

**REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR
THE METRO EAST SANITARY DISTRICT
ST. CLAIR AND MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS
HELD ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021, AT 9:00 A.M.
LOCATED AT: 1800 EDISON AVENUE, GRANITE CITY, IL 62040**

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

The following was the attendance:

Present: Commissioners, Darwin, Dixon, Lovett and Oney,
Absent: Brinza,

Metro East Sanitary District employees attending the meeting were:

Attorney Schooley, Attorney Sprague, Kim King-Treasurer.

Executive Director Rick Fancher was absent

Other Attendees: Mayor Mike Parkinson

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE:

President Oney informed the Board that we received an Annexation Notice from the City of Madison. He stated that he has turned the notice over to the Attorney.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Executive Director Fancher reported:

- On July 27th met with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. The flood wall project is still on going.
- On the 24th of this month there is a meeting scheduled at Attorney Sprague's office to discuss the El Ranchito case regarding their past due bill.
- Ongoing maintenance on levees along with mowing and trimming.
- We settled the Operating Engineers Contact. We are just waiting on the Attorneys to get a clean copy for board approval. As previously stated at the last board meeting, it was the same salary raise as the Teamsters.
- Met with Jim Nold at Hurst-Rosche that represents St. Clair Co. regarding the repairs needed at South Pump Station and Harding Ditch.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Dixon to approve the Executive Director's Report and it put on record.

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

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

REPORT OF ENGINEER:

See attached Engineer's report.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Lovett to approve the Engineer's Report and it put on record.

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

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

MINUTES:

The minutes for the July 20, 2021, were presented for approval.

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded Commissioner Dixon 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, Darwin, Dixon, Lovett and Oney.
Nays: None
Absent: Brinza

CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS:

The General Fund and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Lovett 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, Dixon, Lovett and Oney.
Nays: None
Absent: Brinza

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Lovett: 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, Dixon, Lovett and Oney.
Nays: None
Absent: Brinza

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The General Fund Financial Reports for the month of July 2021 was submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Lovett; seconded Commissioner Dixon to approve the General Fund Financial Report as submitted and place them on file for audit.

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

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

The Special Funds Financial Reports for the month of July 2021 was submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded Commissioner Lovett to approve the Special Funds Financial Report as submitted and place them on file for audit.

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

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

The Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of June 2021 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Dixon; seconded Commissioner Lovett to approve the Lansdowne Financial Report as submitted and place them on file.

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

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

The Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of July 2021 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Lovett; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the Lansdowne Financial Report as submitted and place them on file.

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

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

PAYROLL:

The Payroll for the period of June 27, 2021, through July 10, 2021, were submitted for approval.

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

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

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

The Payroll for the period of July 11, 2021, through July 24, 2021, were submitted for approval.

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

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

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

LANSLOWNE ADJUSTMENT REPORT:

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Lovett to approve the Lansdowne Adjustment Report as submitted.

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

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

REPORT OF ATTORNEYS:

Attorney Schooley informed the Board that he had nothing to report.

Attorney Sprague informed the Board that he and Mr. Fancher will be meeting next Tuesday (8/24/21) with El Ranchito to get the bill straightened out.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Oney discussed the 2020 Audit for the District:

- He continued to say that MESD had a positive year with the overall position.
- President Oney thanked the Board for making hard decisions throughout the year. Those decisions brought about changes in personnel and other aspects that saved the District money.
- President Oney stated that he feels MESD is going in the right direction and there are just a few issues that we will need to address financially especially the relief wells that have been previously discussed.
 - o Attorney Schooley stated that he is still working on that issue.
 - President Oney informed the Board that the relief wells were the largest thing financially that is hanging over us right now.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Dixon to approve the 2020 Audit Report for the District as submitted.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

President Oney stated that Metro East Sanitary District just went through an audit for the IMRF:

- President Oney informed the Board that they should have received a copy of the audit findings.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Dixon to approve the Corrective Action Plan for the IMRF Audit.

