

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF THE METRO EAST
SANITARY DISTRICT, ST. CLAIR AND
MADISON COUNTIES, ILLINOIS HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017 AT 1800
EDISON AVENUE, GRANITE CITY, ILLINOIS AT
9:00 A.M.**

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

The following was the attendance:

Present: Commissioners McCall, Darwin, Brinza and Sawicki.
Absent: None.

Metro East Sanitary District employees attending the meeting were Executive Director Stephen Adler, Superintendent Randy Presswood, Superintendent John Maeras, Superintendent Rick Fancher and Lansdowne Office Manager Cindy Worthen.

Also, attending the meeting were Charlie Juneau, Helen Hawkins, Amanda Greathouse, Bob Falk and Kathy Goclan.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Amanda Greathouse read the following statement:

On August 17th I submitted a FOIA for Receipt & Record of payment to MESD for scrap metal from June 30th 2017 in the amount of 427.50. On August 23rd I received a copy of the scrap receipt- I clarified my request in that I wanted to know when the deposit was made into the fund. On August 24th I was given the copy of the bank deposit which was dated August 21 2017-that's 4 days after I made the request into the matter- and nearly 2 months after cash was received from the sale of scrap, nearly 3 weeks after Superintendent Presswood made the 400\$ contribution to Prenzler's Campaign Fund. We know that the money was given to Superintendent Presswood after the sale of scrap by employees. Would this money ever have been turned in if I hadn't made the request for it? I don't think so. How many other times has this happened-I wager to say this isn't the first. I submitted another FOIA on 8-25 asking more specific as to whom and when it was turned in, and who all reviews the FOIA's I submit. This request was denied, I do feel this question is warranted due to the nature of the offense.

Superintendent Presswood has a pattern for misuse of MESD property- In sept 2014 Presswood was suspended 3 days without pay and written reprimand placed in his file for the misuse of company equipment and for providing false information about the matter. Just think about how much money (fuel, equipment wear/tear) that was taken from MESD.(attachment a Minutes) That offense along with not turning in Scrap metal raises serious questions and it should with you as well. Especially at a time when MESD is facing "financial difficulty", money isn't being turned in, and who knows what other improprieties have been committed.

I submitted a FOIA on 8-25 requesting the Daily logs for heavy equipment as well as Superintendent Presswoods vehicle- the response was "no such logs are kept". How come on September 3 and 17 2014 minute meetings it states by both attorney, board members and even Presswood himself that there are logs? Attachment B 9-3-2014

So where are the logs?

Executive Director Adler said he did not appreciate Ms. Greathouse mentioning employees by name.

Attorney Calvo asked Ms. Greathouse how she obtained the information regarding the employee's discipline, as that information should be confidential.

Ms. Greathouse replied that the information was in the minutes.

Executive Director Adler stated this is not the place to bring up innuendo. It is not appropriate to bring up employee names and personnel matters.

Ms. Hawkins said she wanted to commend MESD staff on the drainage system.

Executive Director Adler said he will let the staff know of Ms. Hawkins' compliment.

REPORT OF ENGINEER:

Mr. Juneau reported:

I have forwarded the legal description of the proposed MESD Special Service Area No. 1 to the attorneys.

A map was presented of the proposed MESD Special Service Area No. 1:

Executive Director Adler commented that the Special Service Area can be expanded beyond the MESD boundaries, but MESD will need permission from the communities.

Mr. Juneau explained that MESD provides service to an area within Caseyville, but it is outside of the MESD boundaries. That area can be added later or the sewage treatment bills can be raised. Several communities charge a higher rate to those outside of their jurisdiction.

Commissioner Sawicki asked, "Are we billing people for sewage treatment that are not within the MESD boundaries?"

Mr. Juneau replied, "Yes, their water goes through the MESD sewer system to the Granite City Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant."

Ms. Hawkins voiced concerns about the residents of State Park having to pay the additional tax.

Mr. Juneau explained that State Park is not part of the MESD sewer system. There are approximately 10,000 parcels that will be included in the Special Service Area. The Equalized Assessed Value of the parcels within St. Clair County, with exemptions removed, totals Sixty-three million dollars (\$63,000,000).

