

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
METRO EAST SANITARY DISTRICT
ST. CLAIR AND MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS
HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021 AT 9:00 A.M.
LOCATED AT: 1800 EDISON AVENUE, GRANITE CITY, IL 62040**

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

The following was the attendance:

Present: Commissioners McCall, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza and Oney.

Absent: None

Metro East Sanitary District employees attending the meeting were Executive Director Rick Fancher, Treasurer Kim King, Attorney Schooley, Attorney Meinders, Kim Hogue and Amy Parkinson

Also, attending the meeting were Charlie Juneau representing Juneau Associates.

APPOINTMENTS: DISTRICT CLERK/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

President Oney made the motion to appoint Amy Parkinson as the District Clerk/Administrative Assistant; seconded by Commissioner Darwin

Commissioner Brinza requested the qualification background pertaining to Mrs. Parkinson.

- Director Fancher explained that Amy Parkinson came from the Madison County Housing Authority with 26 years of experience being an Administrator for that agency.

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

Ayes: Commissioners, McCall, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: None

APPOINTMENTS: INFORMATION OFFICER

President Oney stated that the Board will discuss this appointment under new business since it is listed as an ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Executive Director Fancher reported:

The MESD employees will piggyback with the city for the COVID-19 shots. As of today, we are scheduled for February 27, 2021 to get the first shot. Then 30 days after we will get the second round. We have a 70% employee compliance rate. There have been other employees that have already obtained their shot.

Still ongoing with the Operating Engineers as far as the contract is concerned.

The SWIF letter will be submitted by the end of the month.

MESD employees are still doing the preventative maintenance on all equipment for the winter.

Corp meetings pertaining to the cut off wall completion is still on schedule even with the weather. Spring of 2022 is the projected date for the completion of this project.

APPOINTMENTS: LANSDOWNE OFFICE MANAGER / IT APPOINTMENT

President Oney requested that this appointment be tabled and further discussed in Executive Session.

- Attorney Schooley stated it will be listed under Open Meetings Act, part 2 (c) 1 - to discuss personnel.

REPORT OF ENGINEER:

Mr. Juneau reported:

We continue the monthly coordination meetings with the Army Corp of Engineers. We met on January 26th and will meet again on February 16th. We are moving well with them and the updates.

Regarding the 500-Year Level we are continuing to work with Wood Engineers who are under a contract with Southwestern Illinois Flood Plan Prevention District. We have obtained all the easements for the next phase and continue to work with their needs.

The Lansdowne Interceptor Sewer Project is on hold at this time.

The annual System Wide Improvement Framework (SWIF) is in the process of being completed and will be available for review the early part of next week if not the end of this week. We met with staff and most items from the inspection that were showing as unsatisfactory have been corrected and were just miscellaneous items. There were no major items under the SWIF inspection that was received in January.

MESD is working with Ameren to straighten out a bunch of the easements. MESD is requesting an update of all the easements and lease agreements with Ameren because they have several crossings on our property. Mr. Juneau stated that he will meet with Attorney Schooley and Attorney Meinders to discuss this matter further.

- Attorney Schooley asked Mr. Juneau if he was referring to the individual easements or master licensing agreement with Ameren.
- Charlie Juneau stated that they would discuss a little bit of both topics.

Mr. Juneau still expressed concern pertaining to the Washington Park records preservation.

The Granite City Regional Waste Water Treatment Plant's high TSS (Total Suspended Solids) is still bothersome and will meet with Scott and Rick regarding the source is suspected to be Bellman's yard and get further updates.

- President Oney informed Charlie Juneau that he has been in discussion with Jeff Hamilton of the treatment plant. President Oney continued saying that Mr. Hamilton has contacted the Illinois EPA. They know that the source is coming from Bellman from when they are washing their dust down into the system.
- President Oney stated that unfortunately this is a two-fold problem. He addressed the Board by saying "You know the way our numbers work for our allocation. The Regional Board throws out our high numbers so when we have higher TSS they are not paying for that load. However, that high TSS is still going into the plant which can cause issues in which we would eventually have to pay for the repairs."
- Jeff Hamilton has filed a complaint with the Illinois EPA.
- President Oney stated that what Bellman is doing is a violation.

See attached for the actual report from Charlie Juneau.

MINUTES:

The minutes for the January 19, 2021 were presented for approval.

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Brinza 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, McCall, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:

The executive session minutes for the January 19, 2021 meetings were presented for approval:

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Brinza to approve the executive session minutes, as submitted and place them on file.

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

Ayes: Commissioners, McCall, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: None

CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS:

The General Fund and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner McCall 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, McCall, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners, McCall, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: None

PAYROLL:

The Payroll for the period of January 10, 2021 through January 23, 2021 were submitted for approval.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the Payroll as submitted.

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

Ayes: Commissioners, McCall, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Payroll for the period of January 24, 2021 through February 5, 2021 were submitted for approval.

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Dixon to approve the Payroll as submitted.

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

Ayes: Commissioners, McCall, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: None

Lansdowne adjustment reports were submitted for approval.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner McCall to approve the Lansdowne Adjustment Report as submitted.