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

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

President Oney address with the Board about the District's request to change from PSN to Invoice Cloud for our online customer payments. He requested that the District Clerk, Amy Parkinson explain further about this new company.

- Mrs. Parkinson informed the Board that the company in which we were looking to convert over to has actually purchased the company we are currently using.
- She stated that in reality, everything is going up in price including the company that we are currently working with for online payments.

- However, one major benefit with Invoice Cloud is their reports and accessibility for our clients is greater. The clients currently are only able to call in and make a payment. With this new company they are able to access the website and pay online, sign up for paperless billing along with calling in as they previously did with PSN.
- Amy stated that there was a little bit of an upcharge to our clients. However, if any of the clients do not want to pay the fee they can continue to mail in payments or in person.
- In your packets you received a breakdown of the cost savings throughout the years. As more customers sign up with online billing/paperless billing our cost will decrease considerably.
- This will also free up time for our staff to do other things.
 - o President Oney stated that he discussed with Rick that the software that we use he is not a fan of but with this new software the customers can go in and set up automatic payments which will guarantee revenue every month.
 - o He also stated that most things are done online these days along with paperless invoices.
 - Attorney Schooley asked how many we currently have that paid their bill online versus pay in person with a check?
 - Mrs. Parkinson stated that she did not have those figures on hand however, we are spending a lot of money on unnecessary postage.
 - o Commissioner Dixon asked if the customers call in do, they just do a check by phone.

Mrs. Parkinson stated that she believes right now it is just a debit/credit card when using the old company.

- Mrs. Parkinson continued to inform the Board that the billing office is currently mailing out 476 credit statements each month letting customers know that they have a credit balance on their account. Again, it is wasted postage when customers can log into their accounts and view them directly.
- Mrs. Parkinson stated that this new company will do all the advertising needed to inform our customers of the changeover. In essence this company will be not only saving money on supplies and postage but also staff time.
 - o Attorney Schooley requested to review the contract prior to a decision being made.
 - The District clerk informed the Board that the pricing is only valid until the end of the month. However, she did not believe they would lose a sale over a 30-day extension. She also stated that she will contact the company and request a draft of the contract so that our attorney can review it.
 - President Oney stated that the Board can make a motion to accept the proposal based upon the Attorneys approval of the contract.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Dixon to approve the Invoice Cloud's proposal.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:

- Mayor Parkinson requested to address the Board briefly. He stated that Granite City received a decent amount of Covid Funds. We are talking with the County to assist us with the Twin 60 pipes. So, we will be coming to you shortly with a request for a mutual agreement.
- Mayor Parkinson continued to say that we have already approved funds to put culvers underneath the Nameoki overpass. These are your projects not ours, but they would be a benefit to the citizens for Granite City. We will need your approval to allow us to do the work in your ditch.
- Mayor Parkinson stated that he is aware that President Oney has reached out to St. Clair County asking if any of their funding will be allocated to assist with projects for MESD as well.
- In the meantime, we will be coming to you by the summer of next year with a proposal and I hope that you will be happy with it and approve us to do the joint venture with you to help pay for things that will benefit the citizens of Granite City.

President Oney informed the Board under New Business that they will need to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel returning to work issue.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Dixon 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 Darwin, Dixon, Lovett, and Oney.
Nays: None.
Absent: Brinza.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:20 A.M.

Motion Commissioner Dixon; seconded Commissioner Darwin to return to regular session at 9:41 A.M.

The Clerk recorded the attendance:

Present: Commissioners Darwin, Dixon, Lovett and Oney
Absent: Commissioner Brinza.

ANY FURTHER BUSINESS PLACED BEFORE THE BOARD:

None

There being no further business, Motion President Darwin seconded Commissioner Lovett to adjourn.

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

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

So, adjourned at 9:42 A.M.

Clerk