MESD will need to raise about Three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) each year from the Special Service Area to repay the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) loan. The loan is a twenty (20) year loan.

Commissioner McCall suggested inviting local officials to a meeting to explain why MESD is forming the Special Service Area.

Attorney Calvo, "I recommend passing the Ordinance to form MESD Special Service Area No. 1 today, as we are on a tight deadline. Then we can call local officials and send out letters. The Lansdowne Sewer Interceptor Line needs to be repaired. The

cost is around Eleven million dollars (\$11,000,000), and IEPA will forgive part of the loan and the remaining loan will be at a low interest rate.

The cities need to be held accountable for the storm water entering the Lansdowne system.”

Commissioner McCall agreed the line needs to be repaired, but felt public officials should be notified before the Ordinance is passed.

Attorney Craney explained that MESD is on a very tight time line to complete this project and begin collecting the tax revenue next year.

Attorney Calvo added that passing the Ordinance today is just the beginning. After the Ordinance is adopted, a public notice must appear in the newspaper, postcards will be mailed to every property owner and then a public hearing will be held.

Attorney Craney stated that every property owner will receive a postcard inviting them to the Public Hearing.

Attorney Calvo clarified that property owners have the right to file a petition to stop the formation of the Special Service Area. They need to obtain fifty-one percent (51%) of the property owners' signatures to stop the Special Service Area.

President Brinza stated that if the Ordinance to form the Special Service Area passes, then letters should go out to the Mayors notifying them of the District's plans.

Executive Director Adler asked Mr. Juneau about metering the inflow and infiltration of storm water into the MESD sewer system.

Mr. Juneau said that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is in favor of monitoring the inflow and infiltration going into the sewer systems. MESD has at least ten (10) locations where meters should be installed.

Attorney Calvo added, "When Mr. Juneau provides the full report on where metering stations need to be installed, I will send a letter to the mayors. I will get approval from the Board before sending the letters."

REPORT OF LANSDOWNE OFFICE MANAGER:

Ms. Worthen reported:

The August 2017 sewage treatment collections were good.

I am continuing to work with the Southwestern Illinois Correction Center. They are currently about eight months in arrears. The State of Illinois will not pay any bills until they are at least six months behind, so we should receive a payment for two months.

Executive Director Adler, "Do we charge the State a late fee?"

Ms. Worthen explained that the Board decided to quit charging the Correction Center late fees, because the State of Illinois refuses to pay the late fees.

The Board agreed that the Correction Center should be charged late fees.

LANSDOWNE REPORT:

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Darwin, Brinza and Sawicki.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

MINUTES:

The minutes for the August 23, 2017 meeting were presented for approval.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Sawicki 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, Brinza and Sawicki.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

CLAIMS AND SPECIFIC CLAIMS:

The General Fund Claims, Specific Claims and Lansdowne Claims for the month of August 2017 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Sawicki to approve the General Fund Claims, Specific Claims and Lansdowne Claims for the month of August 2017 as submitted and order them paid.

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Darwin, Brinza and Sawicki.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The General Fund, Special Funds and Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of August 2017 were submitted for approval:

Motion Commissioner Sawicki; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the General Fund, Special Funds and Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of August 2017 as submitted and place them on file for audit.

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Darwin, Brinza and Sawicki.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

PAYROLL:

The Payroll for the period of August 13, 2017 through August 26, 2017 was submitted for approval.

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Darwin, Brinza and Sawicki.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

REPORT OF ATTORNEY:

Attorney Craney reported:

Executive Director Adler, Rosemarie Heath and I are working to renew the expired ordinances. This is a massive project; there are hundreds of ordinances that need to be renewed.

I spoke with Bob Faulk at Ameren and he is going to put together a team to work on renewing their ordinances.

My plan is to start with Ameren. I would like to renew all of the Ameren ordinances as one ordinance.

I need to discuss a matter in Executive Session.

Attorney Calvo reported:

I prepared the ordinance for the formation of MESD Special Service Area No. 1, along with a Certificate for the Clerk to sign. I have also completed the wording for the postcards and public hearing notice.

