

**REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE
METRO EAST SANITARY DISTRICT
ST. CLAIR AND MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS
HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024, 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, Dixon, and President Oney
Absent: Commissioner Jackson

Others attending the meeting were:

Executive Director Mike Nordstrom, Superintendent Justin Roehr, Attorney Tom Schooley, Attorney Robert Sprague, Treasurer Kim King, Engineer Joe Juneau, and Investigative Reporter, Janelle O'Dea with Illinois Answers Project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Janelle O'Dea introduced herself to the Board, stating she is a reporter for the Illinois Answers Project, a nonprofit newsroom headquartered in Chicago. Although based in St. Louis, she works remotely in the Metro East area. As someone new to the job, she is attending various meetings in the area to familiarize herself with the community and see what matters most to the people.

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

The two notices of correspondence are just informational for the Board.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Nordstrom reported the following:

Mowing in both counties is nearly complete for the year, with the exception of work involving the remote-controlled mower. This mower will be used in areas where tractors were not able to maneuver around trees.

General maintenance will now begin, including road grading, tree trimming, and gate repair. The gates will receive new yellow tubing and paint. Additionally, all pump stations will be deep cleaned and painted.

Over the last 3 to 4 months, several projects have been completed, including desilting at North Pump Station, desilting Lake Drive in East St Louis, and repairing a small levee washout at Horseshoe Lake Road. Work at South Station remains on hold due to the rain events, the area needs to be dry before desilting.

Recently, Mr. Nordstrom, Superintendent Roehr and President Oney met to complete an equipment evaluation of the District. You will see on the agenda each piece of equipment needed is listed. It has been years since new equipment was last purchased.

REPORT OF ENGINEER

Joe Juneau reported the following:

The Harding Ditch study is ongoing. Juneau is working with the SIUE Professor and the Corps of Engineers on the hydraulic model.

- President Oney asked if a date has been scheduled for the electrical bids on the control panels for North Station.
 - o Mr. Juneau stated he does not believe anything has been set.

MINUTES

The Regular Minutes for October 15th, 2024 were presented for approval:

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

CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS

The General Fund and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

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

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The General Fund Financial Reports for the month of October 2024 were submitted for approval:

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

The Special Funds Financial Reports for the month of October 2024 were submitted for approval:

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

The Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of October 2024 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Lansdowne Financial Report as submitted and place on file for audit.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

PAYROLL

The Payroll for the period of September 29th, 2024, through October 12th, 2024, was submitted for approval:

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

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

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

The Payroll for the period of October 13th, 2024, through October 26th, 2024, was submitted for approval:

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

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

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

The Payroll for the period of October 27th, 2024, through November 9th, 2024, was submitted for approval:

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

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

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

LANSDOWNE ADJUSTMENT REPORT

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

- President Oney informed the Board that over the next couple months, the adjustment reports may be high due to the sale of Lansdowne. Liens can be placed on the properties with outstanding debt; however, Illinois American Water shut off agreement is now void.

Motion Commissioner Brinza: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to approve the Lansdowne Adjustment Reports as submitted.

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

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

REPORT OF ATTORNEY

Attorney Schooley reported to the Board that MESD has closed with Illinois American Water on the Lansdowne and Eagle Park transportation systems. The net amount received by the District was a little over \$7.6 million, which included the sale of the two systems plus \$75,000 in reimbursement for attorney fees and engineering surveying fees. MESD is now out of the collection and sewage treatment business.

Per Illinois American Attorney, Mr. Jones, ILAW will begin all our customers with a blank slate and reconnect any water previously shut off. However, this does not preclude us from pursuing past due accounts. For small accounts, such as \$100, collection efforts may not be feasible, as attorney fees would outweigh the recovery amount. Those accounts would need to be written off.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

Board discussion and/or approval to adopt Ordinance 2024-0-021 providing for the Metro East Sanitary District for the Annual Tax Levy for fiscal year 2024.

- President Oney stated the District is below the max rate and will not be leveeing for the max amount.

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Brinza adopting Ordinance 2024-0-021 providing for the Metro East Sanitary District for the Annual Tax Levy for fiscal year 2024.

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

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

Board discussion and/or renewal of the Metro East Sanitary District insurance coverage for policy period 12/01/2024 through 12/01/2025.

- President Oney asked if the sold Lansdowne assets were removed from the policy.
 - o Mrs. Partney answered yes, stating the new proposal was put in the packet.

Motion Commissioner Brinza: seconded by Commissioner Darwin approving renewal of Metro East Sanitary District insurance coverage for policy period 12/01/2024 through 12/01/2025.

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

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

Board discussion and/or approval of purchases through the Cooperative Purchasing Program and state bids:

- CAT 323 Long Reach
 - CAT 326 Long Reach
 - CAT 279D Skid Steer
 - CAT 305E Mini Excavator
 - Mower Head Attachment 323 Long Reach
 - Zero Turn Mower X3
 - Heavy Duty Truck – Relief Well Truck
 - F150 Fleet Truck X2
- President Oney reported that, following the Lansdowne sale, the District now has funds available for improvements and upgrades that were previously not possible. It is anticipated that some of these funds will be set aside for work on Harding Ditch, which is approximately 11 miles long. Maintaining this ditch will require dedicating two heavy equipment operators to this full-time. Approximately 2 million can be set aside to cover the costs of equipment and the operator salaries. Again, just cleaning this ditch is not going to resolve all the issues because of the amount of water that hits the ditch. Additional funds will be allocated for mowers.
 - Superintendent Roehr reported that the cost of equipment is approximately \$1.1.
 - Attorney Schooley added that one of the District’s current litigations involves the Citizen for Justice, who filed a suit against Cahokia. MESD was brought into the case. By being proactive and cleaning Harding ditch, it helps our position in the litigation. The plaintiff cannot use cleaning out the ditch as an admission of liability because of what’s called a subsequent remedial measure, which is not admissible in a liability case. The overriding policy is that if there is an issue, the law encourages fixing the problem, but such actions cannot be used against us in litigation.

- President Oney also stated as previously discussed in other meetings, \$2 million will be used in the relief well testing. Lift station operators will be moving over to relief wells. There are about 400 relief wells that need to be tested within a 5-year period.

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Dixon approving the above listed purchases through Cooperative Purchasing and state bids.

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

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

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

So, adjourned at 9:16 A.M.


Clerk