern Illinois Correction Center regarding their past due account. A letter has been sent to the State of Illinois requesting payment.

Executive Director Adler and I went to D's Car Wash to determine if they should be given an adjustment on their bill. Their average monthly bill is Three hundred dollars (\$300.00).

Executive Director Adler added that there was a sampling error and D's Car Wash should be given an adjustment.

Motion Commissioner Sawicki; seconded Commissioner Darwin to reduce the June 9, 2017 surcharge from Two thousand, seven hundred ninety-one dollars and twenty-eight cents (\$2,791.28) to Three hundred dollars (\$300.00).

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Darwin and Sawicki.

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner Brinza.

**LANSDOWNE REPORT:**

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Darwin and Sawicki.

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner Brinza.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes for the August 9, 2017 meeting were presented for approval:

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Sawicki 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 McCall, Darwin and Sawicki.

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner Brinza.

**GENERAL FUND & LANSDOWNE CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS:**

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

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Sawicki to approve the General Fund and Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims as submitted and order them paid.

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Darwin and Sawicki.

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner Brinza.

**PAYROLL:**

The Payroll for the period of July 30, 2017 through August 12, 2017 was submitted for approval:

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Darwin and Sawicki.

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner Brinza.

#### **REPORT OF ATTORNEYS:**

Attorney James Craney reported:

I am working with Ameren on two new easements and approximately fifteen renewals.

The rate ordinance will be five years old in 2018, the Board may want to consider updating the Ordinance.

Thousands of dollars of revenue can be collected by renewing the expired easements. They have not been renewed in over forty years. I am concerned about adverse possession.

Attorney Calvo stated that adverse possession cannot be claimed on an easement.

A company would have to claim total possession, so this should not be an issue.

Vice President McCall asked, "The Board was made aware of Commissioner Hawkin's resignation today, for legal reasons is a written resignation needed?"

Attorney Craney, "I will look into the matter."

Attorney Calvo reported that he is preparing an Ordinance for the formation of the Special Service Area. As soon as the engineers provide the legal description, the ordinance will be ready for adoption. A legal notice will need to be placed in the newspaper, and then residents will have sixty days to obtain signatures from fifty-one percent of the residents to stop the formation of the Special Service Area.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Executive Session Minutes through July 19, 2017 were presented for review: Motion Commissioner Sawicki; seconded Commissioner Darwin that all Executive Session Minutes remain closed to the public, as they contain confidential information regarding potential lawsuits, actual lawsuits and company personnel.

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Darwin and Sawicki.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: Commissioner Brinza.

Executive Director Adler reported:

The Corps of Engineers approved the repairs to Pump No. 1 at the North Pump Station. However, it is taking a long time to get the funding and to get the pump repaired.

Yesterday, The Pump Shop looked at Pump No. 4 at the North Pump Station. We are cautiously optimistic that parts from Pump No. 1 can be used to repair Pump No. 4.

The Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District has started working on the 10 ½ foot storm water pipe in East St. Louis.

Scheffel Boyle is working on the May 31, 2017 cash balance audit.

Commissioner Sawicki and I have a meeting later this week with the performance contractors to discuss the Variable Frequency Drive (VFD).

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Executive Director Adler reported:

The Metro East Sanitary District Act of 1974 allows the District to charge for storm water. Meters need to be installed to monitor the amount of storm water infiltration/inflow the cities are putting into the Lansdowne sewer system.

The District can install the meters or request the cities put them in. I would prefer the District install the meters, then the District can control where, when and what type of meters are installed.



Mr. Juneau stated there is a circumferential meter that is very accurate and costs around Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00). The meter can be read remotely and will work while underwater.

Attorney Calvo explained that the cities and municipalities signed agreements with the District to pay for storm water infiltration/inflow.

Mr. Juneau said he would encourage the Board to install meters at Venice, Madison and Caseyville.

Vice President McCall stated that the previous Board was working on this project.

Attorney Calvo suggested Mr. Juneau put together a proposal to install meters to record the amount of storm water entering the Lansdowne sewer system.

Motion Commissioner Sawicki; seconded Commissioner Darwin authorizing Juneau Associates, Inc., P.C. to prepare and present a proposal on the installation of meters to monitor the amount of storm water entering the Lansdowne sewer system.

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Darwin and Sawicki.

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner Brinza.

Executive Director Adler asked Payroll Clerk Kim Hogue to explain the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) early retirement incentive (ERI) program.

Ms. Hogue explained the ERI proposal:

Page 3 of the proposal shows the District's total cost of One million, eight hundred eighty-two thousand, three hundred seventeen dollars (\$1,882,317) if all of the employees eligible for ERI purchase the additional time.

The District can pay the amount in full or over time. The chart on Page 3 shows the payment schedule.

Page 4 of the report lists all of the employees eligible for the program.

Commissioner McCall stated that the Board was looking at ways to bring back the laid off employees, but the District does not have the funds to offer early retirement.

Ms. Hogue said, "The ERI does not behoove the District. It benefits companies where higher paid employees retire and their positions are filled with lower salaries. Since District employees are union, employees all make the same wage."

Executive Director Adler thanked Ms. Hogue and said what an excellent job she did preparing the Early Retirement Incentive proposal.

Motion Commissioner Sawicki; seconded Commissioner Darwin to table the Early Retirement Incentive proposal from the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund until a future date.

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Darwin and Sawicki.

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner Brinza.

A proposal from McFarland Indoor Comfort Services, Inc. for a new rooftop air conditioner was presented:

Executive Director Adler stated that a large amount of money has been spent repairing the air conditioner at the main office. The air conditioner finally quit working and cannot be repaired. I recommend installing a 6 ton unit.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Sawicki to declare the purchase of a new air conditioner at 1800 Edison Avenue, Granite City, Illinois an emergency and authorize the purchase and installation of a 6 ton unit per the proposal from McFarland Indoor Comfort Services, Inc. for a total cost of Eleven thousand, eight hundred seventy-seven dollars (\$11,877.00).

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Darwin and Sawicki.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: Commissioner Brinza.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Darwin and Sawicki.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: Commissioner Brinza.

So adjourned at 9:46 A.M.

  
Clerk