

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS OF THE METRO EAST  
SANITARY DISTRICT, ST. CLAIR AND  
MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2012 AT 1800 EDISON  
AVENUE, GRANITE CITY, ILLINOIS AT 9:01  
A.M.**

President Economy called the meeting to order and the Clerk recorded the attendance.

The following was the attendance:

Present: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Crockett, Laub and McCall.  
Absent: None.

Also, attending the meeting were Executive Director Shipley, Attorney George Filcoff, Attorney Todd Neilson, Superintendent Walter Greathouse, Superintendent Randy Presswood, Superintendent John Maeras, Superintendent Rick Fancher, Office Manager Cindy Worthen and Treasurer Kenneth Davis.

Joe Juneau, representing Juneau Associates, Inc., Ron O'Connor with O'Connor & Partners, Inc., Ted Ciampoli and Dick Smith were also in attendance.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

An Ordinance concerning the Budget and Annual Appropriation to defray the necessary and ordinary expenses of the Metro East Sanitary District, Lansdowne Sewage Treatment System, of St. Clair and Madison Counties, in the State of Illinois, for the Fiscal Year 2012-2013, beginning the first day of April 2012 and ending on the thirty-first day of March 2013 was presented for adoption. Ordinance Number 2012-0-006 was assigned to this document.

Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Crockett to adopt Ordinance Number 2012-0-006 concerning the Lansdowne Sewage Treatment System Budget and Annual Appropriation for the fiscal year 2012-2013.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Crockett, Laub and McCall.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: None.

President Economy asked to move ahead on the agenda and allow Mr. Ciampoli to address the Board concerning the recent annexation.

Mr. Ciampoli, "I live on the east side of North Bluff Road, also known as Highway 157. The elevation at my house is 509 feet. I do not understand why my home was annexed into the Metro East Sanitary District."

Mr. Juneau, "The FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) map for the AR Zone Restoration was determined with a 432 elevation in that area. The FEMA mapping for the AR Zone was used to establish the boundaries for the annexation. If a property was impacted or touched by the FEMA flood zone, then the entire tract of land was included in that parcel. The front of your property is included in the 432 elevation."

Mr. Ciampoli, "I own a fifteen feet (15') wide driveway on the front of the property, probably fifty feet (50') within the flood zone. Am I paying taxes to the Metro East Sanitary District (MESD) for the entire five to seven acres of property I own?"

Mr. Juneau, "Yes, the entire parcel was annexed into MESD. If any portion of the parcel is within the flood zone, then the entire parcel was annexed."

Mr. Ciampoli, "Seventy percent (70%) of the people that live on the east side of North Bluff Road are retired. We are all retired and on a fixed income. Is this going to require us to obtain flood insurance? I live on the bluff."

Mr. Juneau, "As far as you personally buying flood insurance, there are methods that allow you to obtain an elevation certificate that proves your house is not impacted by the flood zone."

Mr. Ciampoli, "Where do I go to get that certificate?"

Mr. Juneau, "First, if you own your home, you are not required to purchase flood insurance. If you have a mortgage on your home and they require flood insurance, then you can have an elevation certificate prepared and give that to the insurance carrier."

Mr. Ciampoli, "Do I have to pay to have the certificate prepared?"

Mr. Juneau, "Yes, the cost of preparing the certificate is your responsibility."

Mr. Ciampoli, "Does an engineer have to prepare the certificate?"

Mr. Juneau, "Yes."

Mr. Ciampoli, "That doesn't seem fair. My house is seventy-five feet (75') above the road. How can you justify annexing my home into MESD?"

Mr. Juneau, "The area impacted was determined by FEMA, they set the base flow elevation throughout the area. The flood elevation moved from one side of Highway 157 to the other side, it did not stay constant."

Mr. Ciampoli, "What if I built the area up three feet (3')?"

Mr. Juneau, "The 432 contour is significantly across the front of your property."

Mr. Ciampoli, "Why weren't Laura Buick and other commercial properties along that strip annexed into MESD?"

Mr. Juneau, "It was determined by the FEMA maps. The preface is that MESD is providing protection to those elevations. MESD could have annexed farther up the bluffs, since the water is coming down from the bluffs."

Mr. Ciampoli, "What levees or pumping stations protect my property?"

Superintendent Presswood, "The water runs into Cahokia Creek and then into MESD's North Pump Station."

