



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 February 24, 2020

The Board of Trustees of the Rend Lake Conservancy District held a regular meeting on Monday, February 24, 2020, at the Rend Lake Conservancy District Golf Course Banquet Room, 12476 Golf Course Road, Whittington, 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, Paul Lawrence, Nicholas LeMay, Todd Thomas, Robert Walton, Keith Ward, and Michael Warren

Staff: Keith Thomason, General Manager; Larry Sanders, General Counsel; Michael Johnston, Comptroller; Tony Furlow, Water Plant Superintendent; Jeremy Richardson, Facilities Manager; Jason Stille, Golf Professional; Pete Hunter, Golf Course Superintendent; Amy Krueger, Manager of Season's Lodge and Condominiums; and Jen Zinzilieta, Executive Assistant

Visitors: None

Minutes

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Ernest Collins to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2020, Regular Meeting as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Acceptance of Check Register

Upon motion by Ernest Collins and second by Todd Thomas to accept the Check Register as presented, the Board as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: None

The President declared the motion carried.

General Manager's Report

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

- Report of the daily average and maximum flows of drinking water was given.
- A report of the water and sewer leaks during the past month was given.
- Lead and copper samples were all negative.
- Mt. Vernon city managers are in contact with RLCD because Woodlawn would like to extend their contract.
- Mr. Thomason discussed the Webb Hill Road project. Akin has informed RLCD that the customers involved are in the Akin Water District.

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February 24, 2020 (Continued)

- Jason Stillely, golf professional, will be transferred back to the golf department effective March 1. Mr. Thomason complimented on his work during the winter on the Sewer I & I issues.
- Mr. Sanders is wrapping up negotiations with the insurance companies regarding the water leak of May 2018.
- Monty Pearce and Jeremy Richardson have built a very nice display model at the water plant of the sand filter system used at the water plant.
- Safety Review: Mr. Thomason reported that the managers and employees of the District have done a very good job regarding safety this past year. The number of lost work days due to accidents in 2018 was 192 but was reduced to 3 lost work days due to accidents in 2019. There was a safety meeting held in each department commending the managers and employees of a job well done.

Financial Report

Mr. Johnston presented the financial report for the month of January. Mr. Johnston reported that Big Muddy Prison owes the District \$552,443 and the state, in total, owes the District \$616,247.

Bids and Purchases

Vehicle Request

Mr. Thomason presented information regarding the purchase of a new Ford F350 work truck with utility sides and bed to replace a truck with 199,000 miles at the water plant. The price for the truck is \$46,512 off the state bid list.

Upon motion by Nicholas LeMay and second by Keith Ward to approve the purchase of a Ford F350 work truck off the state bid list unless a local dealer can match or beat the price of \$46,512, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward, Warren

Nays: Collins

Absent: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Audit Bid

Mr. Johnston presented information regarding the audit bid. The District received three bids from auditing firms. Two bids were received on time and one bid was received the afternoon of the bid opening but was postmarked before the bid opening date. The low bid was from Kerber, Eck, & Braeckel.

Upon motion by Paul Lawrence and second by Nicholas LeMay to approve the bid from the lowest bidder, Kerber, Eck, & Braeckel, even though it was received after the bid opening, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Water Plant Step Repairs

Mr. Thomason presented information regarding the purchase of materials for the front step repairs at the water plant. The step strips cost \$3,808 and the installation will be done by District employees.

Upon motion by Nicholas LeMay and second by Michael Warren to approve the purchase of materials to repair the damage to the front steps of the water plant for a cost of \$3,808, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: None

The President declared the motion carried.

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Submersible Pump for Sewer

Mr. Thomason presented information regarding the need to replace a current submersible pump at the sewer system with a bigger pump. Three quotes were received. The low quote was from The Pump Shop for \$6,830.

Upon motion by Todd Thomas and second by Nicholas LeMay to approve the purchase of a replacement pump for the sewer system for a cost of \$6,830 from The Pump Shop, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: None

The President declared the motion carried.

Wet Sludge Hauling

Mr. Thomason presented information regarding the water plant wet sludge hauling. Oros and Busch will be hauling the wet sludge for a total price of \$53,896.50.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Michael Warren to approve the water plant wet sludge hauling by Oros & Busch at a total cost of \$53,896.50, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, Thomas, Walton, Ward, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: LeMay

The President declared the motion carried.