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

Ayes: Commissioners, McCall, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: None

REPORT OF ATTORNEY:

Attorney Schooley reported:

In discussions for the litigation pertaining to the wrongful termination lawsuits. We had two new lawsuits filed. Mr. Cedric Irby and Mr. Steven Adler filed Pro Se' in the Madison County Courts. Our insurance carrier IPMG has assigned the cases to an Attorney in Belleville.

Andy Economy that held the Executive Director position for three (3) weeks has also filed a litigation through a law firm out of St. Louis.

These cases were filed the 3rd week in January.

Attorney Meinders reported:

I sent out letters for the surcharges. We have had a few objections to the taxes but have not heard any decisions back as of yet.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review of the Executive Session Minutes to determine if the minutes should remain closed or be opened the public.

- Attorney Schooley informed the Board that per the Open Meetings Act the Board is required every six (6) months to review their Executive Session Minutes to determine whether they should remain closed or open to the public.
- Attorney Schooley stated that Kim Hogue provided him with the minutes from June 16, 2019 through November 17, 2020.
- Attorney Schooley informed the Board that a lot of the contents of the minutes pertain to ligations, collective bargaining, and personnel.
- It would be at his recommendation to the Board that these minutes remail closed as it could impact these matters.

Motion to keep the Executive Minutes closed was brought forth by Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner McCall.

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

Ayes: Commissioners, McCall, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: None

An Ordinance to discuss and or approve appointing an Information Officer was presented. Ordinance 2021-0-002 was assigned to this document.

- Approval and appointment assigned to Tom Schooley and Amy Parkinson as the Information Officers for MESD.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner McCall to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-0-002 approving and appointing the Information Officer.

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

Ayes: Commissioners, McCall, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: None

A Resolution to discuss and or approval of the Authorization of Bank Signers was presented. Resolution 2021-R-001 was assigned to this document.

- Approval to add Amy Parkinson as an authorized bank signer for the Metro East Sanitary District.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner McCall to adopt Resolution 2021-0-002 approving and appointing the Information Officer.

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

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

President Oney stated that the Board will enter into Executive Session to further discuss the Approval or Discussion of Creating Ordinance / Easement Clerk job for union and the District Clerk's salary because they are both tied together.

- Attorney Schooley stated the Board will enter into Executive Session under the Open Meetings Act part 2 (c) 1 –to discuss specific employees of the District.
- President Oney informed the Board that they will vote on the above when they come out of Executive Session.

Discussion and / or approval of RFP & RFQ on Lansdowne Sewer System (Illinois American Water)

- President Oney informed the Board that this topic was discussed at the last meeting in which Illinois American Water is pushing toward the purchase but there could be other entities willing to purchase our Lansdowne collection system.
- President Oney also stated that if anyone does acquire the Lansdowne collection system, they are required to hire two (2) of our Pump Operators and three (3) of our Billing Clerks so there will be no displacements of jobs.
- President Oney reiterated to the Board that this was just a proposal not an acceptance. If we do accept a purchase, there will be other phases we will have to go through to complete the deal.
- President Oney stated that this was done in Godfrey, Alton, Granite City, Jerseyville, Grafton. Illinois American Water is actively acquiring sewer systems. Dar

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin

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

Ayes: Commissioners, McCall, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin; to enter into Executive Session for the exceptions noted under 5 ILCS 120/2(c) 1. Appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, or performance of employees and pending or threatened or imminent litigation.

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

Ayes: Commissioners, McCall, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: None

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The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:34 A.M.

- See attached notes from Attorney Schooley

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Brinza to return to regular session at 9:50 A.M.

The Clerk recorded the attendance:

Present: Commissioners, McCall, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza and Oney

Absent:

Metro East Sanitary District employees attending the meeting were Executive Director Rick Fancher, Treasurer Kim King, Attorney Schooley, Kim Hogue, and Amy Parkinson.

An Ordinance to discuss and or approve creating Ordinance / Easement Clerk
Job for a Union position was presented.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve
creating Ordinance / Easement Clerk Job for a Union position

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

Ayes: Commissioners, McCall, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: None

An Ordinance to approve District Clerk Salary was presented. Ordinance 2021-0-003 was assigned to this document.

Motion Commissioner Brinza; seconded Commissioner Darwin to adopt Ordinance No. 2021-0-003 approving the District Clerk Salary.

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

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

ANY FURTHER BUSINESS PLACED BEFORE THE BOARD:

Commissioner Brinza asked when the Board can expect an update on the project plan with Johnson Controls.

- President Oney stated that he was given a portion of the report and they are currently working on the remaining part.
- President Oney informed the Board that they will have it before the next meeting. He currently has 2018, 2019 & 2020 on the utilities and they are in the process of putting it together.

President Oney informed the Board that next months meeting will be held as an “In Person” regular meeting. President Oney stated that the Board Members will still have the availability to continue through zoom and COVID-19 precautions will still be in place. However, they are requesting that the public remain remote.

There being no further business, Motion Commissioner Darwin;
seconded Commissioner Brinza to adjourn.

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

Ayes: Commissioners, McCall, Darwin, Dixon, Brinza and Oney

Nays: None

Absent: None

So, adjourned at 9:56 A.M.

Clerk