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

The following was the attendance:

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

Metro East Sanitary District Executive Director Steve Adler, Superintendent Randy Presswood, Superintendent John Maeras, Superintendent Rick Fancher, Lansdowne Office Manager Cindy Worthen and Treasurer Ken Davis were also in attendance.

Also, attending the meeting were:

   Doug Hulme, Madison County Administrator
   Tony Fuhrmann, Madison County Purchasing Director
   Charles Juneau, Juneau Associates, Inc., P.C.
   Steve Osborn, Juneau Associates, Inc., P.C.
   Zachary Borrenpohl, Juneau Associates, Inc., P.C.
   Michael Brokering, Scheffel Boyle
   Kathy Goclan
   Linda Knogl

REPORT OF AUDITOR:

Michael Brokering explained the Annual Financial Report for Year Ended December 31, 2016:

The Total Assets for the General Fund, Tort Liability Fund and the Other Funds (which include Auditing, Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund and Social Security) are $11,564,100 as shown on page 14 of the audit.

Page 14 also shows the Total Liabilities as $329,146, Unavailable Property Taxes of $3,436,277 and the Total Fund Balances as $7,798,677. The
Nonspendable and Restricted Balances total $6,024,315, which leaves the District less than $2,000,000 available cash to spend.

The Profit and Loss Statement for the District is shown on Page 16. District revenues totaled $5,043,086, which expenditures totaled $5,181,162 showing a revenue loss of $138,076.

Page 19 is the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Lansdowne Sewage Treatment Department. The Total Operating Revenues for Lansdowne were $2,558,230, while Total Operating Expenses were $3,951,592 resulting in an Operating Loss of $1,393,362.

The Granite City Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility expense increased by $600,000 between 2015 and 2016.

Executive Director Adler stated that Lansdowne had a deficit of $1,400,000 last year.

Mr. Brokering presented financial graphs to better explain the finances:
The General Fund graphs are on the left side and the Lansdowne graphs are on the right side of the report.

The first graph shows that the unassigned and unrestricted balances have steadily gone down since 2014. In 2012 Lansdowne had an Unrestricted Net Position of approximately $2,700,000. The Unrestricted Net Position as of 2017 is $36,000.

Lansdowne is projected to lose between $600,000 and $700,000 this year.

Commissioner McCall asked what is responsible for the huge deficit.

Mr. Brokering explained that the Granite City Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (GCRWWTP) expense increased by $700,000 in one year. The increase is due to infiltration into the system.

However, that is only part of the problem. Payroll is 44% of the revenue or $1,166,341. It might take hard payroll cuts to get Lansdowne even.

Historically, Lansdowne paid three to four months of administrative salaries, which is acceptable since administrative personnel work in both departments. For Fiscal Year End March 31, 2017 Lansdowne did not pay any administrative salaries. If these salaries would have been paid, Lansdowne would have paid an additional $200,000 in expenses.

If it was not for the General Fund, Lansdowne would be out of business.

Executive Director Adler added that the sewer system is old and failing. Funds are needed to repair the sewer lines.

Mr. Brokering referred back to page 1 of the graphs, the first graph illustrates that General Fund and Lansdowne both lost money the last four years. However, General Fund did see some improvement last year.

The graphs on page 4 show Capital Outlay. General Fund spent $38,000 in Capital Outlay and Lansdowne spent $2,000.

The Lansdowne Salaries are shown on the lower right hand side of page 2.
President Brinza asked, “If the Administration salaries were added to the Lansdowne payroll, what would be the cost of the additional payroll?”

Mr. Brokering responded, “The Administrative salaries average $16,000 per pay. The benefits add an additional 50 to 60 percent to the cost.”

Mr. Brokering continued with his report:

A sewage treatment rate increase went into effect on January 1, 2017, which affected the bills that were mailed on February 1st. The rate increase should generate an additional $500,000 in revenue by the end of the fiscal year. However, this is still not enough additional revenue to cover expenses.

Another 5% rate increase is scheduled for January 1, 2018 and then a final increase of 5% on January 1, 2019. Each of these increases should bring in $100,000 of additional revenue.