The District received two Tax Objections that I am appealing.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter of resignation from Helen Hawkins was presented:

President Brinza thanked Ms. Hawkins for her service on the Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Executive Director Adler reported:

Renewing the Ordinances is a priority. Ms. Worthen and her staff are going to assist me with the renewals.

We had our monthly meeting with the Corps of Engineers last week. The Corps is trying to move Twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) of their budget to MESD for the cut-off wall by the Casino Queen.

The information needed for the Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) has been given to the performance contractors. I am waiting to hear from them.

Scheffel Boyle has completed the Lansdowne audit and the May 31, 2017 cash audit. Michael Brokering will be at the next meeting to explain the audits.

The Corps of Engineers decided to replace Pump No. 1 at North Pump Station instead of repairing the old pump. The pump should arrive by the end of December 2017.

Superintendent Maeras explained that The Pump Shop believes they will be able to use the parts from Pump No. 1 to repair Pump No. 4 at North Pump Station. This will be a huge savings to the District.

Executive Director Adler stated that the sewer breaks by the Madison Pump Station have been repaired. Attorney Craney needs to contact the City of Madison to discuss their share of the costs associated with the sewer line repairs.

President Brinza said a very detailed bill needs to be made, to back up the expenses the District incurred due to the sewer breaks.

Executive Director Adler continued with his report:

I instructed the Accounts Payable Clerk to pay all of the bills associated with the sewer breaks, since past Executive Director Shipley agreed to pay the bills until the cause of the break was determined.

The Accounts Payable Clerk Stacy Partney has been going through the accounts, and was able to reduce the Waste Management bill from Eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000) to Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) yearly for the dumpsters. Ms. Partney is doing an excellent job.

The Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District has started work on the 10 ½' pipe that is owned by the City of East St. Louis. The Corps listed this as a major deficiency and the 10 ½' pipe must be repaired for MESD to meet the 100 year flood certification.

NEW BUSINESS:

An Ordinance proposing the establishment of MESD Special Service Area No. 1 in the Metro East Sanitary District and for providing for a Public Hearing for its establishment was presented. Ordinance No. 2017-0-009 was assigned to this document.

Attorney Calvo explained that this Ordinance only starts the project; there are still several more steps that need to be taken before MESD Special Service Area No. 1 is formed.

Motion Commissioner Sawicki; seconded Commissioner Darwin to adopt Ordinance No. 2017-0-009 proposing the establishment of MESD Special Service Area No. 1 in the Metro East Sanitary District and for providing for a Public Hearing for its establishment.

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Darwin, Brinza and Sawicki.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

Executive Director Adler suggested hiring the Law Firm of McMahon Berger as labor consultants.

Commissioner McCall asked, "The District has two attorneys, why is a third attorney needed?"

Executive Director Adler said they would be available for Attorney Craney to consult with on labor issues. They will not attend meetings.

Attorney Craney suggested discussing the appointment of McMahon Berger Law Firm during Executive Session.

Attorney Craney gave an update on the expired Ameren Ordinances:

I am trying to take all of the expired Ameren Ordinances and renew them as one master document. Then as Ordinances expire an addendum will be added to the original Ordinance to include the newly expired Ordinances.

I have asked Ameren to put together a committee that will be able to review the Ordinances and determine if the easements are needed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Sawicki 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 11. Pending or threatened or imminent litigation.

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Darwin, Brinza and Sawicki.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 10:08 A.M.

Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Hawkins to return to regular session at 10:40 A.M.

The Clerk recorded the attendance:

Present: Commissioners McCall, Darwin, Brinza and Sawicki.
Absent: None.

Also, attending the meeting at this time were Executive Director Steve Adler, Attorney James Craney, Attorney Larry Calvo and Helen Hawkins.

Motion Commissioner Sawicki; seconded Commissioner Darwin to hire the Law Firm of McMahon Berger to consult with Attorney Craney on labor issues.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Darwin, Brinza and Sawicki.
Nays: Commissioner McCall.
Absent: None.

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

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Darwin, Brinza and Sawicki.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

So adjourned at 10:42 A.M.


Clerk