Mr. Ciampoli, "There was a twenty-five percent (25%) sales tax added in Madison County to help pay for levee improvements. If this is a County wide issue, then shouldn't all of Madison County help with this financial burden?"

Mr. Juneau, "The Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District is currently working to upgrade the levee system."

Mr. Ciampoli, "My point of view, more money was needed to maintain the levees, so the boundaries were widened and property was annexed into MESD. Why didn't we hear about this before we received our property tax bill?"

Mr. Juneau, "The annexation in 2011 was the result of authority established and directed by the Illinois General Assembly."

Attorney Neilson, "MESD annexed property at this time, because of all the levee issues facing MESD. An outside company looked at the District boundaries and found that a number of properties were receiving the benefit of MESD's flood protection system for over one hundred (100) years, but not sharing in the cost of maintaining and operating the system. Legislation was passed allowing MESD to annex those properties, by Ordinance. The actual boundaries were based on the FEMA mapping system, elevation of properties and that was the criteria we used to determine the new boundaries. There was an engineering basis for the annexation; it was not just an arbitrary decision."

Mr. Ciampoli, "I can't understand why I should pay property tax or flood insurance on all of our property, when only the driveway is within the flood zone."

Attorney Neilson, "The people that were previously in the Metro East Sanitary District will pay less on their property tax bills to MESD. That amount will be made up for with the newly annexed property. The purpose of the annexation was to enhance the fairness of the taxing system."

Mr. Ciampoli, "Will I be required to purchase flood insurance?"

Attorney Neilson, "We understand your frustration; we did not create the FEMA flood insurance map."

President Economy asked if there were any additional questions, hearing none, he thanked Mr. Ciampoli and Mr. Smith for attending the meeting.

Mr. Ciampoli and Mr. Smith left the meeting at 9:20 A.M.

### **ENGINEERING REPORT:**

Mr. Juneau, "There is a preconstruction meeting tomorrow at 8:30 A.M. to discuss the twin 60" storm sewer rehabilitation project."

### **REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**

Executive Director Shipley reported:

1. Crews are busy mowing and trimming.
2. None of the pump stations are in operation at this time.
3. MESD is going to dredge the ditch by Gateway International Raceway that IDOT discharges water into, since the water level is over our sewer line.
4. Part-time summer employees are being moved from St. Clair County to Madison County due to the budget.
5. We are planning to construct a fence around the Missouri Avenue property in Granite City.
6. There is graffiti on the flood wall by the Casino Queen, so it needs to be painted again.
7. The District Clerk has been fielding calls from property owners of recently annexed property.
8. Madison County laborer Jim Rains is retiring on June 29<sup>th</sup>.
9. The bucket pins on the 324D Long Reach keep breaking, because the bearings are broke in the stick. The total cost for Fabick Tractor Company

to repair the 324D Long Reach was Eight thousand, seventeen dollars and fourteen cents (\$8,017.14).

Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Crockett authorizing payment to Fabick Tractor Company in the amount of Eight thousand, seventeen dollars and fourteen cents (\$8,017.14) for repairs to the 324 Long Reach.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Crockett, Laub and McCall.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: None.

#### **REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT:**

Superintendent Presswood reported:

1. The 850 bulldozer and 324 excavator are being used at Hartford Canal to pull down trees.
2. The old iron sewer pipe and gate valves were replaced with plastic pipe and valves at the metering station in the Madison Yard.

Once the work was completed, the basement of the sampling building was steam cleaned and painted.

3. Next week, we plan to remove the old fence around the Missouri Avenue property and install a new fence.

Superintendent Fancher reported:

1. Seven mowers are out on the levees and ditches mowing. A crew is also spraying weeds.
2. The part-time summer crew is working on Harding Ditch.

Superintendent Maeras reported:

1. The zero turn is being used around the pump stations.
2. There is a broken gate at the back of the South Pump Station. A new gate is being installed at South.
3. Mow units are at Harding Ditch, Lansdowne Ditch and the main levee in Cahokia.
4. A crew is painting the flood wall by the Casino Queen.
5. Several pieces of equipment are in the garage being repaired.

Lansdowne Office Manager Cindy Worthen reported:

1. Illinois American Water Company is continuing to disconnect water weekly for past due sewage treatment bills.

Illinois American shut off the water to Gateway Cold Storage for non-payment.

2. Collections are good.
3. The office staff is going through legal accounts to determine their status.
4. Baily International paid their sewage treatment bill in full.

