

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR  
THE METRO EAST SANITARY DISTRICT  
ST. CLAIR AND MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS  
HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 18, 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, Brinza and Oney.

Absent: Commissioner McCall, Kim King - Treasurer

Metro East Sanitary District employees attending the meeting were Executive Director Rick Fancher, Attorney Schooley, Attorney Sprague,

Other Attendees: Charlie Juneau representing Juneau & Associates.

**\*\* RESIGNATION LETTER FROM COMMISSIONER MCCALL WAS READ  
AND PLACED ON RECORD.**

Motion Commissioner Brinza: seconded Commissioner Dixon to place Curtis McCall's letter of resignation on file.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

**PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE: NONE**

## **REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

Executive Director Fancher reported:

We went through Morrow Brothers to obtain new trucks for MESD. The state bids are in your packet for review. Executive Director Fancher requested the approval to proceed forward in ordering three (3) F-150's and one (1) F-250 vehicles. We would be financing them through a four (4) year program. I have spoken with the Ford Finance Department and once the Board approves it, we will begin the process to ensure we receive this year's cost. They informed me that it will take 20-22 weeks for them to become available.

- President Oney stated there were five (5) trucks on the proposal in the Board packet and asked why it went down to four (4)?
  - o Executive Director Fancher replied by stating MESD is wanting to purchase a scanner that we took bids for in order to scan maps for the office. The scanner cost is \$12,600 for setup and delivery plus 3-year warranty.
- Commissioner Brinza asked if this will help with the issue down at the Washington Park Office.
  - o Executive Director Fancher replied "Yes, once we have everything scanned at the main office, we will take it down to Washington Park.
  - o Rick also informed the Board that this is what Carrie Fowler will be working on regarding Ordinances and maps.
- President Oney informed the Board that the trucks were budgeted but the scanner was not, so it was decided to pull one truck out of the budget and replace it with the scanner.
- Commissioner Brinza asked what we did with the vehicles that we are replacing? He asked if we sell them or trade them in for new ones.
  - o Executive Director Fancher stated that in the past we put them out for bid and sell them. Since we go through Morrow Brothers for a government price, we just sell the old ones outright instead of trading them in.
    - President Oney stated that we must go through the procedure of declaring them as surplus and put them out for bid by publishing them in the paper.

Spoke with Madison and St. Clair County regarding the stimulus that they received. Madison County received 82 million.

- Charlie Juneau stated that the amount was reduced down to 51 million.

Rick informed the Board that St. Clair was to receive around 100 million but now he assumes that the amount will be reduced also.

- Charlie Juneau stated that they were probably going to be reduced by the same percentage.

Rick stated that MESD has turned in several projects in both counties. Harding Ditch and South Pump Station in St. Clair County and the Twin 60's, Nameoki Ditch, CNV Pumpstation, Cahokia Ditch have also been placed on their radar.

- Commissioner Brinza stated that he spoke with the Chairman especially about the Twin 60's being a priority and he expects to get the funding it needs.

Executive Director Fancher informed the board that he and staff met with Heartland Conservation on Brushy Lake. Heartland Conservation has a grant for a couple of hundred thousand.

- Charlie Juneau stated they have \$246,000.
  - Rick stated that staff was meeting with them again to get access to Brushy Lake to do some studies. These studies are completely funded by Heartland Conservation in which they have 2 to 2 ½ years to spend the money.
    - President Oney asked if we have a written agreement with Heartland Conservation.
      - Rick stated that before any of this takes place, we will have a written agreement. He went on to say that there are a lot of landowners involved in this and we just happened to be one of them.
  - Commissioner Brinza asked what is the purpose of this study?
    - Rick stated that it is a wetlands area, and they would like to upgrade to make sure it has the right vegetation.
      - Commissioner Brinza stated that he just wanted to make sure they were keeping it wetlands.
        - President Oney stated the only issue he has is that this area holds water during flood stages, and we need to be careful of what agreement we enter into with this organization concerning the wetlands.

Executive Director Fancher informed the Board that he and staff met with the Water Company and the Army Corp regarding the cut off wall project. He went on to say that they are wanting to jet grout around the water company's intake line. The Water Company has worked it out with the contractor and will keep moving forward.

Mr. Fancher informed the Board that he and Amy went and met with the City of Madison regarding outstanding sewer bills. He stated that the City of Madison has agreed not to issue any occupancy permits to anyone that owes a past due sewer bill. They must show a receipt of payment or an agreement before they can be taken off the delinquency list and issued an occupancy permit. The city was very receptive to this, and the next meeting will be with Tyrone to see if we can get the City of Venice to do the same thing.

**REPORT OF ENGINEER:** (See actual report submitted by Charlie Juneau)

Continue to have meetings with the US Army Corp of Engineers on a monthly basis. The May meeting was cancelled due to conflicts so the next meeting will be June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Charlie stated that the Executive Director, Rick Fancher already reported on the Levee System 500-year level certification. He stated that he appreciates Illinois American Water for working that out. He continued to state that he was on several phone conferences because it was discussed for several months if not years of leaving windows in those locations to avoid having to deal with the railroads and do a seepage wall.

Lansdowne interceptor sewer project – Swift

Charlie Juneau stated that we need to continue to meet with Ameren to work out these easements.

- Rick stated that MESD has been in contact with Clay every day.

Mr. Juneau stated that he spoke with Scott Hillman about working on different ways to sample at the sampling stations.

**MINUTES:**

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

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

**CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS:**

The General Fund and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

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

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

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

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

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

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

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

Motion Commissioner Dixon; seconded Commissioner Brinza to approve the General Fund Financial Reports for the month of April 2021 as submitted and place them on file for audit.

