



REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT HELD November 23, 2015

The Board of Trustees of the Rend Lake Conservancy District held a regular meeting on Monday, November 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 attended:

Board of Trustees: In physical attendance: Ernest Collins, Kischa Jackson, Don Lucas, James Rippy, Todd Thomas, Robert Walton, and Keith Ward

Staff: Keith Thomason, General Manager; Larry Sanders, Legal Counsel/Treasurer; Michael Johnston, Comptroller; Leonard Killman, Water Superintendent; Robert Clodi, Executive Assistant; Sarah Towle, Project Manager; Amy Krueger, Lodge Manager; and Tim Chrzan, Golf Pro.

Visitors: John Lowder and Jim Riemer, Governmental Consulting Solutions, Inc.; Jeff Batts, Restaurant Lease

Mr. Rippy expressed interest in recording the open session portion of the Board meeting and asked to have it placed on the agenda of the next Board meeting. Mr. Ward and Mrs. Jackson agreed with this proposal.

Minutes

Mr. Rippy presented a change to the minutes that read as follows: "A discussion ensued to how this information can be presented."

Upon motion by James Rippy and second by Keith Ward approving the minutes of the meeting of October 26, 2015 as amended, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Thomas, Rippy, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Abstain: Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

Acceptance of Check Register

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

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Thomas, Rippy, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

November 23, 2015 (continued)

General Manager's Report: Keith Thomason presented the General Manager's report covering the following items:

- News Story Interview
- Safety
- Easement Clearing
- Auditor General Response Letter

Financial Report

Mr. Johnston presented the financial report for the month of October.

Engineering Projects Update

Mrs. Towle presented the engineering report covering the status of the following projects:

- Valve Insertion
- Leak Detection
- Middle Fork Big Muddy Bypass
- Exposed Water Main Repairs
- Rapid Mix Bypass
- Expansion Joint Replacement at RL College Tower
- Smoke Testing
- Clarifier Freeze Protection
- Ina BPS Electrical Upgrade

Water and Sewer Update

Mr. Killman provided an update on the following items:

- Revenues and Expenses
- Daily Average and Peak Flows
- Taste and Oder
- Hydrant Flushing
- Semi-Truck Test Drive
- Wholesale Meter Replacement
- Christopher Pump Station Pump Overhaul
- New Impellers at Ewing Sewer lift Station
- Chemical Bids

Recreation Update

Mr. Sanders provided an update on the following items:

- Golf Maintenance personnel taking Vacation and Holiday through Winter Months
- Status of Golf Course Maintenance
- Recreation Survey

Pro Shop Update

Tim Chrzan provided a status update on the following items:

- Golf Revenues and Expenses
- Golf Round Records corrected
- E-Z Link Training
- Club Car tow bars
- 2016 Pro-shop Buying Plan
- Groups and Outings

November 23, 2015 (continued)

Lodge Update

Amy Krueger provided a status update on the following items:

- Lodge Revenues and Expenses
- Annual Condo Rental
- Condo Rental Marketing

Mr. Rippy proposed a Resolution to direct the County Clerk of Jefferson and Franklin Counties to place a referendum on the ballot concerning the use of water revenues to support recreational activities.

Mr. Lucas opposed Mr. Rippy's referendum proposal.

Mr. Rippy made a motion to approve a Referendum Resolution that Mr. Collins seconded. A discussion ensued in regards to whether or not passing the Referendum Resolution would violate the Open Meetings Act. The General Manager recommended not voting on this issue since it may be a violation of the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Rippy said he wanted to vote on the referendum resolution anyway. Mr. Ward asked Mr. Rippy if he would also file an Open Meeting Act violation complaint over this type of violation. Mr. Rippy responded that he would. The Legal Counsel recommended that no vote be taken. Mr. Collins withdrew his second. The President proposed placing the Referendum Resolution on the agenda for the next meeting. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Lucas proposed to have a straw vote, that would not have binding authority, regarding the members interest in having a Referendum for the purposes described by Mr. Rippy. The straw vote was as follows: Mr. Thomas – No, Mr. Lucas – No, Mr. Rippy – Yes, Mrs. Jackson – Stated she would have voted yes, Mr. Collins – Abstain, Mr. Walton – Abstain, and Mr. Ward – No.

Ordinance 279 – Combined Facilities

Mr. Sanders presented Ordinance 279 to re-affirm the passage of Ordinance 279 from the September 28, 2015 Board meeting.

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by Kisha Jackson approving and re-affirming Ordinance 279 regarding combining facilities in accordance with the River Conservancy Districts Act, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Jackson, Lucas, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: Collins, Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

Government Consulting Solutions Presentation

John Lowder and Jim Riemer gave a presentation on how their firm could assist RLCD in governmental relations activities. Mr. Thomason thanked them for the presentation and explained that the Board would consider the proposal.

Bids

Water Treatment Chemicals

Mr. Thomason presented the bids for the water treatment chemicals. He proposed to award the lowest bid for each chemical except for polymer and activated carbon. He expressed that these chemicals will need to be tested to verify their performance and acceptable use. Mr. Thomason added that he will present the results of the testing at the next Board meeting as well as a recommendation for which bid to award.