The Board needs to look at how to raise revenue and cut expenses in both the General Fund and Lansdowne. General Fund cannot continue to help Lansdowne financially. Eventually, General Fund will be without money.

Two deficiencies were noted while performing the audit. The first is noted in 95% of the audits we prepare. If the entity does not have a full time Certified Public Accountant (CPA) on staff, then it is listed as a deficiency. Entities the size of MESD cannot afford a CPA on staff and rely on the auditing firm. MESD staff does an excellent job of maintaining and providing the necessary records needed for the audit.

The second deficiency listed is in regards to the Executive Director’s signature stamp. We recommend access to the signature stamp be limited to the Executive Director.

The staff at Scheffel Boyle wants the District to succeed. We are part of the team, and we are here to help.

Executive Director Adler stated that it is a statutory requirement that an audit be performed when a new Board takes over to provide the current fund balances.

Mr. Brokering said he will be happy to perform the audit and provide the fund balances as of May 22, 2017.
Motion Commissioner Sawicki; seconded Commissioner Hawkins to accept the

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

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

REPORT OF ENGINEER:

Mr. Charlie Juneau presented an Engineer’s Report dated June 7, 2017:
Mr. Juneau highlighted the current projects Juneau Associates, Inc. is working on for the District:

The most critical project is the 24” forcemain failure by the Madison Pump Station. Repairs cannot begin until the Mississippi River stage is below 25.

Executive Director Adler asked, “Has it been determined who is going to pay for the cost of the repairs, since the City of Madison’s 42” gravity sewer line is directly below the District’s 24” forcemain and it also failed?”

Mr. Juneau stated that meetings were held with the previous Executive Director Bob Shipley and the Mayor of Madison. The District and the City will need to determine who pays for expenses related to the sewer breaks.

Executive Director Adler stated cause and effect need to be established, and then asked Mr. Juneau if Juneau Associates works for both entities.

Mr. Juneau responded that Juneau Associates works for both the Metro East Sanitary District and the City of Madison.

Executive Director Adler asked, “Mr. Juneau, did the 24” forcemain cause the two lines to break or did the 42” gravity sewer cause the problem?”

Mr. Juneau responded that the leaks in the gravity sewer caused a sink hole to occur.

Executive Director Adler stated that if a sink hole resulted from leaks in the gravity sewer and the gravity sewer is under the forcemain, then the gravity sewer was at fault.

President Brinza asked if the District contributed to the sink hole.

Mr. Juneau explained that the Metro East Sanitary District pump ran all night forcing the water from the forcemain to run into the dirt and the sink hole grew overnight.
Superintendent Presswood said that he went out the night the break occurred and could not see anything. The next morning he went to the site and immediately turned the pump off.

Mr. Juneau reviewed the remainder of the Engineering Report with the Board.

Executive Director Adler asked what steps need to be taken to install flow meters to monitor the excessive inflow and infiltration into the Lansdowne system?

Mr. Juneau said that the letters to the Mayors need to be sent. A copy of the letter has been included in my report as Attachment 4H.

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Darwin authorizing the Executive Director of the Metro East Sanitary District to sign and mail the Letter to the Mayors regarding the excessive infiltration and inflow into the Lansdowne system.

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

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

Commissioner Sawicki asked Mr. Juneau the status of the 10 1/2’ pipe in East St. Louis.

Mr. Juneau replied that the Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District is repairing the 10 ½’ pipe. The Corps of Engineers said the current plan meets the 100 year flood level guidelines, but does not meet the 500 year.

This is one of the two reasons MESD was not eligible for PL84-99. The second reason was the MoPac Gate at the Blue Waters Ditch Pump Station. These items are not owned by MESD. However, the Corps states that they are partners with MESD and it is MESD’s responsibility to make certain that everything within the levee system works correctly.
MESD must be eligible for PL84-99 in order to receive financial assistance from the Federal Government.

October 2016, the District submitted a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Corps of Engineers which included a plan to repair the 12 deficiencies listed by the Corps during their 5 year periodic inspection. The Corps approved the LOI, which allowed MESD to become eligible for PL84-99 again. However, MESD needs to make certain all 12 items are repaired. MESD felt they could repair all of the items this summer, except for the 10 ½’ pipe owned by East St. Louis and the MoPac Gate owned by the Village of Cahokia.

