

**REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE  
METRO EAST SANITARY DISTRICT  
ST. CLAIR AND MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS  
HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 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, and Engineer Joe Juneau

**PUBLIC COMMENT**      None.

**PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE**      None.

**REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Nordstrom reported the following:

Continuing with rocking and grading levees in both Madison and St. Clair Counties.

Winter maintenance is ongoing, involving the replacement of yellow tubing on levee gates, oiling all locks, and painting around the gate structures.

A preconstruction meeting with Juneau and the construction crew took place to discuss the upcoming projects of lining the Twin 60-in and cleaning of the Twin 48-in lines. The project is set to begin March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Heavy equipment operators successfully desilted a large portion of the canal off Highway 111 near Nichols Net and Twine, improving the flow.

A new actuator has been installed at Mopac Gate.

MESD is required to maintain a specific amount of sandbags, to fulfill this requirement, they are filling sandbags at the Madison Avenue Garage.

- Commissioner Brinza mentioned that he frequently crosses over the canal at Hwy 111 and commended the work they have done.

## **REPORT OF ENGINEER**

Joe Juneau reported that Charlie Juneau is still working on obtaining prices for the electrical control panel replacement at North Pump Station. He also mentioned that in their packets, they should find a document request from Groundworks Contracting. The City of Granite City has hired Groundworks Contracting to install a new storm sewer line. This line runs along Carlson/Myrtle/Joy Avenue which will connect into Nameoki Ditch. Groundworks is requesting the waiver of the \$1000 right of entry, as well as the request to lower the insurance requirements from \$5 million to \$1 million.

- President Oney requested Mr. Juneau explain to the Board the temporary connection and the relief it could provide on the Twin 60-inch line.
  - o Mr. Juneau furthermore explained that the City of Granite City is removing the existing culverts along Nameoki Ditch and putting in box culverts to replace the corrugated metal pipe. This connection point is just on the upstream side of the existing culverts, so it will need to be rerouted to the downstream side. At this point in time, it is just a temporary connection.
    - Attorney Schooley asked Mr. Juneau what the length of the project will be.
      - Mr. Juneau answered, the total length starts at the intersection of Carlson and Myrtle Avenue, looking at about 3000 feet of storm sewer that is being installed. The original bid was to be 54-inch diameter however bids came in very high because the bidding climate is not good right now. So, the project was reduced in size and scope to be afforded by the funding that was available. Groundworks is a relatively new company to the City of Granite City. They have done a lot of work in the Mount Vernon area and came recommended to the City. Currently, there is a 15-inch storm sewer that drains down Carlson Avenue and connects to the Twin 60s at Jill Avenue. This pipe will remain in place as an overflow. Once the new pipe installation begins at Carlson Avenue a majority of the water flow will be directed south rather than going up to the Twin 60s. This diversion will help alleviate some of the water flow to the Twin 60s, providing relief for the intersection of Carlson and Myrtle Avenue where there just isn't any drainage. In 2019 residents in that area experienced significant flooding.

- President Oney asked Attorney Schooley if MESD would need to enter into an agreement with the City of Granite City regarding the pipe. He suggested MESD waive the fee but emphasized entering into a temporary easement agreement on the pipe, ensuring that future groups understand the pipe is not maintained by MESD.
  - o Mr. Juneau updated the Board on the situation to which President Oney is referring. Historically, there were several pipes put into the ground by the East Side Levee and Sanitary District within the City of Granite City, with the Twin 60s being a prime example. The maintenance was carried out by MESD. These big storm sewer projects in the city, where they connect to the ditch, historically had an easement or formal document stating that MESD is allowing the connection to take place with the understanding that that maintenance and operations goes with the company or entity that installs it, whether it be a developer or municipality. When the box culverts are replaced, this particular one will be moved to the south side rather than the north side and the ownership and maintenance will still rest with the City of Granite City as the installer.
    - Commissioner Brinza inquired about what makes waiving this fee unique compared to others that are either waived or not waived.
      - Attorney Schooley clarified that anything with a mutual connection is his understanding. He proposed drafting an ordinance to outline when and under what circumstances MESD would waive fees, not only for the City of Granite City but any taxing District within MESD jurisdiction. Attorney Schooley expressed he believes it should be up to the Executive Director to present to the Board what beneficial interest each project would have for MESD.

**MINUTES**

The Regular Minutes for January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 were presented for approval:

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Dixon 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

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The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Darwin: 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 January 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

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The Special Funds Financial Reports for the month of January 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

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

Motion Commissioner Dixon: seconded by Commissioner Darwin to approve the Lansdowne 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

**PAYROLL**

The Payroll for the period of January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, through January 20<sup>th</sup>, 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

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The Payroll for the period of January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, through February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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

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**LANSDOWNE ADJUSTMENT REPORT**

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Brinza to approve the Lansdowne Adjustment Report 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**

No Report.

**OLD BUSINESS**    None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Board discussion and/or approval of Agreement and Release of All Claims Cedric Irby vs. M.E.S.D.

- Attorney Schooley informed the Board this is one of the breach of employment contract litigation hearings. Attorney Ysursa, who is handling this on behalf of the MESD insurance carrier, has recommended settling the case for the amount stated in the release. It is important to note that this settlement will be covered by insurance funds, not funds from the District.

Motion Commissioner Brinza: seconded by Commissioner Darwin approving the Agreement and Release of All Claims Cedric Irby vs. M.E.S.D.

