

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

October 15, 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 2nd Vice-President Jensen.

Absent: None

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the Minutes of the September 17th 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 \$136,035.15 and additions to disbursements in the amount of \$9,463.98. 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.

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

PRIOR BUSINESS:

1. Ameren Transmission Project:

Director Merner raised the question to the Board if it was time to sit down with legislators to discuss the Ameren project. She reviewed the most recent map detailing the proposed route. After discussing the impact the route will have on the District, the Board agreed that more lobbying needed to be conducted.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Cafeteria Plan Revisions:

Director Merner discussed the amended Cafeteria plan drawn up by the District's attorney. The District has had a Section 125 plan for approximately twelve years but it didn't include the provision for employees to pay their dependent's premium pretax. It included a flexible spending account as well as child care provisions. Employees had quit using the Section 125 plan when they learned that this lowered the reportable wages being reported to IMRF (Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund). Following a brief discussion by the Board, the Board agreed that the previous provisions should be added back into the cafeteria plan in the future as time permits.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the Section 125 plan as presented as well as eventually adding back in the previous provisions. 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.

2. Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Resolution:

Director Merner explained to the Board that this resolution is tied to the Section 125 Plan. Without a resolution, the payroll deduction of insurance premiums from employee's wages reduces the reportable wages to IMRF, ultimately affecting the employees' pension benefit. If the Board adopts the proposed resolution, this will allow the District to include insurance deductions as reportable wages, thus increasing the employees' pension benefit.

Trustee Parish MOVED to approve the resolution 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.

3. Payout: Dunn Company

Paul Marien explained that Dunn Company had completed the seal coating of the bike trail. The project had been inspected and staff found that they had done a good job and it was acceptable. Staff recommended approving payout to Dunn Company for \$17,769.00 for seal coating of the bike trail. The project had been completed the Friday before Prairie Pedal.

Trustee Murphy MOVED to approve the payout of \$17,769.00 to Dunn Company for the seal coating of the bicycle path. 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.

4. Walnut Tree Proposal:

Staff had begun work on the Kaufman Lakeside property in clearing out bush honeysuckle from the road frontage but discovered there were some walnut trees of decent size that need to be removed. Natural Resource Specialist, Rich Crowe, suggested determining if the walnut trees are marketable. The Board discussed whether or not this was acceptable of Mr. Kaufman and suggested that staff speak with Mr. Kaufman before making a decision. They agreed that it would be worth finding out what the trees were worth by seeking proposals but only after approval from Mr. Kaufman.

5. Staff Reports

A few highlights from staff reports:

Richie Wolf reported that the Prairie Celebration attendance was down this year and that they were looking at changing the event for next year. He promoted the Fall Harvest Festival to be held on October 26th, encouraged Board to visit the new exhibit, and mentioned the newly hired part-time naturalist, Mikayla Mendenhall.

Director Merner reported that there were 231 riders that participated in Prairie Pedal with approximately a \$24,000 profit from the event. She also reported that Phil Julius, site technician,

had resigned and the seasonal employee was going to be extended to assist Steve Drew at Sandcreek Conservation Area.

Paul Marien highlighted the deer management program that would be from October 24th through December 19th and that burn season that was forthcoming.

Pam Smith highlighted that it had been a month of computer troubleshooting and that the second tax levy payment had been received.

6. Other

Director Merner announced a board review hearing on October 22nd for West Side Church of the Nazarene for a non-homestead exemption.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES: No comments from Trustees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Stahl **MOVED** to go into Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. for the purpose of the discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06; and the selection of a person to fill a public office.

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

Trustee Murphy **MOVED** to return to the Regular Public Meeting at 6:28 p.m. Trustee Jensen **SECONDED** the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

Trustee Murphy **MOVED** to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 15, 2014. Trustee Parish **SECONDED** the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Trustee Stahl **MOVED** to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting at 6:29 p.m. Trustee Jensen **SECONDED** the Motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary