

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF THE METRO EAST
SANITARY DISTRICT, ST. CLAIR AND
MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2016 AT 1800 EDISON
AVENUE, GRANITE CITY, ILLINOIS AT 9:00
A.M.**

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

The following was the attendance:

Present: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.
Absent: None.

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

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Executive Director Shipley presented his report:

Executive Director Shipley explained:

We are sending a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers asking that they start the pump at their Chain of Rocks Pump Station sooner.

Attorney Filcoff is preparing a letter to the Illinois Department of Transportation regarding the water problems at the Lansdowne Facility.

Walter Greathouse and I attended a meeting concerning the flooding in Pontoon Beach. We agreed to provide Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) worth of assistance to help prevent future flooding.

President Pennekamp, “Are you referring to the flooding that occurred in December 2015? What can the District do to help prevent future flooding?”

Mr. Greathouse, “The culvert at the south end of Long Lake needs to be cleaned, so that the water can drain into the District’s ditch (KMOX Ditch). The District’s ditch is in excellent condition and looks great.”

President Pennekamp, “Obviously, we were asked to help Pontoon. My attitude is if there is something we can do to help, we should consider doing it. Will there be a permit problem if we work in the area?”

Mr. Greathouse, “I do not believe there will be a permit issue. At the meeting, we explained that we cannot offer financial assistance, but we can provide man hours and equipment to do the work.”

Attorney Filcoff, “Executive Director Shipley, in your report you mentioned a fire. What happened?”

Superintendent Maeras, “The men were burning drift on the levee. The fire was out of control and the fire department was called. Also, a representative from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) was at the site.”

Commissioner Laub, “Is there a law against burning in that area?”

Superintendent Maeras, “Yes.”

Executive Director Shipley, “I have a meeting this Friday with Gateway Regional Medical Center and the City of Granite City. Gateway has a groundwater problem. I understand IEPA will not grant them a permit to drain the water.”

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Attorney Filcoff, "What is the status of MoPac gate?"

Mr. Greathouse, "MoPac gate has been repaired, and given back to the District to operate and maintain."

President Pennekamp, "Would you please explain what is meant by the Corps and AMEC at North?"

Mr. Greathouse, "We met with the Corps of Engineers to discuss the North Pump Station. We have two problems at North Pump Station. The valve fell off the bottom of Pump No. 1 and the coated corrugated metal pipe under the pumping floor of the building collapsed. We have requested financial assistance from the Corps of Engineers, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)."

President Pennekamp, "Is the replacement of the corrugated metal pipe part of the 500 year flood plan?"

Superintendent Maeras, "That is why we want to meet with AMEC."

Mr. Greathouse, "The Corps of Engineers has no comment at this time on the replacement of the coated corrugated metal pipe. They are not that far along on the 500 year flood plan. However, the pipe must be repaired to meet the 100 year flood plan.

We are meeting next Thursday with the Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District Council and AMEC to discuss the Levin Street, Waters Street, Phillips Reach and Granite City Depot pump stations.

The District is operating the pump stations and paying the utility bills, but has never accepted ownership. Also, we need to know what the warranty is on the pump stations."

President Pennekamp, "The transfer of ownership should be conducted through a formal procedure. The District should receive operation and maintenance manuals for the pump stations."

Attorney Filcoff asked, "Are the pump stations insured?"

Superintendent Maeras, "Yes, the District has the pump stations insured."

President Pennekamp, “At a previous meeting, we discussed the maintenance and ownership of the twin 60” stormwater lines in Granite City. Is there anything new to report?”

Superintendent Presswood replied, “I contacted Insituform and they would not provide a quote. The pipes are in great shape, but the material is leaking through the seals. We need to caulk the seals.”

REPORT OF LANSDOWNE OFFICE MANAGER:

Ms. Worthen reported:

1. The Southwestern Illinois Correction Center made two payments totaling Twenty-nine thousand, four hundred seventy-seven dollars (\$29,477). The payments were for their July and August 2015 bills. Their current balance due is Eighty thousand, two hundred sixty-nine dollars (\$80,269).
2. Illinois American Water Company’s system went down nationwide. Therefore, there are no water disconnects this week.
3. The residential bills have been mailed. Caseyville and Commercial bills will be mailed later this week. We really need a rate increase.

