

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, July 17, 2024

The Board of Trustees of the Sanitary District of Decatur, Illinois met in regular session July 17, 2024, at 5:30 pm at the District's Office, 501 Dipper Lane. Present for the board meeting were board members Dan Smallwood, Rob Jacobsen, Phil Cochran, and Kurt Younghouse. Board Member Megan Baskerville attended electronically in a non-voting role. Staff present at the meeting were Kent Newton, Executive Director/CFO; Don Miller, Director of Engineering; J.D. Malone, Director of Maintenance; Ashley Bailey, Director of Compliance and Innovation; Tim Gorden, Chief Operator; Hailey Beals, Administrative Office Coordinator and Ed Flynn, General Counsel for the District. The audience included Patrick Sullivan, of Featherston Gaumer, Todd Archer, of Black & Veatch (electronically) and staff member Tishia Greve.

Mr. Smallwood called the meeting to order.

There were no public comments.

13314 Mr. Younghouse moved that the items on the Consent Agenda including Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 20, 2024; Payroll and Checks including travel expense reimbursements as submitted; Pretreatment Permit – Rising Pharmaceuticals; and Resolution 24-05 – Surplus Property be approved and that the President, Clerk, and Executive Director be authorized and directed to take all actions required to execute the items on the consent agenda. Motion seconded by Mr. Jacobsen. Mr. Jacobsen asked if we put a number on our surplus property, and if we go back and check if said amount is over or under. Mr. Malone responded that we do for the larger items, such as semis. Mr. Flynn commented saying these auctions are online. **Trustee Smallwood, Jacobsen, Younghouse and Cochran voted Aye, and the motion passed.**

Mr. Newton reviewed the Executive Director's Report that was included in the packet. The Public Funds Investment Act now allows us to invest in high quality Corporate Bonds that were not allowed when our investment policy was updated in 2018. Our advisors at Busey Wealth Management think they could get about a ½ percent higher return over our current investment options using corporate bonds. Mr. Newton wanted to get a sense of the Board's interest in this before proceeding. Mr. Newton also informed the Board that the auditors from MCK are here currently, and they should be done with our annual audit soon. Mr. Newton informed the Board that our contract is almost up, and next year we will need to conduct an RFP. Mr. Newton let the Board know that WEFTEC conference will be in New Orleans from October 6-9, and if any of them want to go, he will get arrangements made.

Mr. Miller presented the Engineering Report that was included in the packet. Mr. Miller let the Board know that we should be seeing some movement around Chandler Park the second weekend of August, regarding the Lost Bridge Force Main. We are a little way out from any road closures. Mr. Miller let the Board know that he has started to receive submittals regarding Primary Clarifier 4 & 6. Mr. Miller gave an update on the Administration Workforce Complex. There is some overlap with contractors as there are other large projects going on in Decatur, specifically the rebuilding of St. Mary's. The District will be pushing back the bid date to August 6th or 14th, and Mr. Newton would like to set up a Special Board Meeting on August 28 to discuss the bid opening if needed. Black & Veatch came in this week for their primary clarifier area review as scheduled.

Mr. Malone reviewed the Maintenance Report that was included in the packet. The maintenance group completed 645 work orders in the last month, with a heavy concentration on project type work. The maintenance group has been working with Operations to get clarifier #6 pumped down, and noticed some serious degradation on the metal while it was down. Mr. Malone is glad that we have a new one on order. We are in the process of hiring a new laborer. Contractually, when someone from the Union steps up to a management position, we keep their position open for 45 days. Blake Dotson has decided to stay in his supervisor position, and Zach Drum has been moved up to lead, so we have been interviewing internally. Blake and Zach are both doing a great job. We will be having a sewer cleaning course next week, which will be a great opportunity to get everyone on the same page. The cleaning services with Innovative Staff Solutions has been moving along, and we are working through the bugs. We expected some bumps in the road but hopefully this path works out for us in the short term. Mark Lindgren's last working day will be Tuesday, July 23, and he will be very missed. Mark started at the District in 1990 and has worked his way up to a supervisor position, and his knowledge has been an asset to the plant.

Ms. Bailey presented the Compliance and Innovation Report included in the packet. Ms. Bailey gave an overview of the incident at the SSO Finley Creek Pump station, and what led to pump being shut down. There were no backups in anyone's basements. The EPA was informed about the situation immediately, and an incident report was filed for the trustees on what occurred and what actions we took. For future reference, Mr. Gorden will be having weekly meetings making sure all of the Operators are aware of what to do in certain situations. Mr. Gorden will also be compiling a Standard Operating Procedure review to prevent similar situations from occurring. Mr. Gorden elaborated on the plan for the future and made sure everyone knows what to do. The Finley Creek is already very dirty, and according to our sampling the creek was actually cleaner at the downstream location. It's hard to determine the specific environmental impact. We do have a new Operator starting on Monday, and she seems like she'll be a great fit. On the Pretreatment front, we are waiting for a response from the USEPA, but it appears that we may be required to issue revised permits to ADM & Primient. A lab tech resigned, and we got the position filled very quickly. The new tech will be starting August 1st. He also seems like he'll be a great fit. Ms. Bailey has been filling in with some of the lab duties. We issued two verbal notices to ADM and Primient.

There was no Old Business, New Business, Attorney Report, or Public Comments.

13315 Mr. Jacobsen moved that the board go into closed session for the purpose of discussing matters that are statutory exceptions to the requirements of the Open Meetings Act as outlined in Sec 2c-1, a personal matter concerning specific employees. Mr. Cochran seconded the motion. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13317 Mr. Jacobsen moved that the board adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Younghouse. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2024, at 5:30 PM.