Upon motion by Todd Thomas and second by Keith Ward to award the lowest bid for each chemical except for polymer and activated carbon, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

November 23, 2015 (continued)

Fuel Bids

Mr. Thomason presented the bids for fuel. He proposed to award the lowest bid for each fuel type, which would be CynEnergy for unleaded fuel, and Wabash Valley for all others.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Robert Walton to award the lowest bid for each fuel type as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Semi-Truck

Mr. Thomason reported that the low bid for the semi-truck passed the performance test. The low bid was Rush Truck Center for \$106,742.69.

Upon motion by Todd Thomas and second by Don Lucas to award the bid for the purchase of a semi-truck from Rush Truck Center for \$106,742, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Jackson

The President declared the motion carried.

Recreation Rates

Mr. Sanders presented a report of the golf and lodging rates from 2006 to present and proposed rates for golf and lodging for 2016.

Upon motion by Don Lucas and second by Keith Ward to approve the recreation rates as proposed, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

2016 Board Meeting Schedule

Mr. Clodi presented the proposed Board Meeting Schedule citing that some dates were adjusted from the typical designated meeting date due to holidays.

Upon motion by Don Lucas and second by Robert Walton approving the Board Meeting Schedule as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Recreation Strategic Plan

Mr. Thomason referred to a recreation strategic plan that was presented at the July 27, 2015 Board meeting. Mr. Thomason requested approval from the Board to proceed with specific projects and sought direction on the proposed strategies. When asked, Mr. Thomason reported that these projects would not use any water money and any increase in expenses would only affect the Recreation Department.

The discussion turned from the revenue enhancement plan to the past use of District funds. Mrs. Jackson asked if recreation, water, and sewer have been paying their own bills. Mr. Johnston stated this is true and the District has not used water money for recreation. Mr. Thomason added that the District has not used water money to pay recreation expenses nor recreation money to pay water expenses. Mr. Thomason explained that the issue that continues to be discussed has always been how the costs of administration are to be paid.

November 23, 2015 (continued)

Mr. Thomason reported that recreation has been experiencing a downward trend in revenues over the years and that the District needs to create new revenue streams to curb this trend. Mr. Thomason presented several revenue generating options such as lakeside cabins and camper rentals, a gas station, concert venue, video gaming, and hunting lease. He stated that any project that would require capital funding would be paid by cash in the Recreation Fund or by a Recreation Fund loan. Mr. Thomason also suggested hiring a resort manager that would oversee all resort activities and focus on marketing. In addition, he requested input from the Board on several strategies that were presented, such as continuing the status quo, hiring a resort manager, contact golf and lodging companies to lease facilities, re-evaluate shooting complex lease, share cropping, and tax payments used for debit reduction. A discussion ensued regarding which projects to undertake and the proposed strategy options.

Upon motion by Don Lucas and second by Todd Thomas for the following action on the proposals; 1. continue cash leasing the farmland, 2. start the plans for the cabin and present them to the Board for final review, 3. invite the potential partner to bring a camper to the proposed camper rental site for further review, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Board members also expressed interest in the concert venue. Mr. Ward asked management to analysis the cost and present ideas to the Board at the next meeting. No action was taken.

Ordinance 280 Amendment to Codification of Ordinance for Wastewater

Mr. Clodi reported that he has started to tracking inflow and infiltration (I & I) of storm water into the District sewer system. He presented a picture of a customer's cleanout located in a ditch. The cap was missing and was draining the ditch into the sewer system. Mr. Clodi reported that the proposed ordinance would prevent customers from locating cleanouts in area that storm water flows and pools, as well as requiring them to maintain the cleanout with a cap and free from defects.

Upon motion by Don Lucas and second by Robert Walton approving Ordinance 280 as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Mt. Vernon Enterprise Zone

Mr. Sanders presented Resolution 489 authorizing the District's support and participation in the Mt. Vernon Enterprise Zone.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Todd Thomas approving Resolution 489 as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

November 23, 2015 (continued)

Closed Session

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by Kisha Jackson to go into Closed Session at 12:23 p.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); the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Mrs. Jackson and Mr. Lucas left the meeting at 1:20 pm.

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by Keith Ward come out of Closed Session at 1:23 p.m., the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Jackson, Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

Personnel

Mr. Walton stated that he does not want to shoulder the lodge and golf managers with the resort-marketing manager duties. Mr. Thomas stated that he thinks hiring a resort-marketing manager would help. The Board took no action.

Closed Session Minutes

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by Keith Ward approving the closed session minutes of the meeting of October 26, 2015 as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Jackson, Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

Adjournment


Upon motion by Ernest Collins and second by Keith Ward to adjourn the meeting at 1:27 p.m., the Board voted as follows:


Ayes: Collins, Thomas, Rippy, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Jackson, Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.


Todd Thomas, President


James Rippy, Secretary