Attorney Calvo, “I sent the State of Illinois a letter that it is their constitutional duty to provide sewer services to the Southwestern Illinois Correction Center. I will send another letter in thirty days, if we do not receive a second payment.”

MINUTES:

The minutes for the March 23, 2016 meeting were presented for approval.

Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Hanfelder 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 Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

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The Executive Session minutes for the March 23, 2016 meeting were presented for approval.

Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the Executive Session minutes as submitted and keep them closed to the public.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

GENERAL FUND CLAIMS:

The General Fund Claims and Specific Claims for the month of March 2016 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Hanfelder to approve the General Fund Claims and Specific Claims for the month of March 2016 as submitted and order them paid.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

SPECIFIC CLAIMS:

The Various Specific Claims for the month of March 2016 were submitted for review:

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Laub to accept the General Fund and Various Specific Claims for the month of March 2016 as submitted.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

LANSDOWNE CLAIMS & SPECIFIC CLAIMS:

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims for the month of March 2016 were submitted for approval:

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Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Laub to approve the Lansdowne Treatment Plant Claims and Specific Claims for the month of March 2016 as submitted and order them paid.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The General Fund, Specific Funds and Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of March 2016 were submitted for approval:

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Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the General Fund, Specific Funds and Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of March 2016 as submitted and place them on file for audit.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

LANSDOWNE REPORT:

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

Motion Commissioner Laub; seconded Commissioner McCall to approve the Lansdowne Adjustment Reports as submitted.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

PAYROLL:

The Payroll for the period of March 13, 2016 through March 26, 2016 was submitted for approval:

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY:

Attorney Filcoff, "We met with representatives from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to discuss ways to stop the water ponding problems at the Lansdowne Facility. Superintendent Presswood did any excellent job of explaining the water problems and offering possible solutions. One solution would be to backfill the yard on the west side of the Lansdowne Facility. Another suggestion was to install a pump station to force the excess water to the west and into a deeper holding pond. The IDOT representatives asked me to send a letter requesting their assistance. I am drafting a letter."

Superintendent Presswood, "I asked for mosquito pellets and was told that IDOT has a budget problem."

Attorney Filcoff, "MESD offered to assist by supplying dirt with its equipment and helping, as best as it could, to hold costs down."

Attorney Calvo, "Teamsters Local 50 and Teamsters Local 525 both voted to accept the District's contract proposal. Operating Engineers voted unanimously to reject the offer."

Commissioner Laub, "Do you know why they voted against the District's offer?"

Attorney Calvo, "I think we should wait and discuss the union contract negotiations during Executive Session."

President Pennekamp, “Who is working to renew the expired Ordinances?”

Attorney Calvo, “I will start working on the Ordinances once the union contracts are finalized.”

CORRESPONDENCE:

President Pennekamp, “Helen Hawkins sent me a copy of a Public Notice posted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding a proposed wetland mitigation bank. It is located in the northeast portion of Granite City and is directly west of the new Morrison Road. The primary objective of the proposed mitigation bank is to restore, create, enhance and permanently protect 62.20 acres of three wetland types as well as 5.00 acres of bottomland forest and 5.82 acres of tallgrass prairie buffer. Ms. Hawkins is concerned about the project.”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Attorney Calvo, “I would like to discuss the status of the union negotiations during executive session.”

Motion Commissioner Hanfelder; seconded Commissioner McCall to enter into Executive Session for the exceptions noted under 5 ILCS 120/2 Open Meetings – The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:28 A.M.

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Hanfelder to return to regular session at 9:36 A.M.

The Clerk recorded the attendance:

Present: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Absent: None.

Also, attending the meeting at this time were Attorney George Filcoff and Attorney Larry Calvo.

President Pennekamp, "After discussing the union negotiations during Executive Session, I recommend that no action be taken at this time."

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, McCall, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

So adjourned at 9:37 A.M.

Clerk