The Corps has agreed to repair the pump at the North Pump Station and the levee slides in the Cahokia area. However, the Corps moves very slowly.

Superintendent Maeras said that three slides exist in the Cahokia area. The Corps received bids to repair two of the slides at a cost of $500,000.

Commissioner Hawkins stated that if MESD is worried about the Mississippi River rising or heavy rains, then the pumps at the North Pump Station need to be repaired.

Commissioner Sawicki asked how long it will take the Corps to repair the slides and the pump at North Pump Station once the repairs are approved.

Mr. Juneau, “We have no way of knowing, but it could take a long time.”

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Executive Director Adler reported:

Commissioner Sawicki has been working with me every day and has been very helpful. I am very grateful for his assistance.

Madison County Stormwater Coordinator Steve Brendel has also been very helpful and has offered his expertise to solve the water problems in the Mitchell area.
MESD took over the Chouteau, Nameoki and Venice (CNV) Drainage District in 2013. The channels have silted in and there are huge trees in the ditches. Commissioner Hawkins sent me a letter voicing her concerns about the condition of the old CNV District. We will be working in the area all summer.

Horseshoe Lake has been lowered four feet.

Two pumps are not operational at the North Pump Station. Yesterday, the Corps authorized repairs to Pump No. 1. These two pumps being out of service are the biggest problem facing MESD today.

MESD staff and I met with Congressman Shimkus and asked him if he could get the Corps to move faster on the repairs to Pump No. 1 at the North Pump Station.

I have been working with the auditors, MESD staff and Madison County to find a way to make MESD healthy financially.

A dispute has occurred over the sewer flow at the Amvets Hall on Kennedy Street in Madison, Illinois. The City of Granite City and MESD have both been sending the Amvets a sewage treatment bill for years. A dye test needs to be performed to determine which sewer line the wastewater is flowing into. MESD would owe the Amvets approximately $19,000 if the Amvets is connected to the Granite City sewer system.

I have instructed the Accounts Payable Clerk on the issuance of Purchase Orders. Amounts have been set that require the approval of the Executive Director and also Board approval.

Mosquito control is going to be needed for the standing water.

Ms. Hawkins mentioned that she sent a letter to Executive Director Adler regarding the condition of the Chouteau, Nameoki and Venice (CNV) Drainage District.

When MESD originally took over CNV, they did a good job of maintaining the ditches. However, since that time, the ditches are full of silt and large trees are growing in the ditches. Once the ditches are cleaned and the trees removed, it will only require simple maintenance to keep them that way.
REPORT OF LANSDOWNE OFFICE MANAGER:

Ms. Worthen reported:

The residential bills were mailed on June 1st. There was a problem with the records we received from the Village of Caseyville, so the Caseyville bills are going out this week.

I have been receiving sewer tap on notices for the Tanglewood Subdivision in Caseyville, Illinois.

In the month of May, Lansdowne received several payments for past due sewage treatment bills from the State of Illinois Local Debt Recovery Program.

I am working with the new owner of the Hollywood Show Club in Washington Park to obtain a starting meter read from their outflow meter, and sending the previous owner a final bill.

I am continuing to work with Attorney Larry Calvo regarding payments to retired Attorney Glenn Bradford.

The office staff is continually sending past due notices, turning accounts over to the State of Illinois Local Debt Recovery Program and disconnecting water.

Commissioner Sawicki asked, “How many accounts can you turn over to Illinois American Water Company each week?”

Ms. Worthen stated that the Water Company only allows MESD to send ten accounts each week. Most of the accounts pay before their water is disconnected.

Commissioner Sawicki asked if non-payment is a serious problem.

Mr. Worthen responded that she felt the office staff does a good job and has control of the problem.

Commissioner Sawicki stated it is not a problem with the office staff; they can only do so much.
June 7, 2017
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Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner McCall to accept the report of the Lansdowne Office Manager.

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

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

MINUTES:

The minutes for the May 17, 2017 and May 22, 2017 meetings were presented for approval.

