

**REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE  
METRO EAST SANITARY DISTRICT  
ST. CLAIR AND MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS  
HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022, AT 9:00 A.M.  
LOCATED AT: 1800 EDISON AVENUE, GRANITE CITY, IL 62040**

9:00 A.M.- President Oney called the meeting to order, and the Clerk recorded the attendance.

The following were in attendance:

Present: Commissioners, Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson, and President Oney  
Absent: None

Others attending the meeting were:

Executive Director Rick Fancher, Attorney Tom Schooley, Treasurer Kim King, and Engineer Joe Juneau

Absent: Attorney Sprague

**PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

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**PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE: NONE**

## **REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

Mr. Fancher reported the following:

Engineer Charlie Juneau will report on the emergency 24-inch force main repair under Merchants Bridge.

The Lansdowne trunk line was exposed and televised in which a dip was found in the pipe. Illinois American Water asked the line to be covered back up.

The gates at North Pump Station have failed. This is also in the engineering report (see pictures). While the gates were shut to hold water in for maintenance on two pumps, two of the gate structures blew open. The middle piece, called the runner, broke off. He explained the Corps of Engineers, Juneau, Keller Construction, and our insurance carrier have all been contacted. Currently, everyone is putting a game plan together to stop the water for the repair, as well as preparing an emergency response to be able to close the gates in case the river rises. As of right now the river is one foot. The water from the river coming in can be stopped, but that stops us from being able to pump any interior water out. If new gates need to be purchased they are one year out, however Rick believes the gates can be fixed. He advised this is an integral part of our system and waiting a year is not an option.

The talks with Marathon are ongoing.

Rick invited the Board and staff to a Christmas- News Years luncheon at the Madison Avenue garage next Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 A.M.

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## **REPORT OF ENGINEER:**

Joe Juneau reported the following:

Charlie has reached out to the IEPA regarding the Merchants Bridge 24-inch force main project. The IEPA would like the work to be done around the repair rather than bypassing into the river. Multiple different proposals have come in from C&C Pumps for bypass pumping. In looking at the costs to install a bypass pump line, and then the daily rate of the line stops, it appears that the most economical way to repair the line will be to put a whole new pipe in by jacking and boring parallel with the existing one. In doing this, there is not a need to install a bypass pump line. Juneau feels confident the connection can be made without doing any bypass pumping and using

the storage inside Lansdowne once the new jack and bore is in place. He is recommending the Board pursue the jack and bore. The anticipated expense of this is around \$400,000 depending on TRRA right of entry permit costs. After investigating other alternatives to the jack and boring, once adding the cost of the bypass pump line it made those options not as cost effective as putting in a whole new line. This will be done directly parallel to the existing casing that is in place.

- Mr. Fancher asked if it would be a cased line going through.
  - o Mr. Juneau responded yes they would put the outer casing and then install the new 24-inch force main through there. They will bore roughly a 36-inch casing under there. Juneau is confident with the location they can miss the sheet pile wall on the north side.
    - Attorney Schooley asked if the current easement for the existing pipe is big enough they will not have to expand the permanent easement.
      - Mr. Juneau answered the plan is to go right next to the current line. The issue going too far south is getting into the sheet pile wall.
    - o Attorney Schooley commented we are then looking at temporary construction easements.
      - Mr. Juneau responded yes. TRRA will require a right of entry agreement to be executed. Whether or not they make us get the protective liability insurance as provision of the right of entry is unknown at this point. He assumes they are going to require it even though the bore pits will be far outside the 25-foot limit. MESD will have the option of making the contractor take out railroad protective liability insurance, or as the owner taking it out in advance.

Mr. Juneau went on to explain if the Board approves the recommendation, they will go out and solicit for bids. He explained with the limited number of boring contractors, costs for boring operations are continuing to rise. It may be an advantage to wait until contractors are not as busy if it is not an emergency repair.

- o Attorney Schooley responded he believes what brought this to a head was surface area boils on the south side.
  - Mr. Fancher answered yes, it is oozing out.