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

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



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

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Brinza to approve the Special Funds Financial Reports for the month of April 2021 as submitted and place them on file for audit.

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

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

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

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Dixon to approve the Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of April 2021 as submitted and place them on file for audit.

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

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

**PAYROLL:**

The Payroll for the period of April 4, 2021, through April 17, 2021, were submitted for approval.

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

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

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

The Payroll for the period of April 18, 2021, through May1, 2021 were submitted for approval.

Motion Commissioner Dixon; seconded Commissioner Brinza to approve the Payroll as submitted.

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

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

**LANSDOWNE ADJUSTMENT REPORT:**

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

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

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

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

## **REPORT OF ATTORNEY:**

### **Attorney Tom Schooley:**

Met with MESD employee Carrie Fowler to discuss expired easements. She has provided me with a list of expired easements and some of them are from Ameren. Mr. Schooley informed the Board that his position on this is if they are expired, they should come under the new ordinance that was passed 2021 with the new fees.

In conjunction with that Mr. Schooley stated he had met with Jeremy Dressel at Juneau and Associates. Since some of the old easements do not have the actual footage of what the easement is and some of those are assessed under the ordinance by the number of feet. Jeremy is going to do some field work to get the proper footage so we can come back and complete a new ordinance and send it to Ameren and other easement holders. This way we can get them back on the books collecting revenue again. Some of these easements have been expired since 1996. Attorney Schooley informed the Board that Carrie Fowler is doing a fantastic job.

### **Attorney Sprague:**

He stated that Blake Meinders has left the law firm to go to chiropractic school.

There was a discussion with Attorney Sprague indicating that MESD will need to go through the contract to make sure that the Metro East Sanitary District was not just solely under contract with him and not the law firm itself.

Attorney Sprague stated their contracts are always with the firm and not individual attorneys.

- President Oney wanted to make sure we look at it to verify we did not need to change anything.
  - o Attorney Schooley stated that he would review the agreement and if anything needed to be changed it would be done at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

An Ordinance to discuss and or approve appointing a temporary work easement with America's Central Port pursuant to the cooperation agreement between the United States of America and Metro East Sanitary District, Granite City for rehabilitation of a federal flood control work.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Dixon to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-0-006 approving a temporary work easement with the America's Central Port.

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

Ayes: Commissioners, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: None

**NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED:**

Board Discussion / Approval to purchase four (4) Ford F-150 and one (1) Ford F-250 trucks for MESD.

- **\*AMENDMENT\*** changing the approval from four (4) Ford F-150 and one (1) Ford F-250 to: **THREE (3) FORD F-150 and ONE (1) FORD F-250**

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Brinza to approve the Amendment.

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

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

Board Discussion / Approval to purchase three (3) Ford F-150 and one (1) Ford F-250 trucks for the Superintendents and Foreman at MESD.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the purchase of three (3) Ford F-150's and one (1) Ford F-250 for MESD.

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

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

Board Discussion / Approval regarding the possibility of charge offset pertaining to the Milam Meter.

- President Oney asked how much the adjustment “charge off” was pertaining to the Milam Meter.
  - o Attorney Schooley stated the total cost of the adjustment would be \$4,453.00.
    - Commissioner Dixon asked, “How many do they need to replace?”
      - Executive Director, Rick Fancher stated they needed to upgrade their flow meter however, that was not the issue at hand. He stated that the sewer line just up from their sampling station or where they take their meter readings is our line and it was clogged. We did not realize this was the situation at the last meeting when it was presented to the board for the approval of an adjustment.
      - Rick went on to inform the Board that the service charge was based upon a full pipe from our blockage and that is why their bill was \$4,400 more.
        - o President Oney asked why they do not have a flow meter.
          - Rick stated that Milam did have a flow meter it was just different style than what we normally use.



Milam Meter discussion continued:

Charlie Juneau stated that he has prepared a letter and documentation on how this particular flow meter is read.

President Oney stated that we will table this discussion for the next meeting but wanted to know how many industrial users have this type of flow meter. He stated the reason for this question is that this could be an issue if we have a back up coming from one of our lines again.

Both Charlie Juneau and Rick Fancher stated that they are not aware of any others like this flow meter.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Dixon to table this discussion until the June Board meeting

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

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

Board Discussion / Approval of the purchase of an HP SP Pro Large Format Scanner through Quantum Technologies.

- Commissioner Brinza stated that this is definitely needed especially in the Washing Park office.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Dixon to purchase the HP SP Pro Large Format Scanner through Quantum Technologies.

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

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Brinza; to enter into Executive Session for the exceptions noted under 5 ILCS [120/2(c)(6)] Sale or lease of property owned by MESD and [120/2 (c) (1)]. Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, or performance of employees and pending or threatened or imminent litigation.

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

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

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:26 A.M.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Dixon to return to regular session at 10:03 A.M.

The Clerk recorded the attendance:

Present: Commissioners Brinza, Darwin, Dixon and Oney.  
Absent: None

Metro East Sanitary District employees attending the meeting were Executive Director Rick Fancher, Attorney Schooley, Attorney Sprague.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Dixon to table the decision pertaining to the Illinois American Water's response to the RFP.

- Commissioner Brinza also requested that a committee be put together for further negotiations and answer any questions pertaining to Illinois America Water Company's request to purchase the Lansdowne collective system.

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

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

**ANY FURTHER BUSINESS PLACED BEFORE THE BOARD: NONE**

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

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

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

So, adjourned at 10:06 A.M.

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Clerk