Motion Commissioner McCall; 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, Hawkins and Sawicki.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES:

The Executive Session minutes for the May 22, 2017 meeting were presented for approval.

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Hawkins to approve the Executive Session minutes as submitted and they are to remain closed to public viewing.

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

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

GENERAL FUND CLAIMS:

The General Fund Claims and Specific Claims for the month of May 2017 were submitted for approval:
Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the General Fund Claims and Specific Claims for the month of May 2017 as submitted and order them paid.

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

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

SPECIFIC CLAIMS:

The Various Specific Claims for the month of May 2017 were submitted for review:
Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Darwin to accept the Various Specific Claims for the month of May 2017 as submitted.

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

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

LANSDOWNE CLAIMS & SPECIFIC CLAIMS:

The Lansdowne Claims and Specific Claims for the month of May 2017 were submitted for approval:
Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the Lansdowne Treatment Plant Claims and Specific Claims for the month of May 2017 as submitted and order them paid.

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

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The General Fund, Specific Funds and Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of May 2017 were submitted for approval:
Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the General Fund, Specific Funds and Lansdowne Financial Reports for the month of May 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, Hawkins and Sawicki.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

LANSDOWNE REPORT:

The Lansdowne Adjustment Reports were presented for approval:
Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Hawkins to approve the Lansdowne Adjustment Reports as submitted.

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

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

PAYROLL:

The Payroll for the period of May 7, 2017 through May 20, 2017 was submitted for approval.
Motion Commissioner Hawkins; seconded Commissioner Sawicki to approve the Payroll as submitted.

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

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

REPORT OF ATTORNEY: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Darwin to adopt

Ordinance No. 2017-0-005.

The Clerk explained that the Ordinance is being amended as an error occurred on

pages 5 and 6 of Ordinance No. 2016-0-008. The Ordinance stated 100 gallons and

should have read 100 cubic feet.

Commissioner Sawicki, “The Ordinance includes a rate increase for three years in

a row. Why not one year at a time?’’

Commissioner McCall explained, “The Board was aware of the deficit in

Lansdowne and wanted to balance the budget. Tough decisions had to be made.’’

Commissioner Sawicki, “The rate increase is not going to solve the problem. I do

not like increasing rates three years in a row. Maybe we should consider a 4% rate

increase next year and none in 2019.’’

Commissioner McCall explained that the Lansdowne Department is going broke

and the rate increase was necessary. The Board listened to the auditor and increased

rates. The Board did not want to vote on a rate increase every year. By authorizing a

three year rate increase, people can budget for the additional money.

President Brinza stated there are only six months left in the year. There is not

time to perform a study and change the Ordinance.

Executive Director Adler reminded the Board that they are only voting on the

word change at this time.

Commissioner Sawicki, “We probably do not have time to change the rate before

January 2018, but I think we should consider amending the Ordinance before January

2019. By the third year of the rate increase, people are going to start noticing and

become angry. We need to be more considerate of people’’
Ms. Worthen explained that a Public Hearing was held in regards to the rate increase, notices were posted in both offices and on the sewage treatment bills. The office staff answers all questions regarding the rate increase.

President Brinza stated that the Board needs to look at the financial condition of the Lansdowne Department next year, and then determine if a rate increase is necessary January 1, 2019.

The ayes and nays being called on the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2017-0-005 resulted in a vote as follows:

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

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

Commissioner Sawicki made a motion to amend Ordinance No. 2017-0-005 to remove the rate increase scheduled for January 1, 2019.

Executive Director Adler asked, “Is there a second to the motion?”

Hearing none, Executive Director Adler stated the Board would move onto the next item on the agenda.

A proposed Ordinance concerning the Budget and Annual Appropriation to defray the necessary and ordinary expenses of the Metro East Sanitary District, Lansdowne Sewage Treatment System, of St. Clair and Madison Counties, in the State of Illinois, for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018, beginning on the first day of April 2017 and ending on the thirty-first day of March 2018 was presented:
The Clerk reported that the Lansdowne Budget will be presented for adoption at the Public Hearing being held on Wednesday, June 21, 2017.

The 2016 Annual Treasurer’s Report for the Metro East Sanitary District was presented:
Motion Commissioner Hawkins; seconded Commissioner McCall to accept the 2016 Annual Treasurer’s Report as submitted and place it on file.

