

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF THE METRO EAST
SANITARY DISTRICT, ST. CLAIR AND
MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2010 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, Penny and Crockett.

Absent: Commissioner Laub.

The Deputy Clerk reported that Commissioner Laub called and asked to be excused from the meeting.

Also, attending the meeting were Executive Director Bob Shipley, Attorney George Filcoff, Attorney Todd Neilson, Superintendent Maeras, Superintendent Greathouse, Superintendent Presswood and Treasurer Charles Hester. Marilyn Browning from Country Financial was also in attendance.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHIPLEY:

Executive Director Shipley reported:

Again manning four pump stations, Cahokia, North, Venice and if it rains South. The River is currently at 22 feet.

This year, the total days in pump stations: South 177 days, Cahokia 184 days, Madison and Venice 200 days, North 190 days and East St. Louis 222 days.

We had to put part time men back into the stations and this is higher costs.

Commissioner Penny asked, "How many hours a day are the stations manned?"

Executive Director Shipley replied, "24 hours a day."

Executive Director Shipley continued with his report:

The Control gates are ripped out. Outside contractors are working on this project. When it rains the water is over the backside of the culvert.

A new motor and parts were installed in the Bremen Climber Screen.

Our men working on the Lansdowne ditch for approximately 6 weeks now. They did an excellent job. I got a call from Code enforcement of Washington Park yesterday questioning when we were going to clean the ditch.

IDOT doing everything they can to secure and make five stations safe.

The University of Illinois is at Lansdowne ditch performing an archaeological dig.

I talked to Mark Kern concerning the Bike Trail. We will work on the Trail after the levee is fixed. Currently we have a mud slide on the levee.

I received quotes from John Hamm to asphalt, seal and strike the parking lots. Job to be done in a week and a half. Madison Ave. lot \$750.00 (seven hundred fifty dollars) and Edison lot \$1,125.00 (one thousand, one hundred twenty-five dollars).

Motion Commissioner Hanfelder; seconded Commissioner Penny to approve the price quotes from Hamm's Landscaping to asphalt the parking lots at 1801 Madison Avenue and 1800 Edison Avenue in Granite City, Illinois.

Upon roll call, the motion carried by following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny and Crockett.

Nays: None

Excused: Commissioner Laub.

Executive Director Shipley, "We have four vehicles that need to be scrapped or sold. I recommend advertising for bids and selling the vehicles."

Motion Commissioner Penny; seconded Commissioner Hanfelder to advertise for bids for the sale of the 1994 Ford F-150 XL, 1995 G.M.C. Sierra, 1998 Crown Victoria and 1996 Ford F-250 XL.

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

Ayes; Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny and Crockett.

Nays: None

Excused: Commissioner Laub

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENTS:

Randy Presswood reported:

1. Cleaned out concrete ditch in E. St. Louis.
2. Had to have the 850 Tractor worked on. The Hydraulic cooler & radiator both had to be fixed.
3. Demo of Control Gates good. There will be a man out to backhoe tomorrow.
4. Still attending the Eagle Park Acres meetings every Thursday. They are still having issues and project seems to be a slow process.
5. Climber Screen at Bremen seemed to be a quick fix, the gear box locked up. Currently Charlie Juneau is working on getting Grant money to possibly purchase new equipment.

President Economy, "Superintendent Presswood, I want you to call Shapiro to load up scrap at 17th Street. They load up and weigh the scrap and send us the check."

Superintendent Presswood, "Okay, I'll give them a call."

Superintendent Presswood was excused from meeting, to attend an equipment auction.

Superintendent Maeras reported:

1. Back in pump stations. Positions filled with 5 regular men and also part time men.
2. I have three mowers on River front main levee. Currently, at Lansdowne finishing up Harding Ditch and then to Bunkum road by the weekend.
3. First Pump in operation.
4. Currently two Labors trimming at Flood wall.
5. Bob Jefferies called from ICON. The #5 Flap gate, North station there is going to be a change. He'll send Bob an email with the price change.
6. Mechanics are busy keeping the brush hog and tractors running.

Superintendent Greathouse reported:

1. Currently 5 mowers are out. One at Venice Levee and Four at Hartford.
2. Currently the river is at 22.2 and is going up.
3. Shut one gate at Horseshoe Lake on Monday per the Executive Director's request. This caused the River to drop one foot.

REPORT OF ENGINEER: None.

LANSDOWNE ADJUSTMENT REPORTS:

The Lansdowne Adjustment reports were presented for approval:

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny and Crockett.

Nays: None.

Excused: Commissioner Laub.

GENERAL FUND CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS LIST:

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

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Motion Commissioner Penny; 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, Penny and Crockett.

Nays: None.

Excused: Commissioner Laub.

LANSDOWNE CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS LIST:

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

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Motion Commissioner Penny; seconded Commissioner Crockett 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, Penny and Crockett.

Nays: None.

Excused: Commissioner Laub.

PAYROLL:

The Payroll for the period of August 22, 2010 through September 04, 2010 was submitted for approval:

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny and Crockett.

Nays: None.

Excused: Commissioner Laub.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY:

Attorney Filcoff, "I have not heard anything from the Church regarding the land swap with the East St. Louis Housing Authority. I am working on other things that the Executive Director will mention later."