## **MINUTES:**

The minutes for the June 6, 2012 meeting were presented for approval:

Motion Commissioner Crockett; seconded Commissioner Laub 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 Economy, Hanfelder, Crockett, Laub and McCall.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: None.

## **GENERAL FUND CLAIMS:**

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The General Fund Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:



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Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Crockett to approve the General Fund Claims and Specific Claims as submitted and order them paid.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Crockett, Laub and McCall.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

**LANSDOWNE CLAIMS & SPECIFIC CLAIMS:**

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

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Motion Commissioner Hanfelder; seconded Commissioner McCall to approve the Lansdowne Treatment Plant Claims and Specific Claims as submitted and order them paid.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Crockett, Laub and McCall.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

**LANSDOWNE REPORT:**

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

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Motion Commissioner Crockett; seconded Commissioner Laub to approve the Lansdowne Adjustment Reports as submitted.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Crockett, Laub and McCall.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

**PAYROLL:**

The Payroll for the period of May 27, 2012 through June 9, 2012 was submitted for approval.

Motion Commissioner Crockett; seconded Commissioner Laub to approve the Payroll as submitted.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Crockett, Laub and McCall.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: None.

**REPORT OF ATTORNEY:**

Attorney Filcoff, "I am currently working on several projects for the District."

Attorney Neilson reported:

I am working with Ron O'Connor to prepare a statement regarding the annexation for the office staff and the MESD website.

The District Clerk informed me that the assessed valuation in St. Clair County went down from last year. She was concerned there was a problem with the annexation.

I contacted St. Clair County to clarify how the assessed valuation went down, when almost three thousand (3,000) parcels were annexed into the District in St. Clair County.

The County Clerk's office explained that last year the assessed valuation was Two hundred and two million dollars (\$202,000,000). This year the assessed valuation went down to One hundred sixty million dollars (\$160,000,000) due to a negative twenty percent (-20%) multiplier. The annexation then brought the assessed valuation back up to One hundred ninety-two million dollars (\$192,000,000), which is still lower than last year.

I would like to discuss union negotiations during Executive Session.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

An agreement between O'Connor & Partners, Inc. and the Metro East Sanitary District authorizing O'Connor & Partners, Inc. to provide counsel and support for a public information and community education program for the Metro East Sanitary District was presented:

Motion Commissioner Hanfelder; seconded Commissioner Crockett to approve the agreement between O'Connor & Partners, Inc. and the Metro East Sanitary District.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Crockett, Laub and McCall.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: None.

Mr. O'Connor, "I met with Executive Director Shipley, Superintendent Greathouse, Superintendent Maeras and District Clerk Rosemarie Heath to discuss some possible slogans or brand statements. The slogans or brand statements can be used on the District letter head and to remind employees and citizens that MESD is here for you."

"I would like to have a decision on the slogan or brand statement within the next two weeks."

A request from Mr. Robert Pierce to reduce his sewage treatment bill at 8804 Botanical Avenue, Caseyville, Illinois was presented:

Superintendent Maeras, "I went to Mr. Pierce's residence and took pictures of the swimming pool and garden. The pool is very small."

President Economy, "We cannot start giving everyone that has a garden or small swimming pool a reduction in their sewage treatment bill."

Motion Commissioner Hanfelder; seconded Commissioner Laub to deny the request from Mr. Robert Pierce to reduce his sewage treatment bill.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Crockett, Laub and McCall.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: None.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Attorney Neilson, "I would like to report on the contract negotiations between Operating Engineers Local 148 and MESD during Executive Session."

Motion Commissioner Hanfelder; seconded Commissioner McCall to enter into Executive Session to discuss union contract negotiations.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Crockett, Laub and McCall.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: None.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:50 A.M.

President Economy called the meeting back to order at 10:17 A.M. and the Clerk recorded the attendance:

Present: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Crockett, Laub and McCall.  
Absent: None.

Also, attending the meeting at this time were Executive Director Bob Shipley, Attorney George Filcoff, Attorney Todd Neilson and Superintendent Greathouse.

President Economy, "After discussing the matter in Executive Session, I recommend Attorney Neilson continue negotiations with representatives from Operating Engineers Local 148."

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Laub authorizing Attorney Todd Neilson to continue negotiations with Operating Engineers Local 148.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Crockett, Laub and McCall.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: None.

There being no further business, Motion Commissioner Crockett; seconded Commissioner Hanfelder to adjourn.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Crockett, Laub and McCall.  
Nays: None.  
Absent: None.

So adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

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Clerk