



# REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 907 ■ 11231 MARCUM BRANCH ROAD ■ BENTON, ILLINOIS 62812  
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## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT HELD July 25, 2016

The Board of Trustees of the Rend Lake Conservancy District held a regular meeting on Monday, July 25, 2016, at the Rend Lake Conservancy District Administration Office, 11231 Marcum Branch Road, Benton, Illinois. President Todd Thomas called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. The following attended:

**Board of Trustees:** In physical attendance: Ernest Collins, Kischa Jackson, Nicholas LeMay, Todd Thomas, Robert Walton, and Keith Ward; By phone: Don Lucas

**Staff:** Keith Thomason, General Manager; Larry Sanders, Legal Counsel/Treasurer; Michael Johnston, Comptroller; Leonard Killman, Water Plant Superintendent; Robert Clodi, Executive Assistant; Jim Ashby, Golf Superintendent; and Sarah Towle, Engineer

**Visitors:** None

Mr. Lucas explained that he is battling a medical illness and is considering resigning from the Board. He expressed his appreciation serving on the Board and acknowledged management for the exceptional work they have done. Mr. Thomason and other Board Members thanked him for calling and wished him to get better. Mr. Lucas left the meeting via phone.

Mrs. Jackson requested that the Board take a moment in prayer for Mr. Lucas.

### Minutes

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Ernest Collins approving the minutes of June 27, 2016 as presented, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

### Acceptance of Check Register

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

### General Manager's Report:

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

- Daily Average and Maximum Flows for drinking water
- Summer easement clearing
- IEPA Report
- #4 High Service Pump Repair
- #1 Clarifier Oil Leak
- HVAC and Exhaust Fan Failure

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## July 25, 2016 (continued)

- Auxiliary Engine at the Ina Pump Station
- SCADA Issues at Frisco
- Emergency Power at Water Plant
- Battery Replacement on Residential Water Meters
- Golf Revenues
- Lodge Revenues
- Lodge Electric Bill
- Farm Land Crop Sharing

### Financial Report

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

### Engineering Projects

Mr. Thomason provided an update on the following engineering projects:

#### Rapid Mix

Mr. Thomason reported that the rapid mix project is complete but after inspection it was found that the contractor installed the wrong type of elbow piping. Final payment is being held until the pipe is replaced.

#### Big Muddy Middle Fork Project

Mr. Thomason reported the Big Muddy Middle Fork Project is complete.

#### Du Quoin Swamp Water Main

Mr. Thomason reported that the Du Quoin Swamp Water Main Project will be starting soon.

#### Johnston City Pump Station Upgrade

Mr. Thomason reported that Johnston City will be the next pump station to upgrade the switch gear and rehab the valves.

#### Water Plant 36" Water Main

Mr. Thomason reported that engineering design has begun on a duplicate 36" water main that will extend from the water plant, under I-57, and tie back into the distribution system. He explained that IEPA expressed concern that the water treatment plant relies on a single water main to deliver water from the plant to the system and that IEPA recommends that a redundant main be constructed.

#### Buck and Bass Cabins

Mr. Sanders presented a report on the financial status of the project as well as a narrative of the construction progress. Mr. Sanders reported that the project cost is expected to have a cost overrun of \$4,000 to complete. He explained that internal labor has been tracked with the anticipation that it would count towards the budget set for the project. Mr. Sanders requested approval to increase the budget to \$40,000. Mr. Ward made a motion to increase the budget to \$40,000. Mrs. Jackson asked to table the vote and requested that management prepare an updated budget for the proposed increase. Mr. Ward agreed and withdrew his motion.

#### Larry Foster Boulevard

Mr. Thomason reported that the County Highway Department has done some cold patching on Larry Foster Boulevard but noted that more work still needs to be done.

#### Dehumidifier Compressor

Mr. Thomason reported that the compressor for the dehumidifier at the water plant needs to be replaced. The lowest bid was received by JR Mechanical for \$4,650.

**July 25, 2016 (continued)**

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by Nicholas LeMay approving the repair to the dehumidifier for \$4,650 by JR Mechanical, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

Truck Purchase

Mr. Thomason requested approval to purchase a F250 4x4 extended cab from the State bid list for \$28,880 to replace a similar truck with over 200,000 miles. He noted that when a new vehicle is purchased the older vehicle is handed down throughout the other departments of the District until the worst vehicle is identified. Mrs. Jackson asked how the District will get rid of the older vehicle. Mr. Thomason replied that the District will auction it off in accordance with the River Conservancy District Act.

Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the purchase of the truck from the State bid list for \$28,880. The motion was second by Keith Ward.

Mr. Collins asked if any of the local dealerships offered a similar price. Mr. Killman reported that he has not reached out to them. Mr. Thomas expressed interest in offering the local dealers an opportunity to match the price.

Mr. Thomas and Mr. Ward withdrew their motion.

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by Ernest Collins authorizing management to purchase the truck from a local dealer if they can match the price; if not, bring the quotes back to the Board for further discussion, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

**Resolution 492 Annual Closed Session Minutes Review**

After review of the closed session minutes, Mr. Sanders recommended not to open any of the closed session minutes at this time due to pending litigation.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Kisha Jackson approving Resolution 492 Annual Closed Session Minute Review as presented, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

**Ordinance 283 Tax Levy**

Mr. Thomason presented the Tax Levy Ordinance with a 0% tax increase. A discussion ensued regarding lowering the taxes.

Mr. Ward made a motion to lower taxes 1%.

Mrs. Jackson made a motion to lower taxes 3%.

Mr. Thomason indicated that the Board must consider the motions in the order that they occurred.

Mrs. Jackson made a second to Mr. Ward's motion for a 1% tax decrease.

## **July 25, 2016 (continued)**

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Kisha Jackson to reduce taxes by 1%, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: Collins, Jackson, LeMay

Absent: Lucas

The President declared the motion has failed.

Additional discussion was held as the Board deliberated on the appropriate tax decrease.

Upon motion by Kisha Jackson and second by Nicholas LeMay to reduce taxes by 3%, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

### **Resolution 493 Midland Bank Signatories**

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by Keith Ward approving Resolution 493 Midland Bank Signatory as presented, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

### **Billboard Repair**

Mr. Thomason reported the large billboard on I-57 north of Rend Lake College was damaged in the recent wind storm. He reported that insurance will cover the repair except for a \$2,500 deductible. Mr. Thomason requested pre-approval to pay the \$2,500 deductible to repair the bill board.

Upon motion by Todd Thomas and second by Nicholas LeMay pre-approving \$2,500 to cover the deductible for the repair of the I-57 bill board, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

### **Water SCADA Radios**

Mr. Thomason reported that the radios the District uses to communicate with pump stations are obsolete. He explained that the manufacturers are no longer making these radios and it is becoming harder to find replacement parts. He noted that the District and our SCADA contractor are tracking down businesses that have already upgraded their communication system and are buying the reusable components of their old radio system. Mr. Thomason informed the Board that he expects that the District will need to upgrade the radio system in the next 2 years, which will be a major expense.

Mr. Walton noted that he continues to be amazed that the phone bill for the lodge is \$900. He asked if there is any other option. A discussion ensued regarding management's previous investigation in the matter as well as alternate phone systems such as cell phones or internet based systems. No action was taken.

### **Zoning Plan**

Mr. Thomason indicated that the District is considering a zoning plan. He explained that preparing a zoning plan for the lake area west of I-57 may help promote development. He noted that with a plan in place the District will be prepared to solicit private investment for a gas station or some other recreational facilities. Mr. Thomason explained that he is only seeking the Board's input at this stage and noted that FREDCO has offered to lend their support in the plan's development. Mr. Ward noted that the County

**July 25, 2016 (continued)**

does not have zoning in place and suggested that management seek the support of the County as well. No further action was taken.

**Cabin Budget**

Upon motion by Todd Thomas and second by Kisha Jackson authorizing the budget for the cabin to be increased to a maximum of \$45,000 with the challenge to keep the expenses as close to the original budget as possible, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

**Ordinance 283 Tax Levy**

Upon motion by Kisha Jackson and second by Keith Ward approving Ordinance 283 Tax Levy as amended, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

**Closed Session**

Upon motion by Ernest Collins and second by Todd Thomas to go into Closed Session at 10:48 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, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward

Nays: None

Absent: Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Nicholas LeMay to come out of Closed Session at 11:37 a.m., the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

**Closed Session Minutes**

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Kisha Jackson to approve the closed session minutes of June 27, 2016, the Board voted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

**July 25, 2016 (continued)**

**Adjournment**

Upon motion by Kisha Jackson and second by Todd Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m., the Board voted as follows:


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

Nays: None

Absent: Lucas

The President declared the motion carried.

  
Todd Thomas, President

  
Keith Ward, Secretary