



REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 907 ■ 11231 MARCUM BRANCH ROAD ■ BENTON, ILLINOIS 62812
TELEPHONE: (618) 439-4321 ■ FAX: (618) 439-2400

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT HELD February 22, 2016

The Board of Trustees of the Rend Lake Conservancy District held a regular meeting on Monday, February 22, 2016, 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, Kisha Jackson, James Rippy, Todd Thomas, Robert Walton, and Keith Ward; By conference call: Don Lucas

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

Visitors: Rob Wielt, Affordable Gas & Electric

Minutes

The Board President called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2015 meeting. Mr. Rippy stated the minutes were incorrect, citing he did not state it was illegal for the water department to pay all the administrative reimbursement expense. Mr. Thomason cautioned the Board about changing the minutes, noting the minutes are a record of what was actually discussed at the meeting. He added that the recording of that meeting would be played at the end of today's meeting and statements will be reviewed to clarify the minutes. Mr. Sanders suggested to strike the word "illegal" and replace it with the word "inappropriate." No further action was taken.

The Board President called for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2016 meeting. Mr. Collins asked to amend the minutes by striking out the word "thought" and replacing it with the word "knew" regarding a discussion of an unleaded fuel purchase listed in the check register. The amended sentence shall read as follows: "Mr. Collins asked for additional information in regards to the unleaded fuel purchased from Wabash Valley citing that he knew Syneregy was awarded the bid."

Upon motion by Ernest Collins and second by Keith Ward to amend the January 25, 2016 minutes as corrected by Mr. Collins, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Jackson

The President declared the motion carried.

Mr. Rippy stated he remembered other Board members acknowledging that they did not know they had violated the Open Meetings Act during a discussion at the January 25, 2016 meeting. Mr. Rippy asked to amend the January 25, 2016 minutes to read as follows: "Mr. Rippy and other Board members stated that they were not knowledgeable enough about the Open Meetings Act to realize when they are violating the Act."

February 22, 2016 (continued)

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by James Rippy to amend the January 25, 2016 minutes as presented by Mr. Rippy, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Thomas, Rippy, Walton, Ward

Nays: Lucas

Abstain: Jackson

The President declared the motion carried.

Mr. Collins also stated he wanted to be identified as the Board member that withdrew his second to Mr. Rippy's motion to vote on an issue that was not on the agenda.

Upon motion by Ernest Collins and second by Keith Ward approving Mr. Collin's amendment to the January 25, 2016 minutes, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: Lucas, Rippy

Abstain: Jackson

The President declared the motion carried.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Robert Walton for final approval of the January 25, 2016 minutes as amended, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Jackson

The President declared the motion carried.

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, Jackson, Lucas, Thomas, Rippy, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

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

- Easement Clearing
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources Lake Maintenance Bill
- Improvement Efforts toward New Standard Operation Procedures
- Valve Cycling
- Hydrant Repair and Painting
- Lodge Financing and Long Term Rentals
- Security Guard Services
- Safety

Mr. Rippy asked if the District thought the acoustic testing was accurate. Mr. Thomason reported that the District is overlapping a section of the acoustic testing with the thermal image scanning to compare results. He also stated that the acoustic testing only found a leak where the District already know one existed and that it is still unclear if either method works.

Financial Report

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

Upon motion by James Rippy and second by Kisha Jackson to list the recreation loan as an encumbrance, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

February 22, 2016 (continued)

Bids and Purchasing

JULIE Locating Service

Mr. Thomason presented a subscription invoice of \$5,530.91 for JULIE locating services.

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by Keith Ward authorizing \$5,530.91 for Julie locating services, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Engineering Truck

Mr. Thomason presented a state bid of \$27,069 for a F150 4x4 Superduty to replace a 2006 Ford Explorer with nearly 100,000 miles.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Todd Thomas authorizing the purchase of the F150 4x4 Superduty for \$27,069, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lucas, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: Jackson

Abstain: Rippy

The President declared the motion carried.

Electricity

Mr. Johnston presented bids for electricity. Electricity service was bid for residential and commercial services. Mr. Johnston reported that only one bid was received for residential electricity. He noted that the bid was not cheaper than our current rate and recommended rejecting it. Mr. Johnston reported five bids were received for commercial electricity. Affordable Gas and Electric was the low bid with a 3-year service contract.

