

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF THE METRO EAST
SANITARY DISTRICT, ST. CLAIR AND
MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014 AT 1800
EDISON AVENUE, GRANITE CITY, ILLINOIS AT
9:00 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 and Laub.
Absent: Commissioner McCall.

Also, attending the meeting were Executive Director Bob Shipley, Attorney George Filcoff, Attorney Larry Calvo, Superintendent John Maeras, Director of Operations Walter Greathouse, Superintendent Rick Fancher, Superintendent Randy Presswood, Lansdowne Office Manager Cindy Worthen, Treasurer Ken Davis and Madison County Board Chairman Alan Dunstan.

ENGINEERING REPORT: None.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Executive Director Shipley presented his report:

Executive Director Shipley, “The report includes things that occurred during the last two weeks.”

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENTS:

Superintendent Presswood reported:

1. The 324 excavator is being used to dredge along Sand Prairie Lane.
2. The 320 is behind Gateway International Raceway mowing.
3. There is a flat tire on the lowboy. As soon as the tire is repaired, the lowboy will be moved to South Pump Station to assist with cleaning the bay.

Superintendent Fancher reported:

Two mowers are out today. The remaining employees are in the pump stations.

The pump stations have been in operation for a week. We hope to be out by Monday, September 22, 2014.

Director of Operations Walter Greathouse reported:

1. Executive Director Shipley, Superintendent Maeras and I met with representatives from the East St. Louis Port Authority.

Hurst-Rosche Engineering attended the meeting on behalf of the Metro East Sanitary District.

2. America’s Central Port provided the District with a copy of the final plans for the new conveyer system.

We also received a copy of the permit issued by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

3. The Illinois Department of Transportation requested a Permit for work along Highway 157 and Schoenberger Creek. Attorney Filcoff and I are working on the Permit.
4. I am also working with Attorney Calvo to renew an expired Ameren Ordinance for a gas line at Black Lane.

Superintendent Maeras reported:

1. All of the pump stations are in operation. South Pump Station should be closed tomorrow.

The Mississippi River is at 25.4 today. The forecast indicates the river will start going down tomorrow.

2. One mow unit is out today.
3. The mechanic is busy repairing equipment.

Lansdowne Office Manager Cindy Worthen reported:

1. Letters are being mailed to past due accounts.
2. Fifteen accounts were scheduled to have their water disconnected this week. Eleven of the fifteen paid before the disconnect date, the remaining four paid after the water was disconnected.
3. I am working with American Bottoms to determine if the wastewater flow from a few accounts is going to American Bottoms or the Metro East Sanitary District.

MINUTES:

The minutes for the September 3, 2014 meeting were presented for approval.

Motion Commissioner Hanfelder; seconded Commissioner Crockett 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 and Laub.

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner McCall.

GENERAL FUND CLAIMS:

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

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Motion Commissioner Crockett; seconded Commissioner Laub 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 and Laub.

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner McCall.

LANSDOWNE CLAIMS & SPECIFIC CLAIMS:

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

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Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Hanfelder 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 and Laub.

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner McCall.

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 and Laub.

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner McCall.

PAYROLL:

The Payroll for the period of August 17, 2014 through August 30, 2014 was submitted for approval.

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Crockett and Laub.

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner McCall.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY:

Attorney Filcoff, "The Illinois Department of Transportation hired Dave More from Volkert Company to obtain an easement from the Metro East Sanitary District for the new bridge project along the Schoenberger Creek and Highway 157."

Attorney Calvo, "As Walter Greathouse mentioned, I am working to renew an Ordinance with Ameren."

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requested assistance from the Metro East Sanitary District to determine property ownership. I will be working on this for several months."

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Economy, "At the last meeting we discussed the District's finances. I requested a copy of the electric bills from the Accounts Payable Clerk. Some of the electric bills are very high."

Commissioner Laub, "I suggested, during the last meeting, that someone should investigate the availability of grants for solar power."

Superintendent Maeras, "The pumps at the pump stations require a large amount of electricity to operate. They cannot be operated with solar power. We could use solar power for the lights."

Mr. Greathouse, "Years ago, we had a study performed on the electricity required at the pump stations. They were not able to find an alternative solution to reduce the cost."

Commissioner Laub, "I think we should see if any grants are available."

President Economy thanked Madison County Board Chairman Alan Dunstan for attending the meeting.

Chairman Dunstan explained:

Executive Director Shipley and I just left the Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District Council (FPD) meeting.

The FPD plans to complete improvements to meet the 100 year flood protection level next year.

However, we must ultimately meet the 500 year level. When businesses look for areas to relocate or build, they consider the protection of the levee system.

The 100 year level is the first step, but the 500 year level is the goal.

I also wanted to address the subject of equipment usage. Vehicles and equipment can only be used for Metro East Sanitary District purposes. They cannot be used for personal use.

If any equipment is being used personally, it must be stopped immediately.

I will be happy to answer any questions.

Superintendent Maeras, “We help the Village of Cahokia and other government entities at times. Can we continue to work with other government agencies?”

Chairman Dunstan, “There is not a problem with helping other government entities. However, you cannot take company equipment home for your personal use.”

Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Crockett prohibiting the use of Metro East Sanitary District vehicles or equipment for personal use.

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

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

Commissioner Laub, “I recommend that the Metro East Sanitary District decal be placed on all vehicles and equipment.”

Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Crockett that the Metro East Sanitary District decal is attached to all District vehicles and equipment and is clearly visible.

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

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

Madison County Board Chairman Alan Dunstan left the meeting at 9:17 A.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Hanfelder to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Crockett and Laub.

Nays: None.

Absent: Commissioner McCall.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:17 A.M.

President Economy called the meeting back to order at 9:58 A.M. and the Clerk recorded the attendance:

Present: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Crockett and Laub.

Absent: Commissioner McCall.

Also, attending the meeting at this time were Executive Director Shipley, Attorney George Filcoff, Attorney Larry Calvo and Superintendent Randy Presswood.

President Economy, "After discussing the matter during Executive Session, I recommend that Superintendent Randy Presswood be given time off work without pay for the improper use of Metro East Sanitary District equipment and for providing false information about this matter."

Superintendent Presswood, "I understand that I am not allowed to use MESD vehicles or equipment for personal use. However, what are my hours of work. The answering machine for the lift stations gives my telephone number as a contact if there is a problem. These calls can occur during the middle of the night or on weekends."

President Economy, "As a Superintendent, you are on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Your salary is based on the fact that you are on call.

If you receive a telephone call and must go to the job site, go home and get the MESD truck and then take it to the job site. The MESD truck is not to be driven for personal use.”

Commissioner Hanfelder, “Remember to keep a log of where you go and how many miles when using the MESD truck.”

Motion Commissioner Hanfelder; seconded Commissioner Laub to suspend Superintendent Presswood for three days without pay for the improper use of Metro East Sanitary District equipment and for providing false information to the Board of Commissioners about this matter.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Crockett and Laub.

Nays: Commissioner Economy.

Absent: Commissioner McCall.

President Economy stated, “I voted no, because I feel very strongly that the disciplinary action should be more severe.”

Commissioner Hanfelder, “I asked the District Clerk to explain, at the next meeting, what the reserve account expense listed on the monthly Lansdowne financial report is being used for.”

Commissioner Laub, “The Granite City Park District has requested dirt for one of their sites. Can MESD deliver dirt to that location?”

Attorney Filcoff, “The District has excess dirt that has become a serious issue. I do not see a problem with assisting another government entity, especially since it will help alleviate a problem the District is having with the accumulation of dirt.”

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

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

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

So adjourned at 10:04 A.M.

Clerk