Attorney Nielson had nothing to report at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Executive Director Shipley presented a Letter of Understanding and Resolution from the Illinois Department of Transportation regarding a new bridge structure over the Mississippi River, which will include connecting a proposed 42 inch Reinforced Concrete Pipe into the existing Cahokia Canal box culvert at two locations. Number 2010-R-006 was assigned to this document:

Motion Commissioner Hanfelder; seconded Commissioner Crockett to approve the Letter of Understanding (LU-810-906) and adopt Resolution Number 2010-R-006 approving plans for connecting into the existing Cahokia Canal Box Culvert at two locations.

Upon roll call, the motion carried the vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny and Crockett.

Nays: None

Excused: Commissioner Laub.

President Economy, "Today we have Marilyn Browning from Country Financial wanting to address the board concerning insurance.

Ms. Browning, "I am here to discuss the bid for Health Insurance. I need to be Agent of Record to get you good insurance bids and to get necessary information I need to be Agent of Record."

Executive Director Shipley, "Mr. Stern was voted in by the Board of Commissioners to be Agent of Record. It is not right for us to vote a new Agent of Record since Mr. Stern and Betty Meszaros have done all of the work."

Ms Browning, "Metro East Sanitary District has always had the same agent?"

Executive Director Shipley replied, "No."

Ms. Browning, "The Board of Directors okayed me to bid."

President Economy, "Do you have to be the Agent to bid?"

Ms. Browning, "Health Insurance will only work with one person. I also cannot get all of the paperwork from this office. I have asked over and over again. You need to pick an agent that will ask Blue Cross/Blue Shield why increase of 93%. I can find out why you had such a large increase if I am your agent. You are guaranteed a rate for one year and then possibly after a year add on maybe 25%."

President Economy, "I think we should bid on an Agent with the lowest bid."

Commissioner Hanfelder, "By the lowest bid, you mean they will tack on a surcharge now or at the end of the year?"

Ms. Browning, "The surcharge they tacked on right now. They took a number like our bid and put on 25% on top of it. We are willing to take a risk on this group because of surcharge."

Attorney Todd Nielson, "To get a final bid you must have completed all bids and had the information."

Ms. Browning, "There is approximately 5% of information that I have not received to get a good bid. Blue Cross/Blue Shield raised previous rate to \$93,000. What our company was saying is why would United Health Care having known that bid less? That doesn't make good business."

Executive Director Shipley, "It's the same thing they did to us last year. Blue Cross/ Blue Shield tried to raise insurance to \$250,000. Whenever we told them that we were going to shop for other insurance they dropped to \$30,000. We saved \$220,000 just by saying were going to shop somewhere else."

Ms. Browning, "That is why we asked you to transfer Agent of Record to us. With Blue Cross/Blue Shield and us as Agent of Record they will work directly with us. This gives the agent negotiating power to work for you. And you need to choose an agent to work for your Company. It's about an Agent choice not as much as a Company choice. We all have access to all these health insurance companies; it's what we can do when we have all of your information."

Executive Director Shipley, "That is fine. And if we want to go up for bid of a new agent, that's what we should do. Not a problem."

Ms. Browning, "That is why we were asking you to do this. Our company is spinning our wheels doing all of this work and it's costing us money. It's very time

consuming, we have eight people working on this with additional expenses. So for our sake and yours we can't continue to hang like this."

President Economy, "How much are you going to save us?"

Ms. Browning, "I don't know without the applications."

President Economy, "I thought the savings was going to be in the three to four figures."

Ms. Browning, "I have only some of the applications."

President Economy, "You don't have them all?"

Ms. Browning, "No, I don't have them all and the retirees are an issue. Because when you have some people up in age, well. The group we have applications on now seem to be very healthy. We are looking at the applications and realizing it has to be the retirees."

Attorney Neilson, "What if we took out the retirees?"

Executive Director Shipley; The retirees are already out of the mix.

Ms. Browning, "Okay that could have made the difference in the United Health Care information that he negotiated with."

Attorney Neilson, "It was an employer based form that was filled out, based on the employer's knowledge. They had to write down what the employer knew about what health issues the employees have."

Ms. Browning, "So, they did ask health questions."

Attorney Neilson, "Yes, but not individual questionnaires."

NEW BUSINESS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion Commissioner Crockett; seconded Commissioner Hanfelder to enter into Executive Session to discuss health insurance.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny and Crockett.

Nays: None.

Excused: Commissioner Laub.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:45 A.M.

President Economy called the meeting back to order at 10:03 A.M. and the Clerk recorded the attendance:

Present: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder Penny and Crockett.

Excused: Commissioner Laub.

Also, attending the meeting at this time were Executive Director Shipley, Attorney George Filcoff, Attorney Todd Neilson and Marilyn Browning.

President Economy, "After discussing the matter during Executive Session, the Board would appreciate if Ms. Browning would provide a quote for health insurance coverage."

Ms. Browning, "I cannot provide a quote until the MESD office staff provides the information I requested."

Attorney Filcoff, "Please fax or call the Executive Director with a list of the information you need to provide a quote for health insurance."

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners Economy, Hanfelder, Penny and Crockett.

Nays: None.

Excused: Commissioner Laub.

So adjourned at 10:13 A.M.

Deputy Clerk