

**REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE
METRO EAST SANITARY DISTRICT
ST. CLAIR AND MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS
HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023, 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, Dixon, Jackson, and President Oney

Absent: Commissioner Brinza

Others attending the meeting were:

Executive Director Rick Fancher, Director of Operations Mike Nordstrom, Attorney Tom Schooley, Treasurer Kim King, and Engineer Charlie Juneau

Absent: Attorney Sprague

PUBLIC COMMENT None.

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE None.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Fancher reported the following:

Last week, a meeting was held with representatives of the USACE as an introductory meeting to introduce Mr. Nordstrom and Mr. Roehr. An overview was provided, detailing the roles of MESD, the Corps of Engineers, and the Flood Prevention District and establishing points of contact for any communication needed.

The quarterly Stormwater Commission meeting was held.

Winter projects are underway with crews cutting trees and cleaning ditches as well as cleaning up the control gates. The maintenance of equipment is ongoing.

A meeting was held with Mayor Parkinson of Granite City to discuss the details of the Twin 60 Project.

Mr. Fancher, after more than 12 years of service for the Metro East Sanitary District, expressed his gratitude to the Board, acknowledging and appreciating their support during his role as the Executive Director.

REPORT OF ENGINEER

Charlie Juneau reported the following:

A Webex meeting with the USACE is scheduled for December 21st to discuss the missing relief well location documentation.

The annual SWIF will be due in February 2024.

Mr. Juneau met with an electrical engineering company, Utilitra to prepare a proposal to replace the motor control center and electrical panels at North Pump Station.

The City Council of Granite City accepted bids for the lining of the Twin 48" sewer lines and the Twin 60" sewer lines. Based on the bids received and available funding, the bid exceeds the funding available. Therefore, they have revised the scope of services proposed to remove the lining of the twin 48" pipes. Additionally, the southerly 48" sewer line shall be cleaned and televised. This sewer cleaning is approximately 850 lineal feet. The revised apparent low bid, received from Municipal & Contractors Sealing Products (MCSP) is \$2,042,380.00. The City of Granite City request MESD consider a supplemental financial contribution to the project in the amount of \$289,130.00 plus an additional \$204,238.00 contingency for possible change orders. The total funding allocation from MESD would be \$493,368.00. The City of Granite City and Metro East sanitary District would enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement to fund the construction project. Once both parties have agreed on terms, the City will award the project.

- President Oney briefed the Board on this drainage system in Granite, beginning with a 48-inch line that runs under the high school and junior high, extending across Nameoki Road, and then transforming into a twin 60-inch line leading to Nameoki Ditch. Over the past 2 decades, this line has caused sink holes and road collapses, with constructions including houses, fences, and garages built over it. Prior administration, due to funding constraints, applied temporary repairs. The City of Granite applied for a \$1.8 million grant, primarily focusing on addressing the Twin 60-inch line. Based on televising and inspecting the Twin 48-inch line indicates they are in pretty good condition, requiring only cleaning. Granite City has committed to putting \$1.8 million towards this project, with MESD contributing \$250,000, with a buffer of another \$250,000 for contingencies. Mr. Oney expressed his appreciation for the City of Granite's initiative in securing the grant. This proposal will be moved to top priority on the MESD capital project list. If approved, the project would begin February 15, 2024. Mr. Oney expressed his belief that this project is crucial due to potential issues that could arise in the future.
 - o Attorney Schooley clarified that the request to the Board is essentially to authorize administration to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Granite City to fund the Twin 60 Lining Project.

- Charlie Juneau added that the draining system was constructed with MESD funds in the past. Despite MESD attempting temporary patches over the years, they have been unsuccessful in resolving the issue.

MINUTES

The Regular Minutes for November 21st, 2023 were presented for approval:

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

CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS

The General Fund and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

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

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The General Fund Financial Reports for the month of November 2023 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Jackson to approve the General Fund Financial Report as submitted and place on file for audit.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

The Special Funds Financial Reports for the month of November 2023 were submitted for approval:

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

The Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of November 2023 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Lansdowne Fund Financial Report as submitted and place on file for audit.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

PAYROLL

The Payroll for the period of October 29th, 2023, through November 11th, 2023, was submitted for approval:

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

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

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

The Payroll for the period of November 12th, 2023, through November 25th, 2023, was submitted for approval:

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

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

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

LANSDOWNE ADJUSTMENT REPORT

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

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

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

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

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

Attorney Schooley would discuss items placed under new business on the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS None.

NEW BUSINESS

Board approval of future board meeting dates for the year 2024.

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the board meeting dates for 2024.

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

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

Discussion and/or approval of board members contributing to health insurance costs.