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

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

A Resolution naming TheBank of Edwardsville, Regions Bank and U.S. Bank as financial institutions of the Metro East Sanitary District, and requiring two signatures, one of the Executive Director and one of either the Treasurer of said District or the District Clerk to open or close any share or deposit accounts in the Metro East Sanitary District’s name, including, without limitations, accounts such as share draft, checking, savings, certificates of deposit or term share accounts, escrow, demand deposit, reserve and overdraft line-of-credit accounts. Number 2017-R-001 was assigned to this document:
Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Darwin to adopt Resolution Number 2017-R-001.

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

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

A Resolution approving the annual compensation of the Executive Director of the Metro East Sanitary District was presented. Number 2017-R-002 was assigned to this document:
Motion Commissioner Darwin; seconded Commissioner Hawkins to adopt Resolution Number 2017-R-002.

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

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

The Metro East Sanitary District Pump Station Failures Risk Assessment Priority List was presented:
Executive Director Adler said, “I met with Superintendent John Maeras and Pump Station Operator Scott Hillman and went through the list. I believe we can narrow the list to one page by the end of summer. The Corps of Engineers is going to help with repairs to Pump No. 1 and the sink hole at North Pump Station.”

Executive Director Adler stated he would like to discuss a transitional audit and the finances during Executive Session.

Executive Director Adler recommended the following appointments to the Granite City Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Board:

1. Donald S. Sawicki, MESD Commissioner to replace MESD Superintendent Rick Fancher
2. Stephen J. Adler, MESD Executive Director to replace Robert Shipley
3. Randall Presswood, MESD Lansdowne/Heavy Equipment Superintendent to replace Walter Greathouse
4. Robert T. Meyer to replace Rosemarie Heath

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Darwin to approve the appointments of Donald S. Sawicki, Stephen J. Adler, Randall Presswood and Robert T. Meyer to the Granite City Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Board effective immediately.

Executive Director Adler explained that the Granite City Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant is Lansdowne’s biggest expense. The District needs to know why it is so expensive, and if the costs can be reduced.

The ayes and nays being called on the motion to appoint members to the Granite City Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Board resulted in a vote as follows:

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

Ayes: Commissioners McCall, Darwin, Brinza, Hawkins and Sawicki.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.
Executive Director Adler suggested that Legal Services be discussed during Executive Session.

**CONTRACT BIDS FOR REPAIR OF PUMPS, ELECTRICAL AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT:**

Executive Director Adler stated that the District has very stringent bid requirements. The District must advertise for bids for 21 days on anything over $10,000. However, it would benefit the District to advertise for bids on a contractual basis. The bids would include an hourly rate to perform machinist services, electrical work, pump repairs and so on. This would enable the District to get the lowest rates if the work was above or below $10,000.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Darwin 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.

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

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

The Board entered into Executive Session at 10:50 A.M.

Motion Commissioner McCall; seconded Commissioner Darwin to return to regular session at 11:40 A.M.

The Clerk recorded the attendance:

Present: Commissioners McCall, Darwin, Brinza, Hawkins and Sawicki.
Absent: None.
Also, attending the meeting at this time were Executive Director Steve Adler and Doug Hulme.

An Engagement Letter from Craney Law Group LLC was presented:
Motion Commissioner Sawicki; seconded Commissioner Hawkins to accept the Engagement Letter from Craney Law Group LLC, and enter into an Agreement with Craney Law Group LLC to provide legal services to the Metro East Sanitary District.

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

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

Executive Director Adler stated that Attorney George Filcoff’s services will no longer be needed as Craney Law Group will be performing those services.

Commissioner Hawkins presented the District Clerk with her Open Meetings Act training certificate, and also mentioned that she filed her Statement of Economic Interest with the Madison County Clerk.

Mr. Hulme reminded all of the Commissioners and Executive Director to file a Statement of Economic Interest with the County Clerk.

There being no further business, Motion Commissioner Sawicki; seconded Commissioner Hawkins to adjourn.

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

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

So Adjourned at 11:46 A.M.

___________________________________
Clerk