- Mr. Juneau advises the actual break appears to be within a casing, so it's not going to break and collapse under the railroad. The 24-inch pipe is inside the casing. Where the oozing is coming from is between what is called the host pipe and the outer casing. It is leaking along the edge.

President Oney commented this will be part of our claim. MESD contention is it was done because of the boring and sheet piling of the new bridge.

- Attorney Schooley responded a Notice of Claim has been filed with TRRA and Walsh Construction.

Attorney Schooley asked once the connection is made if the old lien can be inspected to see where the actual break is.

- Mr. Juneau replied once the separation is made for the new line they can go in clean and televise the line.
  - President Oney questioned why we would incur the costs. It would cost about \$50,000 to clean and televise. If the break is fixed and the leak stops, then we know it's there.
    - Attorney Schooley advises as far as the Notice of Claim, MESD has the burden of proving where the break is. The break is there, but is it on the north side or south side? Is it in the area where the pile driving of the sheet wall was, or was it 280 feet away?
      - President Oney responds MESD contention is the pile driving broke the line.
        - Attorney Schooley advised they learned at the last meeting with Walsh it was not done pile driving, it was pushed.
          - Mr. Fancher added the Engineer was onsite when it happened.
            - President Oney asked they discuss this at a later time. He is not in favor of incurring expenses.

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve to RFPs for Jack and Bore of the 24-inch force main Merchants Bridge Project.

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

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

**MINUTES:**

The Regular Minutes for November 15, 2022 were presented for approval.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Jackson to dispense with the reading of the minutes, approve them as submitted and place them on file.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**MINUTES:**

The Executive Minutes for November 15, 2022 were presented for approval.

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded Commissioner Darwin to dispense with the reading of the Executive minutes, approve them as submitted and place them on file.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS:**

The General Fund and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

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



The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

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

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

The General Fund Financial Reports for the month of November 2022 were submitted for approval:

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

The Special Funds Financial Reports for the month of November 2022 were submitted for approval:

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

The Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of November 2022 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Jackson to approve the Lansdowne Fund Financial Report as submitted and place them on file for audit.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**PAYROLL:**

The Payroll for the period of October 30, 2022, through November 12, 2022 was submitted for approval.

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

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

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

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The Payroll for the period of November 13, 2022, through November 26, 2022 was submitted for approval.

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

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

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

The Payroll for the period of November 27, 2022, through December 10, 2022 was submitted for approval.

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

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

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

**LANSDOWNE ADJUSTMENT REPORT:**

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

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

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

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

**REPORT OF ATTORNEYS:**

Attorney Schooley had no report.



**OLD BUSINESS:**

Board discussion and/or approval to amend the date for Mark Hudson request of Medical Leave of Absence from April 2023 to February 2023.

- President Oney questioned why the date is being amended.
  - o Mr. Fancher stated the paperwork is dated February not April. Mr. Hudson will be going back to the Doctor and requesting to extend leave out until April.

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded Commissioner Darwin to amend the date for Mark Hudson request of Medical Leave of Absence from April 2023 to February 2023.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Board discussion and/or approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement for Local 50.

- Commissioner Brinza asked what the percentage increase is for the first year of the contract.
  - o President Oney answered 3 ½ for each year of the contract.

President Oney went on to give a summary of the contracts. Local 50 and Local 525 are the exact same contracts just two different unions. Insurance will continue to be paid by the District. CDL requirements have changed due to the change on the federal level. New hires will be required to attend a CDL licensing course. MESD will pay for the employee's course, however the employee will work at a reduced rate for each hour attending class and each hour worked for the first year of employment. Because the District's financial status was unknown last contract, employees took a half percent raise each year. As an incentive to sign the new contract, employees were given the option of 10 personal days over the 4-year time frame or a one-time payment of \$2,500.

- Commissioner Brinza congratulated the board on settling the contract.

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement for Local 50.

