

MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
March 2, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Merriam Drainage District of Johnson County, Kansas, was called to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Irene B French Community Center by Chairman Eric Jackson with the following persons in attendance:

Eric Jackson, Chairman
Gerald Becker, Secretary
Sam Matier, Treasurer

James Orr, Attorney
Steve Roth, Alfred Benesch
Rebecca Heatwole
Visitor: Billy Croan

The minutes of the February 3, 2020 were amended as follows:

1. Julie Slocum was changed to Julie Pinnick
2. Mr. Matier requested clarification for his concern with dealing with City of Merriam. It has been changed to "Mr. Matier expressed concern with holding MDD meetings at City Hall, in his opinion they were difficult to deal with when we asked them to add MDD as an additional insured for the sidewalks they have on MDD property."

A motion was made by Mr. Matier to approve the minutes of February 3, 2020 as amended above; seconded by Mr. Becker; unanimously passed.

1) Engineering Report:

- a. Channel Stabilization Project Update: No update from the Corps, Mr. Roth will continue to email John Grothaus.
- b. Max Reike Work Update:
 - i. Mr. Roth spoke with Jeff and found that the work re-cutting the ditch adjacent to the trail will begin this coming Thursday or Friday. Mr. Roth will make sure to contact the city to inform that work is beginning.
 - ii. Another quarry has been located just North of Lawrence. Max Reike will drive out to the quarry to speak with them.

2) Attorney Report:

- a. Nothing to Report.

3) Media Inquiry/Press Release: Mr. Jackson informed the board that he spoke with Miss Juliana Garcia and worked with Mr. Orr to answer her questions about MDD. Mr. Jackson provided the board with a copy of his correspondence.

4) New Meeting Location: There was a general discussion wherein Mr. Becker recommended that we use the space provided at City Hall. Mr. Matier does not want the responsibility if while the doors are open someone comes in to vandalize City Hall. No one is in the building past 4pm and Public Works does not come by to lock the doors. Mr. Orr doesn't believe there would be any issue with liability as there are multiple cameras that tie into the police department next door. Mr. Croan also mentioned he has worked for elections and there hasn't been any problem being in the building after hours. Mr. Matier promoted Shawnee Library location because of their free WIFI and we will have the conference room until 8pm. Mr. Becker believes this location is not a great choice because it is out of the way and the 8pm closing time will pose a problem as decisions may have to be tabled or another meeting scheduled to accommodate the closing time; it doesn't seem like a good solution. As Mr. Becker and Mr. Matier could not agree, Mr. Jackson made a motion to begin using the Shawnee Library on Johnson Drive for our April 6th meeting; seconded by Mr. Matier; Opposed by Mr. Becker. Mr. Jackson will notify the City of the meeting location change.

5) Storage Solution for MDD Files: Mr. Jackson presented information from Iron Mountain for \$99.00/month they will pick up our files and store them in their warehouse. There is also an

option for them to scan and catalog all of our documents and provide flash drive with documents. A questionnaire will need to be filled out to determine exact cost of scanning, but a guess is around \$5K for the whole project. Mr. Orr would like to make sure that scanning documents and getting rid of the originals will still be compliant with the Open Records Act; he would like to research this with other public entities to see how they are keeping their files. Mr. Jackson will take a look at the current files after the meeting to fill in the questionnaire for a scanning quote.

- 6) Mr. Becker suggested MDD looking at putting together a website that could be used to update meeting changes as well as house the minutes and agendas which would comply with the Open Meetings Act. The board asked Miss Heatwole to look into options for obtaining a domain name, creating a website, and hosting it. As well as the cost to maintain the website either by her or someone else.
- 7) Citizens Bank and Trust: Miss Heatwole presented the board with the letter informing the bank would like to increase our interest rates to 28-day Tbill rate minus 40 basis points with a floor of 0%. After a general discussion, the board requested that Mr. Orr contact Ann Mauzy at Citizens Bank to see if this could be negotiated.
- 8) Bills were approved as presented for payment: Mr. Becker made a motion to approve bills; seconded by Mr. Matier; unanimously approved.
- 9) Mr. Matier mentioned that the City has recently leased new cardio equipment and have added the company they are leasing from as an additional insured on their liability policy. Mr. Orr mentioned that in our situation the context changed for the encumbrances, parcels of land have different governing documents. Mr. Orr will discuss this with Mr. DeMasters to see if the \$1M liability insurance includes legal fees or not. In addition, he will revisit this issue with the new City of Merriam attorney.
- 10) Mr. Matier would like to receive financial documents in a timelier fashion. Miss Heatwole suggested providing each of the board members with their own login to Citizens Bank so they can see the transactions at any point in the month. In addition, it was requested that Miss Heatwole change the password to the Emergency Fund Account and to contact each board member to tell them the password over the phone.
- 11) Mr. Becker would like to revisit the location of the meeting again at the April 2020 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Heatwole
Recording Secretary

cc: Board and staff