

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF THE METRO EAST
SANITARY DISTRICT, ST. CLAIR AND
MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS HELD ON
TUESDAY, GRANITE CITY, ILLINOIS AT 9:00
A.M. OCTOBER 20, 2020 AT 1800 EDISON
AVENUE,**

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

The following was the attendance:

Present: Commissioners McCall, Darwin, Dixon, and Brinza.

Absent: Oney

Metro East Sanitary District employees attending the meeting were Executive Director Rick Fancher, Treasurer Kim King, Attorney Schooley, Attorney Meinders.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Executive Director Fancher reported:

Attorney Schooley and I have met with Carrie Hermeling of Hush Blackwell on some condemnations for TRRA. Mr. Schooley sent TRRA an offer letter pertaining to the easements needed for the flood wall and seepage berm project. As everyone knows, working with TRRA is not an easy thing to do. We are meeting with them today at 11:00 A.M.

We met with the Teamsters regarding the collective bargaining contract on October 15th. I think we are close to reaching an agreement. We have not been able to meet with Operators in a few months.

I would like to address the article in the Belleville News Democrat regarding the cat program. The cats were taken care of up until the day I called the Humane Society and asked them to come get the cats and remove the houses. I was appointed January 21st and made the call to the Humane Society on the 22nd. Two days

October 20, 2020

Page 2

later they picked up their houses, and cats. The newspaper claimed we abandoned the cats and that simply did not happen. That is an absolute lie.

Mowing is winding down. Crews will start winter projects working on tree clean outs and cleaning out levees.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Dixon a to approve the Executive Director Report.

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

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

REPORT OF ENGINEER: None

MINUTES:

The minutes for the September 15, 2020 were presented for approval.

October 20, 2020

Page 3

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 McCall, Darwin, Dixon, and Brinza
Nays: None
Absent: Oney

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:

The executive session minutes for the September 15, 2020 meetings were presented for approval:

October 20, 2020

Page 4

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the executive session minutes, as submitted and place them on file

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Darwin, Dixon, and Brinza

Nays: None

Absent: Oney

CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS:

The General Fund and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

October 20, 2020

Page 5

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 McCall, Darwin, Dixon, and Brinza
Nays: None
Absent: Oney

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

October 20, 2020

Page 6

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The General Fund Financial Reports for the month of September 2020 was submitted for approval:

October 20, 2020

Page 7

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Dixon to approve the General Fund Financial Reports for the month of September 2020 as submitted and place them on file for audit.

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

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

The Special Funds Financial Reports for the month of September 2020 was submitted for approval:

October 20, 2020

Page 8

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Brinza to approve the Special Funds Financial Reports for the month of September 2020 as submitted and place them on file for audit.

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

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

The Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of September 2020 were submitted for approval:

October 20, 2020

Page 9

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Dixon to approve the Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of September 2020 as submitted and place them on file for audit.

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

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

PAYROLL:

The Payroll for the period of September 5, 2020 through September 19, 2020 were submitted for approval.

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

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

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

The Payroll for the period of September 20, 2020 through October 3, 2020 were submitted for approval.

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

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

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

LANSDOWNE ADJUSTMENT REPORT: None

REPORT OF ATTORNEY:

Attorney Schooley reported:

The employee handbook has not been updated since August 2015. Since then there have been several changes to the State and Federal laws. As part of the insurance policy that MESD has through Illinois Counties Risk Management, it provides this service free of charge to the District. Rick and I have reached out to their Attorney, Jane May. Attorney, Barney Mundorf, who is working on the collective bargaining unit, sent us the updated drug and alcohol workplace policy. I have sent this to Attorney, May with ICRM yesterday so that she can incorporate it into the handbook and make sure it is up to date with current law. We should have the updated handbook in December to present to the board.

As we discussed last meeting, Dennis Traiteur's farm lease is still unpaid. There have been some negotiations on payment and why he has not paid. I do think we received one payment, but that still does not relieve him from further obligations. I will have an update next meeting.

Commissioner Brinza, "What kind of money are we talking?"

Executive Director, "About \$2,000 a year."

Attorney Schooley, "The previous lease that was prepared had no set amount as to what he is to pay. I think when we go over this next meeting, depending on what the board decides to do with the balance due, we also enter into a new lease."

In regard to the 1000 Klein property in Madison, IL we discussed waving some fees, the Attorney from HeplerBroom office was supposed to get us a packet and never did. So, I think we roll that over into next meeting.

October 20, 2020

Page 12

Attorney Meinders reported:

I am setting up a meeting with Charlie Juneau Thursday to get the flat rate surcharges straightened out. I think Charlie has some concerns and hopefully we can get those straightened out Thursday.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and/or approval of the Lansdowne Audit:

Commissioner Brinza, "Salaries ended up being about \$183,000.00 over budget. Was this due to overtime or did we add employees?"

Executive Director Fancher, "Actually, we've determined how much time myself and superintendents are doing work out of Lansdowne and we're charging that to Lansdowne. Fifty percent of my salary and forty percent of Scott Hillmans salary are now coming out of Lansdowne."

Commissioner Brinza, "We've talked about that before with all the administration doing work out of Lansdowne. So, next year's audit will reflect that?"

Executive Director Fancher, "Yes, the numbers will be more accurate."

Commissioner Brinza, "Makes perfect sense."

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Dixon to approve the Lansdowne Audit.

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

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

October 20, 2020

Page 14

Discussion and/or approval of tax increment allocation redevelopment (Madison):

Attorney Schooley “I’ve included a letter from Mayor Hamm in your packets. This is an expansion to an already existing TIF District. The area being proposed for the amendment is half vacant land. I do not think the District collects much tax revenue from it at the present time. There is a public hearing scheduled November 23rd, that I will attend in representing the board.

Commissioner Brinza. “That area has needed some development forever.”

Attorney Schooley, “I’d advise we go ahead and make a motion to approve and give Mayor Hamm our blessing.”

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve tax increment allocation redevelopment for City of Madison.

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

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

Discussion and/or approval of Resolution No. 2020-R-003 waving real estate taxes owed by the property owner:

Attorney Schooley, “The City of Madison entered into a 40-year lease agreement with Diamond Plating. The obligation of the lease was Diamond Plating would pay the property taxes. Diamond Plating fell on hard times and filed bankruptcy, therefore tax years 2009 through 2012 were not paid totaling \$158,000.00. The County is now going after the City of Madison because they own the property. The Madison School District has already agreed to wave the fees so that it is not a hardship on the City of Madison. My recommendation is we wave our fees as well. Our fees are total about \$6,000.”

Commissioner Brinza, “After the first year why didn’t they look into it or act on it? I’m not saying go after the money; I just think there should be a comment that this should have been mentioned after the first year.”

Attorney Schooley, “This isn’t my area of law I deal with day in and day out, but I know when the school district buys a vacant lot for the building trades program we file a PTAX 300 form, and we get the exemption to where the taxing district doesn’t pay property taxes. However, I think there is a case out there that when a taxing district owns the property, and uses it for commercial purpose, and a third party makes money on it; they lose the exemption.”

Commissioners Brinza, “Is the property being used now?”

Attorney Schooley, “No, I think it’s just sitting there. Again, it would be my recommendation we go along with the school district and wave the fees. The ordinance Attorney Filcoff prepared is not costing us anything, so I think we go ahead and move to approve the ordinance”

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Dixon to approve

Ordinance No. 2020-R-003 approving waiving real estate taxes.

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

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

October 20, 2020

Page 17

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

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

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

So, adjourned at 9:17 A.M.

Clerk