



# REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 907 ■ 11231 MARCUM BRANCH ROAD ■ BENTON, ILLINOIS 62612  
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## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT HELD March 23, 2015

The Board of Trustees of the Rend Lake Conservancy District held a regular meeting on Monday, March 23, 2015, at the Rend Lake Conservancy District Administration Office, 11231 Marcum Branch Road, Benton, Illinois. President Todd Thomas called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following were in physical attendance:

**Board of Trustees:** Physical Attendance: Ernest Collins, Jere Shaw, Todd Thomas, Robert Walton, and Keith Ward; By Phone: Don Lucas (Health); Absent: James Rippy

**Staff:** Keith Thomason, General Manager; Larry Sanders, Legal Counsel/Treasurer; Michael Johnston, Comptroller; Leonard Killman, Water Superintendent; Robert Clodi, Executive Assistant

**Visitors:** Norman Vance, Bluford; Michael Bullard, Bluford; Joe Draper, Northeast Water; John Metcalf, Mt. Vernon; Jerry Hart, Woodlawn; and Jeremy Pas, Woodlawn

Mr. Bullard identified himself as the spokesperson for a group of mayors and commissioners representing the villages of Bell Rive, Bluford, Waltonville, Woodlawn and the districts of Kell/Dix and Northeast Water that are against Mt. Vernon's proposal to sell their water system and exclusive rights. Mr. Bullard presented a written statement requesting RLCD to consider the sale of Mt. Vernon's water system a breach of the intent and design of their water service contract. In addition, he requested RLCD to refuse any assignment or transfer of the exclusive rights of the Mt. Vernon water service contract. Lastly, he requested RLCD to grant the rights to the affected communities and districts to purchase water service directly from RLCD. A discussion ensued.

Mr. Shaw presented a written statement with the following questions for discussion:

- Does the Conservancy District have the right to expect Mt. Vernon to be obligated to purchase water from the District for the duration of the contract?
- Can Mt. Vernon assign the obligation to someone else, without District approval?
- Are the surrounding rural villages obligated to purchase water from the assignee?

Upon motion by Jere Shaw and second by Keith Ward directing the General Counsel to send a letter to Mt. Vernon politely requesting that they explain why they believe that the RLCD contract can be transferred to American Water without RLCD approval, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

### Minutes

Upon motion by Ernest Collins and second by Keith Ward approving the minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2015 as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

## **March 23, 2015 (continued)**

### **Acceptance of Check Register**

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Todd Thomas to accept the Check Register as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

**General Manager's Report:** Keith Thomason discussed the March General Manager's Report and provided an Engineering update.

### Rapid Mixer

Mr. Thomason presented the engineering study for the rapid mix repair. As he explained the different options, he reported that bypass pumping would be required to make any repairs to the rapid mix basin. He noted that the bladder type liner presented some valid concerns. He explained that cuts to the bladder would be required to fit around openings, structural members, and mechanical component which would need to be sealed. These seals will be the weakest point of the liner and likely will fail over time. He recommended installing the bypass pumping and using a spray-in liner that is estimated to cost \$250,000. The alternative is to construct a new rapid mix basin and bypass pumping, estimated to cost \$1 million.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Robert Walton approving the bypass pumping and spray-in liner method to repair the rapid mix basin for \$250,000, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

Mr. Thomason requested \$50,000 for engineering fees to design the repair of the rapid mix basin.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Don Lucas approving \$50,000 for engineering fees to design the repair of the rapid mix basin, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

### Emergency Repair Parts

Mr. Thomason reported that Jacob's Waterworks was the lowest qualified bidder for the purchase of emergency repair parts, totaling \$18,336.00.

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by Keith Ward approving the purchase of emergency repair parts from Jacob's Waterworks, totaling \$18,336.00, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

## **March 23, 2015 (continued)**

### Administrative Office Truck Purchase

Mr. Thomason presented to the Board that a local dealership has a F150 priced just under \$26,000, but a similar F250 could be ordered from the State bid list for about \$20,000.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Todd Thomas approving the purchase of the F250 off the State bid list, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

### Surveillance Camera – Pro Shop

Mr. Thomason reported that he has received a quote to install a surveillance camera at the pro shop for \$1,910. The Board decided to table this item until after the discussion of the Budget.

### Golf Chemicals

Mr. Sanders recommended accepting the lowest qualifying bid price for each chemical, but in the event that price is the same priority will be given to the supplier what has the product most available (i.e. least shipping cost, fastest delivery, etc.)

Upon motion by Jere Shaw and second by Keith Ward approving the lowest qualifying bid price for each chemical and in the event that price is the same, approving authority to give priority to the supplier that has the product most available, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

Abstain: Thomas

The President declared the motion carried.

### Golf Carts

Mr. Thomason described the financial forecast of the Recreation Department. He recommended leaving at least \$100,000 in cash to carry Recreation through the off-season ensuring the department does not fail into financial hardship.

