

MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
January 2, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Merriam Drainage District of Johnson County, Kansas, was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mr. Jackson at Higdon & Hale 6310 Lamar Ave #110, Overland Park, KS.

Eric Jackson, Chairman
Dan Leap, Secretary
Jeff Weisbender, Treasurer

James Orr, Attorney
Steve Roth, Engineer
John Martin, CPA
Rebecca Heatwole
Visitors: Jason Silvers

A motion was made by Mr. Jackson to approve the minutes of December 4, 2023, as presented: seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

1) Engineering Report:

- Mr. Roth informed that there was nothing new with groundhogs and will reach out to Catch-It in February to get traps set by March 2024.
- Mr. Roth spoke with Chris Engel, Merriam City Administrator, regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Mr. Engel does not believe the document is necessary and again invited the MDD Board to a council meeting to discuss. Mr. Engel did request a copy of the MOU to review. After a general discussion, it was decided that Mr. Jackson will reach out to Bob Pape, Mayor of Merriam, to discuss the MOU request. Mr. Roth believes something should be in place by the time the COE project is complete.
- Mr. Roth informed that COE is having their status meeting in January. This meeting will not be discussing the design of the project as they have not received the necessary information from Johnson County to move forward with design talks. Mr. Leap requested the meeting minutes from the past status meetings.
- Mr. Roth will provide the board with 2024 CIP at the February meeting.

2) Attorney Report:

- Mr. Orr informed the board that while the MOU is not necessary, it is a good idea to have a mechanism to formalize cooperation in the future.
- Mr. Orr informed the board that the application for liability insurance has been turned in, but nothing has been received from Jolene at Aspire Insurance Agency. Mr. Jackson will proceed with binding insurance once the quote is received.
- Mr. Orr informed the board that his hourly rate will be increasing from \$245/hour to \$255/hour in January 2024.

3) Accountant Report:

- Mr. Martin informed the board that 2023 financials should be complete for the February meeting. At that time, it would be good to have a list of projects that will need to be completed to determine the amount that should be encumbered.

4) Miss Heatwole informed the board that the new website address for MDD is merriamdrainage.com and our account was charged \$17.99 to register the new domain name. If the board would like to look at getting a .gov it must be purchased through the government.

5) Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the bills as presented; seconded by Mr. Weisbender; unanimously approved.

- 6) Miss Heatwole informed the board that checks for the new First Interstate Bank have not yet been received; counterchecks have been created to pay the bills. However, payroll was still paid through Southern Bank as there were issues setting up First Interstate Bank in QuickBooks. Miss Heatwole has reached out to First Interstate Bank for a solution.
- 7) Mr. Jackson requested Miss Heatwole contact HPG Enterprises to have them update missing and incorrect information on the website.
- 8) Mr. Jackson informed the board that it has been since January 2012 that the Board Members have received a salary increase. He would like to discuss increasing the board salary at the February meeting.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 7:31 P.M. was made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

cc: Board and staff

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Heatwole
Recording Secretary