

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF THE METRO EAST
SANITARY DISTRICT, ST. CLAIR AND
MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 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, Darwin and Pennekamp.
Absent: Commissioner McCall.

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

Also, attending the meeting were Executive Director Bob Shipley, Director of Operations Walter Greathouse, Lansdowne Office Manager Cindy Worthen and Treasurer Ken Davis.

Linda Knogl was also in attendance.

President Pennekamp opened the meeting by bringing to the attention of the Board, that Helen Hawkins was honored by The League of Women Voters on September 3, 2016 in St. Louis. They honored Ms. Hawkins with an award for advocating for the development of the wetlands and American bottoms. Congratulations to Helen on this outstanding accomplishment.

President Pennekamp invited Ms. Knogl to address the Board.

Ms. Knogl stated:

I am Linda Knogl and I live in Pontoon Beach, Illinois.

I also wanted to mention that Helen was honored at the 'Celebrate the Vote'. In attendance were 3,000 women participating in St. Louis. We honored her for all the good work she has done not only for women, but for her community.

The reason I am here today, is that I wanted to know if it has been obvious to any members here that we have had unusual amounts of standing water in ditches and on the roads? This last rain was a 3 to 3 1/2 inch rain, and I was noticing the water stayed in the ditches anywhere from 24 to 48 hours without draining.

We can only assume that since Long Lake and Horseshoe Lake are not high, that we have a drainage problem. And that the culverts need to be cleaned out in certain areas. Culverts on Lakeview Drive in Pontoon Beach have been problematic for years.

We have contacted the IDOT office in Wood River because it is north of Pontoon Road to auger that culvert. We've seen clumps of debris, vegetation and mud accumulating inside. We don't want to scrape out the drainage ditches because it will destroy the natural vegetation.

The Village of Pontoon Beach has been working cleaning the debris and other type of issues. Chief Mudrosic has contacted the Sheriff who brought his community workers out and they did a spectacular job cleaning up debris. The Sheriff is also trying to monitor dumping that is adding to their problem. I personally pick up trash on playgrounds and schools and dispose of it properly.

There is a problem on Missouri Avenue (Granite City) by 25th Street; a ditch on the left side by the animal shelter is full of stagnant water and growing vegetation. I don't know what goes on there, but Total Metal Recycling doesn't seem to be bothered with stagnant water sitting there.

That water overflows onto the street during a rain. Traffic has to go through the water to get children to Prather School. So we have to think safety is an issue with that much water within main traffic.

With stagnant water sitting too long, we know a problem exists when the lakes are not full and water is not draining. We know there is a drainage problem and I was wondering if this community is going to address it.

President Pennekamp, "So I hear this type of tale all the time. There are so many jurisdictions, and we are the ones who try to take all this water that comes from multiple municipalities and townships. We work desperately to get all this water to our pump stations and back into the river.

But our jurisdiction is limited. We are a taxing district and we are paid to do a service and that is what we try to do. We are also in another situation to try and assist

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other municipalities and our best interest is trying to assist people. And with that notion, we work together and work with others. This is something I would like to see done. On that point we have set down and had a meeting the Mayors. We asked the Mayors to cooperate with us not on this subject but others.

The question is what we can do about this and our ability to do things within the jurisdiction of other municipalities. We are limited in the work we can perform. We need to identify where these jurisdictions are and talk to the proper people about the problems. And ask if there is something we can do to assist with the problem. We've had this discussion before, and our first priority is to the people within our district. We have a job we have to do, and if we do not do our job, the problems you are talking about would be much worse. There is a real need for a master plan and I do not think that exists."

Superintendent Greathouse, "The culverts Ms. Knogl is talking about at one time were cleaned by the Village of Pontoon. The Village had a jet truck, and if they saw a culvert was clogged they use the jet truck to clear it. Superintendent Presswood, do you know if they still have the truck?"

Superintendent Presswood responded that they no longer own a jet truck.

President Pennekamp asked, "Are you saying that they no longer have the capability to do what they used to do?"

Superintendent Presswood responded, "They cannot use a jet truck to clean the culverts. The Village has no street department or public works department so they have to subcontract everything out to Nameoki Township."

Ms. Knogl commented that the specific area she mentioned was Missouri Ave. and that ditch is almost in MESD's backyard.

Superintendent Presswood responded, "It is in front of my office building there on curve. And if it was my responsibility, it would already been taken care of. But that area

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belongs to Granite City and the area you are talking about next door belongs to Venice Township.”

Ms. Knogl, “You’re saying next to the animal shelter, those two gates for the Total Recycling buildings are Venice Township?”

Superintendent Presswood said that they are Venice Township.

Superintendent Fancher added that the roadway itself from Pontoon Road to the stop sign at 25th Street is a State Route.

President Pennekamp asked who Ms. Knogl should she be talking with to address this issue.

Superintendent Presswood stated she should contact Joe Monroe at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Ms. Knogl said that until people come to a meeting like this one, and ask questions, they are not given the right direction.

President Pennekamp agreed that it is very complicated.

Ms. Knogl, “This piece quilt of districts is impossible to deal with, and everyone has to stay within their piece of the border.”

President Pennekamp, “Add to that an article posted today in the Post-Dispatch, which says we are breaking all kinds of records this year with heat, rain fall and everything else. I hope this isn’t the new norm. Hopefully this is not something we have to deal with for a long time.”

Ms. Knogl stated that it is very scary that a 3” rain can cause problems of flooding streets and standing water.

President Pennekamp thanked Ms. Knogl, and stated we must move on with the meeting.

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REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

A report from the Executive Director was presented:

Commissioner Hanfelder asked for an explanation of the damage listed on the report and where the damage occurred.

