

MINUTES

The monthly meeting of the Downers Grove Sanitary District Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, convening at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the District's Administration Center, 2710 Curtiss Street, Downers Grove. Present were President Wallace D. Van Buren, Trustee Amy S. Kovacevic, Trustee Donald F. Peters, General Manager Nicholas J. Menninga, Administrative Services Director W. Clay Campbell, Information Coordinator Alyssa Cherwak, Lead Operator Marc Majewski and Attorney Michael G. Philipp. Also present was Nancy Vert of the Vert Design Group representing 4129 Washington Street, Downers Grove.

Minutes of Regular Meeting – October 14, 2014

A motion was made by Trustee Kovacevic seconded by Trustee Peters approving the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 14, 2014 as presented and authorizing the President and Clerk to sign same. The motion carried.

Claim Ordinance No. 1823

A motion was made by Trustee Kovacevic seconded by Trustee Peters adopting Claim Ordinance No. 1823 in the total amount of \$766,785.21 as presented and authorizing the President and Clerk to sign same. The motion carried. (Votes recorded: Ayes–Van Buren, Kovacevic and Peters.)

Public Comment:

Nancy Vert of the Vert Design Group attended the Board meeting representing the homeowners at 4129 Washington Street, Downers Grove. Ms. Vert spoke regarding a mainline blockage on August 21 that resulted in a backup into the home at that address. Ms. Vert voiced her opinion that the reimbursement limit of \$1,200 provided under the District's Backup Reimbursement Program (BURP) was insufficient and did not cover the extent of damage that was incurred due to the backup. The District's trustees and staff responded that the reimbursement limit under BURP was designed to reimburse homeowners typically for cleanup costs or plumber fees and was not intended to serve as insurance against all losses from a backup. It was stressed that the homeowners should strongly consider participating in the District's Cost Reimbursement Program for the Installation of Overhead Sewer Conversion as the installation of an overhead sewer inside the home would provide a significant degree of protection for the homeowners in the future from any similar incident. District staff also agreed to further investigate Ms. Vert's assertion that nearby public works construction may have caused the backup.

Old Business:

Trustee Peters inquired about the status of the Walnut Avenue Sewer Rehabilitation project.

New Business:

Operations Report – Customer Survey

Administrative Services Director Campbell presented a report finalizing the results of the District's customer survey cards that were sent out to all of the District's customers this year with the annual newsletter. A representative sample of the survey cards received back indicated that a majority of customers felt that the District provided adequate, good or excellent service to its customers. In addition, a slight majority of customers did not desire to enroll in the District's Autopay program. Also, a majority of customers indicated their preference to continue receiving a paper bill rather than signing up for paperless billing if offered. Survey results did indicate there was a tangible minority of respondents that would participate in either Autopay or paperless billing if offered. General Manager Menninga encouraged the trustees and staff to brainstorm questions for the next year's round of customer surveys.

Grant Eligible Turbo-Blower

General Manager Menninga presented a cost-effective opportunity for the District to acquire a new high speed turbo-blower for the activated sludge process at the wastewater treatment center. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IDCEO) grant program provides grants for purchasing energy efficient equipment such as a high speed turbo-blower. IDCEO has approved a grant for a high-speed turbo-blower for the District's wastewater treatment center. In order to meet the schedule requirements of the grant, the District is best served by waiving its bidding requirements and approving the purchase of the high speed turbo-blower at the current time, based on the receipt of competitive quotes. Quotes were received from two highly qualified competitive vendors, and staff is recommending the lower priced equipment among the two quotes received. Staff anticipates that additional grant funding (that could cover a significant portion of the installation costs) could be available from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) in the next grant program year. A motion was made by Trustee Peters seconded by Trustee Kovacevic waiving bidding requirements and approving the purchase of the Sulzer ABS Turbocompressor HST 9500 as quoted, in the amount of \$105,480. The motion carried. (Votes recorded: Ayes–Van Buren, Kovacevic and Peters.)

District Name Change Discussion

General Manager Menninga presented a memo discussing the idea of changing the name of the District. The current name, "Downers Grove Sanitary District," can create confusion for customers and the public. The District is often thought to be a department of the Village of Downers Grove and not a separate unit of local government. Both the positives and negatives of such a change were discussed. The Trustees directed staff to undertake other efforts to distinguish the District uniquely rather than change the name at this time.

Adopt Appropriation Ordinance Revisions for Fiscal Year 2014-15

General Manager Menninga presented the revised Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2014-15 which was reviewed at the September Board meeting and has been advertised and available for public review since September 16. A motion by Trustee Peters seconded by Trustee Kovacevic was made approving the revised Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2014-15 as presented and authorizing the President and Clerk to sign same. The motion carried. (Votes recorded: Ayes— Van Buren, Kovacevic and Peters.)

Operations Report – Employee Benefits

Administrative Services Director Campbell presented an operations report on the benefits offered to District employees. The report reviewed the three different types of benefits: paid-time off such as vacation and holidays, supplemental benefits such as retirement and insurance, and additional compensation opportunities such as overtime.

Other New Business

Trustee Kovacevic inquired about the delivery date for a sewer system technician van. She also commended staff for the progress made with I/I removal.

Trustee Peters inquired about the Village of Downers Grove’s stormwater fees that have been paid by the District.

Upon a motion by Trustee Kovacevic seconded by Trustee Peters the regular meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m. The motion carried.

Approved: December 16, 2014

/s/ Wallace D. Van Buren /s/
President

Attest: /s/ Donald F. Peters /s/
Clerk