

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

Absent: Commissioner Dixon

Others attending the meeting were:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE:

The City of Collinsville: Notice of petition for annexation of 926 and 929 Fournie Lane.

- Attorney Schooley emphasized this information is for the board awareness. He did note, MESD does have a ditch that runs through parcels in the area. Mr. Schooley has contacted the City of Collinsville for clarification on their plans for the annexation.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Mr. Fancher reported the following:

The regular Corps meeting took place last month, and everything went fine. Mr. Fancher made a request to the Corps for a letter of understanding concerning the relief well testing. Due to river levels being so low, the Corps has been unable to conduct their testing, which in turn MESD cannot test. The river must be over 20 feet for an extended period of time to carry out their test. Mr. Fancher has requested extending the 5-year testing period, as it is currently not possible.

Regarding the completion of bid package 12, which involves the East St. Louis and Madison Pump Stations. Mr. Fancher invited Superintendent Roehr to provide a report on the Corps pump station inspections.

Superintendent Roehr reported everything went well with the pump station inspections, except for pump testing, which could not be done due to river levels. In addition, turf mowing and trimming along the inner side of the ditch where the relief wells were installed all needs to be done. Mowing on each side by Davenroy Construction, backfilling and seeding also needs to be completed. The backfill and seed cannot be done until around October. Furthermore, Superintendent Roehr mentioned warranty work will begin in approximately 3 months.

- Mr. Fancher added the relief well ditch that Mr. Roehr is referring to, the Corps has been putting in new relief wells. The contractor, Davenroy Construction, will handle the cleanup of that area.

Continuing his report, Mr. Fancher reported on the storm damage that took place in West Granite. Fortunately, there was no significant damage except for a brief power outage at Missouri Avenue and Madison Pump Station.

Mr. Fancher received a call from Shawn Sullivan regarding the available FEMA funds. The funds would be allocated for renovation of the CNV Pump Station, with an estimated cost of \$10.5 million. Mr. Fancher deferred to Joe Juneau to report on the project.

- Mr. Juneau reported that FEMA has a mitigation program that offers a 75/25 percent match. Working through IEMA and the Corps of Engineers, Rick and Charlie submitted the application yesterday to completely redo the old pump station, located just north of the Corps of Engineers pump station at the Stanley Ditch area. Before submitting the application, the Corps did provide feedback, they believe this is a highly viable project. The next step is for IEMA to conduct a review. If they also find the project viable, it will then be turned over to FEMA for further consideration. With the 75/25 match, if the application gets approved, the Corps of Engineers would contribute \$8.6 million, and MESD would contribute about \$2 million. These funds can come from a number of different sources. Mr. Juneau mentioned he found it interesting that the Corps recommended categorizing the application under climate change as a way to explain the station's needs for renovation.
 - o President Oney asked what the time frame would be.
 - Mr. Juneau responded according to the Corps, MESD should know within a month if IEMA reviews it as viable. After that, the approval process with FEMA he estimates to take around 6 months. The application will allow MESD to either borrow the money for the local share or potentially partner with another source to come up with the match. This project has been attempted several times, as everyone views it is a viable source. The fact that they reached out to the District is an encouraging sign that they view it as viable this time.
 - Mr. Fancher stated that approximately \$145 million has been spent in our district by the Corps, including both completed and upcoming projects.

Marathon will begin the remediation of the oil spill cleanup July 24, 2023.

- President Oney asked if the District settled with Marathon on the right of entry agreements.
 - o Mr. Fancher responded yes, the damages and right of entry fees have been paid, amounting to about \$140,000.

Commissioner Brinza asked Mr. Fancher what percentage of the work is done with Johnson Controls.

- Mr. Fancher replied the project is finished, however the District is still paying on the loan.
 - o Commissioner Brinza asked if MESD is seeing benefits and if part of the work was for maintenance.
 - Mr. Fancher confirmed they are seeing benefits, one being that no personnel has to man the stations anymore. The system provides all the information for maintenance that needs to be done.

REPORT OF ENGINEERS:

Joe Juneau reported that during the exploratory excavation to determine where the bore casing was coming out on the other side, they discovered an unknown gas main. The bore will need to be extended approximately 10 feet away from the gas main, resulting in a change order estimated to cost around \$9500.00.