Mr. Sanders presented a bid list of the three leading golf cart manufacturers. Mr. Sanders reported that Club Car was the lowest bid at \$181,370.00 for 75 carts including the trade-in. A discussion ensued over Recreation's budget.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Jere Shaw approving the purchase of 75 Club Car golf carts for \$181,370.00 which includes trade-in carts, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

### Greens Mower

Upon motion by Jere Shaw and second by Keith Ward approving the purchase of a Toro Greens Mower for \$34,187.65, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

The Board agreed to table the discussion of the beverage cart and range cart for another time.

**March 23, 2015 (continued)**

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Todd Thomas approving an inter-fund loan from General to Recreation of \$100,000 at 0% interest, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

**Pro Tem Secretary**

Upon motion by Jere Shaw and second by Keith Ward appointing Ernest Collins Pro Tem Secretary, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

**Draft of Budget May 1, 2015 – April 30, 2016**

The tentative budget for May 1, 2015 – April 30, 2016 was presented by Mr. Thomason. The tentative budget will be available for public inspection prior to the public hearing. The Public Hearing is proposed to be scheduled at 8:25 a.m. on Monday, April 27, 2015, for the purpose of public comment on the 2015-2016 Budget of the Rend Lake Conservancy District.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Robert Walton approving the Tentative Budget for May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2016, as presented, the board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

Abstain: Shaw

The President declared the motion carried.

Upon motion by Jere Shaw and second by Robert Walton setting the date and time of the Public hearing for the Tentative Budget for May 1, 2015 through April 30, 2016, for April 27, 2015 at 8:25 a.m., the board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

Mr. Shaw presented a motion to eliminate all lobbyist services for Rend Lake Conservancy District. A discussion ensued and Mr. Shaw withdrew his motion.

**Capital Plan**

The Capital Plan Budget for 2015-2016 Fiscal Year was distributed by Mr. Thomason for the Board's review.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Todd Thomas tentatively approving the 1-Year Capital Plan as presented, the board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

## **March 23, 2015 (continued)**

### **Personnel Policy**

Mr. Thomason proposed an amendment of the Employee Gift Ban Policy to clearly define a gift. "Gift does not mean an employee discount/benefit/award or other item approved by the Board for any employee or Board member of the District."

Upon motion by Todd Thomas and second by Keith Ward approving the proposed amendment as presented, the board voted as follows:

Ayes: Lucas, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: Collins, Shaw

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

### **Employee Benefits**

Mr. Thomason reported that he believes that smoking cessation and weight control programs reduce medical cost for employers. He requested that these programs be added to District benefits with a \$500 lifetime maximum cost per person to the District.

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by Keith Ward to approving the development of a smoking cessation and weight control program at \$500 per person, the board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

Mr. Thomason reported that Aflac is requesting approval to offer services to RLCD employees. He stated this shall be an optional program available to employees that will not incur any cost to the District.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Todd Thomas approving Aflac to offer services to RLCD employees, the board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

### **Closed Session**

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Robert Walton to go into Closed Session at 10:45 a.m. to consider: (1) Personnel (For the Discussion of the Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Discipline, Performance, or Dismissal); (2) Collective Negotiations (For the Discussion of Collective Negotiating Matters); (6) Sale, Purchase or Lease of Property (For the Setting of a Price for Sale, Purchase or Lease of Property); (8) Security (For discussion of security procedures); (11) Litigation (For the Discussion of Pending, Probable or Imminent); and (21) Closed Session Minutes (For the Discussion of Closed Session Minutes), a discussion was held with Mr. Shaw expressing his displeasure with going into closed session as it would not keep him from discussing these items in public; the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Jere Shaw to come out of Closed Session at 11:10 a.m. the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

**March 23, 2015 (continued)**

**Management Salary Increase**

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Robert Walton approving a 3.0% salary increase for Keith Thomason, Larry Sanders, and Mike Johnston as well as increasing the term of Mr. Sanders' contract to 3 years the same as Mr. Thomason's, the board voted as follows:

Ayes: Lucas, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: Collins, Shaw

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

**Closed Session Minutes**

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by Ernest Collins approving the Closed Session Minutes of March 2, 2015 as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

Mr. Ward left the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

**Resolution 485 Employee Policy Amendment**

Upon motion by Todd Thomas and second by Robert Walton approving the adopted Employee Gift Ban policy amendment to be resolved as Resolution 485, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Lucas, Thomas, Walton

Nays: Collins, Shaw

Absent: Rippy, Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

**Adjournment**

Upon motion by Jere Shaw and second by Ernest Collins to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m., the Board voted as follows:

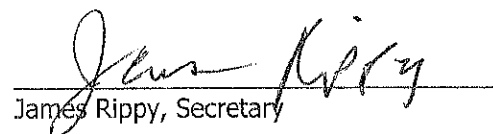
Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Shaw, Thomas, Walton

Nays: None

Absent: Rippy, Ward

The President declared the motion carried.

  
Todd Thomas, President

  
James Rippy, Secretary