

MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
February 3, 2025

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
John Martin, CPA
Steve Roth, Engineer
Guests: Jason Silvers and Billy Croan

Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the November minutes as written; seconded by Mr. Leap; passed. Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the December minutes as amended by changing Public Officials policy to General Liability policy and fixing the typo in the accountant's report; seconded by Mr. Weisbender; passed, Mr. Leap abstained.

1) Engineering Report:

- Mr. Roth informed the board the gentleman he has been working with at Max Reike is no longer working for the company. Due to the weather and turnover, they have not yet begun the work quoted. Mr. Roth is planning to meet with the new person to discuss the project.
 - Mr. Weisbender mentioned he had taken a walk along the creek and saw some large trees growing out of the wall near the walking bridge on Johnson Drive. Mr. Roth mentioned they have been focusing more on the North but the work quoted by Reike will take care of these trees.
- Mr. Roth will be contacting Catch-It Wildlife to set the ground hog traps again; he hopes to have a quote for the board at the March meeting.
- Mr. Roth informed the board that the COE developed the 30% design plan.
 - The HTNB Bridge Study has not be approved or set, so they are unsure if they will be heightening the bridges.
 - Value Engineering plan began last month. This group gives COE design ideas to investigate regarding the project. At the next progress meeting the COE will decide if they are interested in any of their proposed ideas.
 - There is still no cost estimate. The COE must go back to the Federal Government to get more money than was previously appropriated due to pricing increases.

2) Attorney Report:

- Mr. Orr spoke with Jolene at Aspire Insurance and was informed that there might be a gap in MDD current coverage as the current policy would not cover a loss that occurred due to the board following the advice of their attorney, engineer, or accountant. Jolene recommends the board look at adding this additional coverage.
 - During a general discussion, Mr. Leap questioned whether MDD attorney, accountant, and engineer have their own liability coverage for instances like this. Each has their own liability policy, but Mr. Orr would like to get additional information about the professional liability coverage for the board.

3) Accountant Report:

- Mr. Martin recommended encumbering 2024 budget funds for the quoted Max Reike work in the amount of \$87,810. After a general discussion, Mr. Roth recommended adding a contingency of 10 – 20% making the total to encumber \$115,500.00. Mr. Jackson made a motion to encumber 2024 budget funds in the amount of \$115,500.00; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

4) Mr. Orr requested a retroactive motion of the January checks that were signed by Mr. Jackson. Mr. Weisbender made a motion to ratify the January checks; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously

approved. Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the February bills as presented; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 P.M. was made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Leap; unanimously approved.

cc: Board and staff

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Heatwole
Recording Secretary