- President Oney stated the prior year's transition of removing Board Members from Teamsters Health Insurance resulted in saving the District approximately \$75,000 through single plans. He emphasized at that time the Board Members discussed the option on whether they want to contribute any costs toward the insurance premium. Currently the employees are not, but Board Members are not considered employees in the context of full-time positions. President Oney stated Commissioner Brinza wanted to discuss this in the past, but he is absent today. With that being said, it is up to the Board to decide if they want to contribute to the costs or not. If there is no motion on this matter, it will not proceed any further.
 - o Commissioner Jackson stated he will not be taking the MESD health insurance as he is already covered through his employer.

No motion was made.

Discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2023-0-020 regarding the Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act.

- **Attorney Schooley informed the Board starting January 2024, a new law will take effect. According to the law, if an employer does not provide any form of paid leave, including sick leave, PTO, or vacation, they must provide 40 hours of leave. However, employers can be exempt if they pass an ordinance establishing or re-establishing current leave policies as the official leave policy, eliminating the obligation to provide an additional 40 hours to employees.**

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin approving Ordinance 2023-0-020 regarding the Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act.

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

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

Discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2023-0-021 establishing uniform rates for digital, optic fiber, analog cables/conduits to Zayo to enter along, upon or over and use of the land, levees, and easement of Project 11C of the Metro East Sanitary District.

- **Attorney Schooley stated this is included with the Lansdowne Treatment Plant and Eagle Park sale. This is a \$10,000 annual payment the District will receive. If and/or when the sale is completed this obligation will be transferred to Illinois American Water.**

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Jackson approving Ordinance 2023-0-021 establishing uniform rates for digital, optic fiber, analog cables/conduits to Zayo to enter along, upon or over and use of the land, levees, and easement of Project 11C of the Metro East Sanitary District.

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

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

Discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2023-0-022 establishing uniform rates for pipeline to Enable Mississippi River Transmission, LLC relating to parcels 14-1-15-30-00-000-003, 14-1-15-07-00-000-013 and 14-1-15-08-00-000-005 to enter along, upon or over and use of the land, levees, and easement of the Metro East Sanitary District.

- Attorney Schooley briefed the Board on the ordinance seeking amendment to the District's standard per-foot annual payment. This proposed change involves a one-time payment. Enable initiated a lawsuit against MESD and other property owners using eminent domain powers. In negotiations with their attorney, a lump sum payment of \$320,927.09, along with an additional \$14,175.00 for a temporary construction easement was discussed. This is a remote area out in the middle of nowhere. Attorney Schooley recommends the Board amend its usual fee structure and accept the one-time payment from Enable, leading to the dismissal of the lawsuit and payment scheduled for mid-January 2024.

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin approving Ordinance 2023-0-022 establishing uniform rates for pipeline to Enable Mississippi River Transmission, LLC relating to parcels 14-1-15-30-00-000-003, 14-1-15-07-00-000-013 and 14-1-15-08-00-000-005 to enter along, upon or over and use of the land, levees, and easement of the Metro East Sanitary District.

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

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

Discussion and/or approval authorizing the development of an Intergovernmental Agreement to fund the Twin 60 Lining Project.

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin approving authorization of the development of an Intergovernmental Agreement to fund the Twin 60 Lining Project.

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

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

Board approval of an Asset Purchase Agreement to sell the Eagle Park Wastewater Collection System and Treatment System to Illinois American Water Company.

- **President Oney stated this is the final agreement for the Lansdowne sale. Initially, the first bid from Illinois American Water was very low and was rejected. Illinois American restructured the proposal into two agreements by splitting out Eagle Park from Lansdowne totaling \$8.1 million. The funds obtained will cover the relief well testing and settle the IEPA loan. This sale does not affect the two original Lansdowne billing office employees, unless they would choose to go to Illinois American Water. However, the other three positions do not have this option and will transition to Illinois American Water.**
 - o **Commissioner Jackson asked if the wages would be similar.**
 - **President Oney responded that Illinois American Water will have to adhere to the Collective Bargaining Agreement throughout its duration.**

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin approving an Asset Purchase Agreement to sell the Eagle Park Wastewater Collection System and Treatment System to Illinois American Water Company.

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

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

Board approval of an Asset Purchase Agreement to sell Lansdowne Wastewater Transportation System to Illinois American Water Company.

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Jackson approving an Asset Purchase Agreement to sell Lansdowne Wastewater Transportation System to Illinois American Water Company.

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

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

President Oney noted that the MESD holiday schedule for 2024 was provided in the packets for informational purposes. Based on past occurrences, this is to avoid scheduling meetings on legal holidays.

There being no further business placed before the Board, Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Jackson to adjourn.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

So, adjourned at 9:29A.M.


Clerk