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by James Rippy approving the 3-year contract with Affordable Gas and Electric for commercial electricity and rejecting the bid for residential electricity, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Resolution 490 -- Annual Closed Session Review

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Don Lucas approving Resolution 490 which resolves that the following Closed Session Minutes be made available for public inspection and that all others remain closed as the need for confidentiality still exists to all or portions thereof: December 22, 2014, March 2, 2015, March 23, 2015, May 18, 2015, and December 21, 2015; the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

February 22, 2016 (continued)

Bids and Purchasing

Lodge Furniture and Carpet

Mr. Thomason reported that the remaining one-fourth of old furniture and some carpet at the lodge needs to be replaced. He reported that the lodge manager received some negative feedback at the St. Louis Golf Expo regarding the aging conditions of the facility. Mr. Thomason recommended purchasing \$20,000 worth of new furniture and \$5,000 worth of carpet to be paid with recreational capital funds. He suggested ordering the furniture from the supplier that won the bid in the past to insure the Lodge has compatible furniture that can be interchanged. He noted the supplier would likely raise the price of the furniture consistent with inflation. Mr. Rippy reported a complaint from a person in Mt. Vernon stating the District has hired contractors that were not competent. Mr. Rippy suggested the District bid the carpet for the Lodge and provide this person with an opportunity to bid the job. Mr. Collins and Mr. Walton expressed their interest in having the furniture bid and that the specifications require the new furniture to match the current.

Upon motion by Don Lucas and second by Keith Ward authorizing the General Manager to purchase \$20,000 worth of furniture from the previous supplier and \$5,000 for the carpet and installation, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Lucas, Thomas, Ward

Nays: Collins, Jackson, Rippy, Walton

The President declared the motion has failed.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Ernest Collins authorizing management to bid the furniture and carpet for the Lodge, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Rippy, Walton, Ward

Nays: Lucas, Thomas

The President declared the motion carried.

Chamber of Commerce

Upon motion by Ernest Collins and second by James Rippy approving the membership payment to Sesser Area Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$50, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

State Bill and Collection

Mr. Johnston reported that management had met with the Big Muddy Prison Warden. He explained that the Warden had no knowledge of when the State would pay its bills and asked for the District not to turn off the sewer service to the prison. Mr. Thomason reported that Senator Forby could not provide any insight on receiving payment from the State. Mr. Ward reported that both Franklin and Jefferson County have sued the State for wage payments.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Kisha Jackson authorized the District to pursue legal action for outstanding payments from the State, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Seasonal Housing for Interns and Assistant Golf Professionals

Mr. Thomason requested approval to offer housing for interns and seasonal assistant golf professionals. He noted that the interns would be paid minimum wage and housing would be offered with stipulations. Mr. Ward and Mrs. Jackson expressed concerns about taking jobs from local kids. Mr. Ward also expressed concerns regarding the previous interim golf professional and the possibility that he may have taken golf customer contact information from the District.

February 22, 2016 (continued)

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Todd Thomas authorizing seasonal housing for assistant seasonal golf professionals, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Safety Award

Mr. Thomason reported that the District did not have any lost time accidents for 2015. He noted that the District had one ankle injury in 2015 but the employee was put on light duty which provided the District an opportunity to cross train him. He mentioned an older claim was still active and the employee recently had back surgery. Mr. Thomason recommended to honor each full-time employee with a safety award jacket valued between \$50 and \$100.

Upon motion by James Rippy and second by Keith Ward authorizing a safety award for each full-time employee valued at \$50 to \$100, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Collins

The President declared the motion carried.

Closed Session

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Ernest Collins to go into Closed Session at 10:55 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); the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Earnest Collins to come out of Closed Session at 11:06 a.m., the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Closed Session Minutes

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Robert Walton approving the closed session minutes of the meeting of January 25, 2016 as presented, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Audio of Closed Session for September 28, 2015

Mr. Thomason reminded the Board that the first 1 hour 17 minutes and 50 seconds of the September 28, 2015 meeting will be played for the public immediately after the meeting today. Mr. Rippy asked if playing the recording for the public would satisfy the recommendation of the State. Mr. Sanders stated that he believes that it will.

February 22, 2016 (continued)


Adjournment

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Todd Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m., the Board voted as follows:

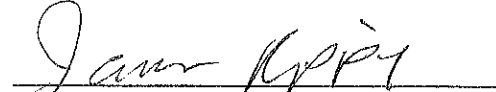
Ayes: Collins, Jackson, Lucas, Rippy, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

The President declared the motion carried.



Todd Thomas, President



James Rippy, Secretary