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

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

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Board discussion and/or approval authorizing the approval of bid for (1) John Deere 310 P-Tier Backhoe Loader.

- Commissioner Brinza stated he looked up pricing for this backhoe and believes this is a good price. Stating, "Well done."

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Brinza approving the bid for purchase of (1) John Deere 310 P-Tier Backhoe Loader.

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 engagement letter for Law Offices of Thomas E. Schooley.

Motion Commissioner Dixon: seconded by Commissioner Darwin approving the engagement letter for Law Offices of Thomas E. Schooley.

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

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

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Board discussion and/or approval of engagement letter for Sprague and Urban Attorneys and Counselors.

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Brinza approving the engagement letter for Sprague and Urban Attorneys and Counselors.

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

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

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Board discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2024-0-001 establishing the salary of the Executive Director for the Metro East Sanitary District.

- Commissioner Brinza commented, "This statement is general for the next few salary ordinances discussed. No problems with this year but going forward if the Illinois American Water sale is finalized and Lansdowne is dissolved, I would expect administrative duties should be lessened. This should be reflected not necessarily in cuts but in potential increases."

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Brinza approving Ordinance 2024-0-001 establishing the salary of the Executive Director for the Metro East Sanitary District.

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 Ordinance 2024-0-002 establishing the salary of the District Clerk for the Metro East Sanitary District.

Motion Commissioner Brinza: seconded by Commissioner Darwin approving Ordinance 2024-0-002 establishing the salary of the District Clerk for the Metro East Sanitary District.

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

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

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Board discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2024-0-003 establishing the salary of the Superintendent of Madison County for the Metro East Sanitary District.

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Dixon approving Ordinance 2024-0-003 establishing the salary of the Superintendent of Madison County for the Metro East Sanitary District.

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

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

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Board discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2024-0-004 establishing the salary of the Superintendent of Stormwater Maintenance of Operations for the Metro East Sanitary District.

Motion Commissioner Brinza: seconded by Commissioner Darwin approving Ordinance 2024-0-004 establishing the salary of the Superintendent of Stormwater Maintenance of Operations for the Metro East Sanitary District.

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 Ordinance 2024-0-005 authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Granite City for CDL Employment Training Program.

- President Oney reminded everyone this was discussed last meeting, highlighting this is to designate one employee for CDL license training, who would then subsequently train others for their CDL license.
  - o Attorney Schooley added there will be a contract and an Intergovernmental Agreement prepared as far as who the training company is, and the rights and liabilities with regard to MESD and the City of Granite City.

Motion Commissioner Dixon: seconded by Commissioner Darwin approving Ordinance 2024-0-005 authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Granite City for CDL Employment Training Program.

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

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

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Board discussion and/or approval of Ordinance 2024-0-006 Permanent Anchor Easement for Ameren Illinois.

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Dixon approving Ordinance 2024-0-006 Permanent Anchor Easement for Ameren Illinois.

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 LKO License Agreement for new access road at Hartford.

- Mr. Nordstrom pointed out that this pertains to New Poag Road and Route 3 where a salvage yard is being established.
  - o Attorney Schooley added MESD is the licensee, it is MESD license to utilize a access road to cross this resident's property to gain access to the levee. This update pertains to a license dating back to 1960.

Motion Commissioner Dixon: seconded by Commissioner Darwin approving License Agreement to LKO for new access road at Hartford.

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

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

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Board discussion and/or approval of Barcom Security System.

- Superintendent Roehr informed the Board this will be updating the security systems throughout the District. Washington Park Garage and North Pump Station have not been updated since 1974. Mr. Roehr has received bids from a couple of companies, and Barcom has offered the best price. Additionally, the security cameras throughout the District are with Barcom.

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Dixon approving Barcom Security System.

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 Langetech Proposal for Wonderware Scada System upgrade.

- Superintendent Roehr informed the Board the Scada system was approved in 2017-2018. It enables computer access to manage the pump stations, eliminating the need for manning 24/7. Although the current system works, it has expired license agreements. The current provider is based out of Cincinnati, Ohio. Langetech is a local company already hired by Keller Construction for the USACE bid package 12, which is the GC #1 Project and the Phillips Reach Project. This will combine all the stations into the same software.

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Dixon approving purchase of Wonderware Scada System upgrade by Langetech.

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

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

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Board discussion and/or approval waiving right of entry fee and modifying insurance limits for Groundworks Inc.

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Brinza waiving right of entry fee and modifying insurance limits to Groundworks Inc.

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 settling litigation for Andy Economy and authorization for the Board President to sign settlement release.

- Attorney Schooley explained this is another breach of employment contract that was filed by Mr. Economy. Attorney Funk and Attorney Schooley have attended all the court sessions and participated in the litigation. The settlement is resolved at \$12,000 with the insurance company picking up \$2,000. The insurance carrier took these cases under what is called a reservation of rights, and the District policy does not provide for certain types of damages, so this would require a payment from MESD of \$10,000. Attorney Schooley recommends this course of action. The case is currently set for trial in August 2024. If Attorney Schooley were to participate in the trial, his costs would range approximately \$7,500. It is a matter of managing risks and exposure to risks, which he believes the District is better off in resolving.
  - o President Oney stated regardless the circumstances, Mr. Economy served as the Executive Director for one month entitling him to a salary.

Motion Commissioner Darwin: seconded by Commissioner Dixon approving settling litigation for Andy Economy and authorizing the Board President to sign settlement release.

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

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

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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 9:26 A.M.

  
Clerk