Superintendent Maeras explained, “There was a 13 year old boy that damaged the contractor’s equipment twice, and caused turf damage to the levee in the Cahokia area. I just received an email listing \$16,000 in damages to Keller’s equipment. I will give a report to police for they have the young man and he is known to be a problem. Keller is going to take care of damage to the levee.”

President Pennekamp asked for additional information on the sink hole?

Superintendent Maeras responded, “There are two sink holes now. Both are near the East St Louis Pump station over the 10 1/2’ pipe. The Flood Prevention District has plans to replace the 10 ½ foot pipe.”

Superintendent Greathouse explained, “On the 10 ½ foot pipe, there is a plan to build another levee around the pipe to meet the 100 year solution. The plan has been developed by the Corps, Amec and the Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District. This just failed today a \$10 – \$12 million dollar project. MESD, Juneau & Associates and Hurst & Roche Engineers wanted to line the pipes. Now the Corps of Engineers also wants to line the pipes which will lower the costs to \$4 million.”

President Pennekamp reminded everyone that we can’t get the certification until this is done.

Superintendent Greathouse said, “This is all good news to me to line the 10 ½ foot pipe instead of replacing it. The pipe belongs to the City of East St. Louis. The Corps of Engineers suggested MESD fix the problem instead of going to the City of East St. Louis.”

REPORT OF LANSDOWNE OFFICE MANAGER:

Ms. Worthen reported:

1. Received email from American Water that they are aware that usage data for weekly and daily files did not run as scheduled on Friday. Their Information Technology team was actively working on the issue.

Then on Monday a second email received that ITS 'force fed' usage data and if all goes accordingly to plan, the data will be available this morning in addition to today's daily file data.

ITS is still investigating the cause of issue.

2. We are continuing shut offs through American Water and sending the closed accounts to our Attorney for collection.

MINUTES:

The minutes for the September 7, 2016 meeting were presented for approval.

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

Nays: None.

Excused: Commissioner McCall.

GENERAL FUND CLAIMS:

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

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

Nays: None.

Excused: Commissioner McCall.

LANSDOWNE CLAIMS & SPECIFIC CLAIMS:

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims were submitted for approval:

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

Nays: None.

Excused: Commissioner McCall.

LANSDOWNE REPORT:

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Excused: Commissioner McCall.

PAYROLL:

The Payroll for the period of August 28, 2016 through September 10, 2016 was submitted for approval.

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Excused: Commissioner McCall.

REPORT OF ATTORNEYS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A proposal from Horner and Shifrin was presented:

President Pennekamp asked, “Has everyone seen the Horner and Shifrin proposal in today’s packet? We don’t have to take any action on this today, but I think he has made some good recommendations. I want everyone to review the proposal and we can discuss it at the next meeting. If you have any questions, please refer them to Robert Januska at Horner and Shifrin.”

CNV PUMP STATION – INSURANCE:

President Pennekamp, “There is no one here from CNV to discuss the insurance. Is there a deadline to meet on this?”

Superintendent Greathouse, “I do not have a date on that, but we can get information from Rosemarie Heath when she returns. The issue is CNV cannot afford to pay their pump station bills. They formerly picked up the costs of the building themselves, but in 2013 lightning struck and MESD set up a temporary deal. Now, they cannot afford the costs. CNV insurance carrier paid for the costs of \$35,262.00 but did not pay for the generator charges of \$15,038.89 or the fuel costs of \$20,681.11. MESD had to pay to avoid flooding of a subdivision or MESD could have been sued.”

Commissioner Hanfelder asked, “If MESD would have been sued, would the insurance have paid for this?”

Superintendent Greathouse replied, “That I do not know. They made a call to us with how they can no longer pay their insurance. A CNV board member was to attend the meeting today. And as you can see, they did not attend. We can get a bid on what coverage would be with our current carrier. Rosemarie could ask for the additional costs and give to you at the next board meeting.”

President Pennekamp said that he was given a copy of the Intergovernmental Agreement between MESD and Chouteau, Nameoki and Venice Drainage District (CNV)

signed September 16, 2013. An important part of agreement states that MESD agrees to cover general maintenance at 1335 Choteau Place Road and all costs associated there. And that CNV shall reduce their tax levy upon land and property of its district. Did they reduce their tax levy?"

Superintendent Greathouse, "Yes, they did reduce their tax levy. Executive Director Shipley asked Attorney Filcoff to contact CNV and request reimbursement for the lightning strike damage that insurance did not cover."

President Pennekamp, "There was a letter from MESD to CNV dated December 15, 2015. And their response was basically no, they did not have the funds to reimburse the District."

Per the agreement after five (5) years the agreement is over. Then what happens? I understand someone was to be at our meeting today and they did not show up. It is not wise to not have insurance. This agreement doesn't say to rebuild it. It says to enter into another agreement."

Executive Director Shipley said there is a new pump station that is never used.

Superintendent Greathouse explained, "The Corps of Engineers has a new pump station and refuse to use it. It was put in for the 500 year flood level, for relief wells only."

Superintendent Presswood, "There is no running water at that pump station. Without facilities and there is no way to maintain the station without water."

President Pennekamp, "Am I correct, that we do not own that pump station?"

Superintendent Maeras answered, "The Corps of Engineers owns the building. It is the same situation we have with the Blue Water Ditch Pump Station situation."

President Pennekamp, "We do need an understanding on what this relationship is. We will contact Attorney Filcoff about the pump station. Check on the insurance and get

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our facts together.”

Superintendent Fancher, “I wanted to explain that the costs for the generator and fuel were turned into the CNV insurance carrier and they were not covered. However, MESD does have insurance coverage for this type of claim.”

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners Hanfelder, Laub, Darwin and Pennekamp.

Nays: None.

Excused: Commissioner McCall.

So adjourned at 9:49 A.M.

Deputy Clerk