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

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

Board discussion and/or approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement for Local 525.

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve Collective Bargaining Agreement 525.

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

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

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Board discussion and/or approval of Resolution 2022-R-010 authorizing execution of an easement agreement to Illinois Department of Transportation D.B.A. IDOT.

- President Oney confirmed this is for Highway 111 and Cahokia Diversionary Canal.
  - o Attorney Schooley informed the Board IDOT paid \$30,000 for the easement.
    - President Oney added part of the negotiation was resolving the issue of prior crossing easements IDOT was not maintaining. This was an ongoing issue that has now been resolved.

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve Resolution 2022-R-010 authorizing execution of an easement agreement to Illinois Department of Transportation D.B.A. IDOT.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Dixon, Jackson and Oney  
Nays: None

Absent: None

Board discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2022-0-031 temporary pay increase for Della Ragsdale for assuming additional responsibilities as claims clerk.

- President Oney explained to the Board since Stacy (previous Accounts Payable Clerk) came out of the union and took the District Clerk position, Della has moved into the Accounts Payable position. With that, is the responsibility of Illinois Southwest Flood Protection and tracking all purchases made by the District. He advised, as they did with Stacy, they are going to give Della extra pay.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Jackson to approve Ordinance 2022-0-031 temporary pay increase for Della Ragsdale for assuming additional responsibilities as claims clerk.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by the following vote

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

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Board discussion and/or approval to adopt Ordinance 2022-0-030 providing for the Metro East Sanitary District for the Annual Tax Levy for the fiscal year 2022.

Motion Commissioner Jackson; seconded Commissioner Darwin to adopt Ordinance 2022-0-030 providing for the Metro East Sanitary District for the Annual Tax Levy for the fiscal year 2022.

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

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

Board approval of emergency sewer repair of the 24-inch Lansdowne forcemain (Merchants Bridge).

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the emergency sewer repair of the 24-inch forcemain (Merchants Bridge).

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

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

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Board discussion/and or approval of 2023 Board Meeting dates.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve 2023 Board Meeting dates.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Review of executive session minutes to determine if the minutes should remain closed or be opened to the public.

- Attorney Schooley advised Ms. Partney provided the minutes to him. After reviewing, the vast majority deal with personnel or collective bargaining, therefore it is his recommendation a motion is made to keep the minutes closed.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin to keep executive session minutes closed.

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

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

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Board discussion and/or approval of RFP for auditing services for the fiscal years 2023 through 2025.

- The Clerk did not receive any proposals. There were inquiries via email, but nothing was submitted.
  - o Attorney Schooley suggested we reach out to the inquiries and Thompson & Lengacher.
    - President Oney requested we table and return to this next meeting.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin to table the auditing services until the January 2023 meeting.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Jackson to enter into Executive Session for employee/personnel matter per 2(C)(1) of open meetings act – Health Insurance coverage for specific non-union employees and specific employee severance package.

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

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

**BOARD ENTERED INTO CLOSED SESSION AT 9:30 A.M.**

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**BOARD RETURNED TO REGULAR SESSION AT 9:46 A.M.**

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Jackson to return to regular session.

The Clerk recorded the attendance:

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

Attorney Tom Schooley, Treasurer Kim King and Executive Director Rick Fancher

Board approval of the health insurance coverage for specific non-union employees.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Jackson to approve health insurance coverage for the specific nonunion employees.

Upon the rollcall, the motion carried by the following vote:

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

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Motion to table the discussion of specific employee severance package.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Jackson to table the discussion/approval of the specific employee severance package.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

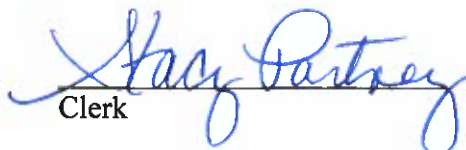
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There being no further business placed before the Board, Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Brinza to adjourn.

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

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

So, adjourned at 9:49 A.M.

  
Clerk