

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**November 19, 2014**

PURSUANT to written notice given all members of the Board, the above meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Trustee Ed Leonard, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: President Leonard, 1st Vice-President Stahl, Secretary Parish, Treasurer Murphy, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President Jensen.

Absent: None

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the Minutes of the October 15, 2014, Regular Public Meeting as presented. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Murphy MOVED to approve the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Disbursements in the amount of \$149,983.30 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$8,370.41. Trustee Stahl SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Parish "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE" and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:** There were no comments from the audience.

**PRIOR BUSINESS:**

**1. Ameren Transmission Project:**

Director Merner provided the latest map for the Trustee's review. Despite what had been said, Director Merner did not see any changes to the route. The suggested routes will not impact the Sand Creek Conservation Area.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. First Mid-Illinois Bank Resolution:**

Some of the funds from the most recent tax levy payment needed to be moved and were deposited in a certificate of deposit at First Mid-Illinois Bank. First Mid-Illinois Bank is on the list of approved depositories. The Board needed to approve and sign the standard resolution presented by the bank for opening the certificate.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the resolution as presented for the Certificate of Deposit at First Mid-Illinois Bank. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

**2. Utility Contract:**

The District takes a look at utility prices each fall to lock in the best rate. Staff spoke with the energy consultant earlier in the day, and he recommended purchasing electricity through Homefield Energy. Ameren would still deliver the electricity. Staff reviewed the chart provided by the consultant and recommended locking in a rate now instead of waiting until February or March similar to what was done last year. The Board questioned if all locations were included in the contract. Director Merner informed them that Friends Creek and Griswold could not be taken out of the co-op in which they currently belonged and the resident housing was included in the county aggregation. Staff reported that the District has seen a savings and the rate is lower than Ameren's. Director Merner recommends locking in no less than a 24-month contract. Trustee Parish recommended locking in a 36 month contract.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the utility contract with Homefield Energy for 36 months. Trustee Jensen SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Parish "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE" and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

**3. Tax Levy:**

The Tax Levy must be filed each year by the last Tuesday in December. In preparing the tax levy, the unemployment rate, social security rate and worker's compensation rate were applied to projected payroll for estimating the amount needed while leaving a year's balance in each fund balance. The proposed levy applies a \$50,000 increase overall, over last year (3.3% increase). This amount is not anticipated to be at the maximum allowable rate based on the preliminary equalized assessed value projection by the county assessor.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the 2015 Tax Levy as presented. Trustee Murphy SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Parish "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE" and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

**4. Nature Preserve Buffer:**

Director Merner briefly explained the Illinois Nature Preserves System and the dedication of the Bois du Sangamon Nature Preserve to include the nature preserve itself and a buffer. In the summer of 2012, the District acquired 1.17 acre parcel through a tax sale, and staff recommends adding this parcel to the buffer by submitting a proposal to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

Trustee Jensen MOVED to submit a proposal to the Illinois Nature Preserves to add the 1.17 acre parcel to the buffer. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

**5. Payout – Jones & Sullivan:**

The work completed to date on the Oglesby Mansion west porch project is satisfactory and staff recommends making a payment of \$25,634.70 to Jones and Sullivan Enterprises.

Trustee Murphy MOVED to approve the payout to Jones and Sullivan for the Oglesby Mansion west porch in the amount of \$25,634.70. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion.

Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Parish "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE" and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

**6. Employee Assistance Program:**

Director Merner reminded the Board that they had requested staff to research another option to offer employees to offset the requirement requiring employees to pay ten percent of their dependents' health insurance premium. Pam Smith did some research on Employee Assistance Programs (EAP) and recommends providing both the full-time and part-time employees an EAP through Chestnut Global Partners. The cost would only be \$1000 annually. Trustee Stahl highly recommended EAPs and Trustee Murphy stated she had heard good things about Chestnut. After a brief discussion, the Board was in favor of offering the program to employees but expressed concern in regard to confidentiality. Staff assured the Board this would not be an issue and would look into the matter.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the Employee Assistance Program benefit for employees through Chestnut Global Partners. Trustee Stahl SECONDED the Motion. Roll call vote was as follows: Trustee Stahl, "AYE"; Trustee Parish "AYE"; Trustee Leonard, "AYE"; Trustee Jensen, "AYE" and Trustee Murphy, "AYE". Motion carried.

**7. Appointment of IACD Representative:**

Norm Jensen missed the meeting in which the Board discussed a member serving on the Board of the Illinois Association of Conservation Districts. Director Merner spoke with Norm Jensen and he volunteered to serve on the Board. As a Trustee, he would have voting power.

Trustee Stahl MOVED to approve Norm Jensen as the Board IACD Representative. Trustee Parish SECONDED the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

**8. Staff Reports**

President Leonard asked if any Trustees had any questions for the staff. Trustee Stahl questioned when the lift at the Oglesby Mansion would be installed and staff reported they didn't have a date at this time. Trustee Murphy inquired as to the greatest marketing source for our programs. Director Merner stated that when participants are asked, it's usually all over the board from monthly newsletter, television, radio, social media and that Herald and Review has been a very good source.

**9. Other**

Director Merner announced that the District's attorney, Everett Nicholas, would be retiring at the end of the year. He will continue to work on any unfinished projects and that another attorney, Dennis Weedman, which the District currently works with from Collinsville will regularly be in the Decatur office.

**COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES:** No comments from the Trustees.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Trustee Parish **MOVED** to go into Executive Session at 6:17 p.m. for the purpose of the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body.

Trustee Stahl **SECONDED** the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Stahl **MOVED** to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:37 p.m. Trustee Murphy **SECONDED** the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Stahl **MOVED** to approve the Executive Session Minutes of November 19, 2014. Trustee Jensen **SECONDED** the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Trustee Jensen **MOVED** to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:38 p.m. Trustee Stahl **SECONDED** the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

ATTEST:

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President

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Secretary