- President Oney questioned if this was an active gas line in the property that wasn't known.
 - o Mr. Juneau stated that there were two gas mains found. This gas main is located on the embankment side of the bridge.
 - Mr. Fancher responded there is a gas main marked out there, but they did not know there were two.
 - Mr. Juneau also added, during the excavation through the embankment, they pulled back a significant amount of brick and rubble which was not anticipated would be in that area. There is no prior knowledge of any old structure being there, so it's likely that the brick and rubble were used as backfill at some point in time. The bore is expected to be completed tomorrow, and after that, they will start the TV inspection. Rick will receive a formal price quote for the TV inspection.

MINUTES:

The Regular Minutes for June 20th, 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, Brinza, Jackson and Oney
Nays: None
Absent: Commissioner Dixon

CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS:

The General Fund and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

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

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

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

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Brinza 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, Brinza, Jackson and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Dixon

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

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Jackson 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, Brinza, Jackson and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Dixon

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

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Brinza 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, Brinza, Jackson and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Dixon

PAYROLL:

The Payroll for the period of June 11th, 2023, through June 24th, 2023, was submitted for approval.

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

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

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

The Payroll for the period of June 25th, 2023, through July 8th, 2023, was submitted for approval.

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

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

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

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

REPORT OF ATTORNEYS: No Report

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2023-0-010 establishing the policy of vacation carryover for the Executive Director, his/her appointees, and the District Clerk pursuant to 70ILCS 2905.

- President Oney clarified when an employee separates from the workplace and has retained a significant amount of accrued vacation time, it causes issues with IMRF. The new vacation policy allows a two-week carryover of vacation. Payouts for unused vacation days will begin in August to align with the new policy period.
 - o Commissioner Brinza ensured that no one would lose any vacation time.
 - President Oney confirmed that is correct.

Motion Commissioner Brinza: seconded by Commissioner Jackson approval of Ordinance 2023-0-010 establishing the policy of vacation carryover for the Executive Director, his/her appointees, and the District Clerk pursuant to 70ILCS 2905.

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

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

Discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2023-0-011 authorizing the sale of the Eagle Park Sanitary Collection System.

- President Oney reported this is the purchase agreement.
 - o Attorney Schooley added Illinois American has agreed to some changes in the terms and conditions. Once the final version of the asset purchase agreement and the schedule are in place, they will present it for final approval. This is to formally advise Illinois American the sale is a go.
 - Commissioner Brinza clarified the Board will get a copy of the final agreement.
 - Attorney Schooley confirmed. As of now, the closing date is scheduled for June 2024, and the total sales price is \$8.8 million.

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin approval of Ordinance 2023-0-011 authorizing the sale of the Eagle Park Sanitary Collection System.

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

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

Discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2023-0-012 authorizing the sale of the Wastewater Transportation System serving Venice, Madison, Brooklyn, National City, Fairmont City, Washington Park, Caseyville, and a portion of East St. Louis.

Motion Commissioner Brinza: seconded by Commissioner Jackson approval of Ordinance 2023-0-012 authorizing the sale of the Wastewater Transportation System serving Venice, Madison, Brooklyn, National City, Fairmont City, Washington Park, Caseyville, and a portion of East St. Louis.

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

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

Discussion and/or approval of Juneau Associates, INC. P.C. engineering agreement for miscellaneous engineering services.

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Jackson approving the Juneau Associates, Inc., P.C. engineering agreement.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Jackson and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Dixon

Discussion and/or approval to request proposals for commercial insurance package and workers compensation insurance for the policy period 12/1/2023-12/1/2024.

- President Oney reported the policies will formally be bid. The District is satisfied with the carriers, but had some issues with the broker last year. Last year the Board didn't receive the policy until November, and they did not go out for bid on some parts. This does not imply it will change, but rather to consider exploring the District's options. One notable issue with insurance bidding is that, once a broker is associated with an account, other brokers are restricted from bidding.

Motion Commissioner Jackson: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to request proposals for commercial insurance package and workers compensation insurance policy period 12/1/2023-12/1/2024.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza, Jackson and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Dixon

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

So, adjourned at 9:24 A.M.


Clerk