Equipment Purchases by Golf Course Maintenance Superintendent and Lodge Manager

Mr. Thomason presented information regarding money in the current budget year that has not yet been spent by the golf course superintendent and lodge manager. He would like the Board to grant authority to allow the purchase of used or new items by the golf course superintendent and lodge manager. The golf course superintendent had money approved in the amount of \$50,000 for a mower that hasn't been purchased yet. Also, the water superintendent and the lodge manager will each have an additional \$66,500 available to spend.

Upon motion by Todd Thomas and second by Paul Lawrence to grant immediate authority for the purchase of used or new items by the golf course superintendent up to \$116,500 and the lodge manager up to \$66,500, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Collins, Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: None

The President declared the motion carried.

FY 2020/2021 Budget Process

Mr. Johnston presented the draft budget for the fiscal year of 2020/2021. He went through each department's budget explaining any large changes from the previous year's budget.

Ernest Collins left the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Engineering Projects

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

Booster Pump Station Upgrades

Mr. Thomason reported that work has begun at the McLeansboro and Ewing pump stations with a target completion date of April 2020.

February 24, 2020 (Continued)

Secondary WTP Discharge Line

Mr. Thomason reported the contractor has sent in a request for additional money regarding the project. Mr. Thomason will discuss with the contractor the additional request for funds.

Webb Hill Road Project

Mr. Thomason stated that the project is on hold as we verify which water district the customers are located in.

Sewer Inflow & Infiltration

Mr. Thomason reported that plans are moving forward with the Sewer I & I. The RLCD system is joined with the Ewing sewer system, thus RLCD will help Ewing with their sewer issues. RLCD has made some improvements that have helped with the Sewer I & I problems.

Southern Illinois Arts & Crafts Marketplace

Mr. Thomason reported that the IDNR has moved the head of Wayne Fitzgerald State Park and the IDNR conservation police into the offices at the Southern Illinois Arts & Crafts Marketplace. Discussion ensued.

Illinois Legislative Update

Mr. Sanders provided a legislative update regarding the following topics:

- John Bradley continues to advise and work with the state legislature and state agencies on behalf of the District.
- Efforts continue to seek the return of the Southern Illinois Arts & Crafts Marketplace to the District.

Rend Lake Annual Fourth of July Fireworks

Mr. Thomason presented information regarding the annual Fourth of July Fireworks hosted by the Benton/West City Chamber of Commerce. The chamber has stated that they will no longer be hosting the annual event. The chamber has reached out to others to partner or take over the event. Sesser Mayor Jason Ashmore has come forward to take the lead in hosting the annual Fourth of July Fireworks.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Todd Thomas to approve the contribution to the Fourth of July Fireworks up to \$5,000 as long as the fireworks display happens, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Collins

The President declared the motion carried.

Recreation Facilities Update

Mr. Sanders reported the following information regarding the recreation facilities.

- Cabins: Cabin rentals were very good during the year with some months having 100% rental on weekends. The location and the floor plan of the fourth cabin have been determined.
- Lodge: Upgrades are being planned to prepare for the start of the high season.
- Golf Course: A crew is repairing the irrigation control boxes that are no longer fully functional. The control boxes have been rehabbed and are now being installed.

Leased Facilities Update

Mr. Sanders reported the following information regarding the leased facilities.

- Restaurant: Tino's on the Tee plans to continue to operate limited hours during the winter months. They continue to grow their business beyond the golf groups.
- Farmers: RLCD continues to be proactive with mailing the farmers invoices of payment due dates.

February 24, 2020 (Continued)

Closed Session

Upon motion by Michael Warren and second by Robert Walton to go into Closed Session at 11:10 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: Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Collins

The President declared the motion carried.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Michael Warren to come out of Closed Session at 11:35 a.m., the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Collins

The President declared the motion carried.

Strategic Planning Session

Mr. Michael Warren led the "Strategic Planning Session." The planning session covered the vision of the Rend Lake Conservancy District and a 5-Year Strategic Plan.

Closed Session

Upon motion by Todd Thomas and second by Keith Ward to go into Closed Session at 2:22 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: Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Collins

The President declared the motion carried.

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Todd Thomas to come out of Closed Session at 2:33 p.m., the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Collins

The President declared the motion carried.

Closed Session Minutes

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Nicholas LeMay to approve the Closed Session Minutes of the January 27, 2020, Regular Meeting as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Collins

The President declared the motion carried.

February 24, 2020 (Continued)

Adjournment

Upon motion by Keith Ward and second by Nicholas LeMay to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 p.m., the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Lawrence, LeMay, Thomas, Walton, Ward, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Collins

The President declared the motion carried.


Todd Thomas, President


Robert Walton, Secretary