

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT  
HELD WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2021**

The Board of Trustees met in a regular monthly meeting at 9:30 A.M. in the offices of the District at the Water Pollution Control Plant on Wednesday, December 15, 2021. Present were, Trustee Judith S. Sotir, Trustee Michael Funkey Trustee Christopher F. Childress, (via phone) Trustee Dave Krahn, and Trustee Randall H. Brown. Also present were Attorney Gregg Ingemunson (via phone), District Manager Thomas F. Muth, Assistant District Manager Karen Clementi, Human Resources Coordinator, Patrick Divine, Regulatory Manager, Tim Rubis, Controller, Linnea Scherer, and Norma Rodriguez.


10916 The bills were presented and read. It was moved by Trustee Funkey that the bills that have been presented and paid during the month of November, 2021 be approved in the amount of \$1,495,437.79. Motion was seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bills be paid as presented.

10917 It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Treasurer's Report for November, 2021 be approved as submitted.

10918 It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the minutes of the November 17, 2021 Board meeting be approved as written. Each of the Trustees having received and read copies of said minutes before the meeting.

In Public Comments, Trustee Sotir on behalf of the Board congratulated all of the employees who celebrated birthdays in the month of December.

10919 With no other Public Comments, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that



the Regular Board Meeting be temporarily adjourned for the Committee of Local Improvements.

The Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned at 9:35 A.M.

In the Committee of Local Improvements, Manager Muth gave a presentation to the Board. He discussed and reviewed in detail the 2022 District-wide Goals and they are as follows:

1. Meet or exceed all environmental permit requirements (NPDES, Biosolids, FESOP).
2. Keep OSHA-recordable accident rate below applicable industry averages. The Safety Team will give a full 2021 report to the Board in February.
  - Complete the following capital improvement projects in calendar year 2022:
    - SCADA Modernization Project
    - Building N Window Replacement Project
    - Plant Buildings Window Repairs and Tuckpointing/Weatherproofing
    - H3, H4, H5 Influent Vault Repairs and Valve Replacement
3. Continue the following capital improvement projects in calendar year 2022:
  - New North Aurora Pump Station Construction
  - Digester Complex Improvement Projects
4. Initiate the following capital improvement projects in calendar year 2022:
  - Orchard Road Generator Replacement
  - Farnsworth Pump Station: Pump Replacement and Odor Control Upgrades
  - 111<sup>th</sup> St. Pump Station Construction
  - B00 Grit System/ B-1 Building Bar Screen Replacement and Rehabilitation Scope of Work
  - Building N Centrifuge Replacement/ Structural Stability Assessment

- H1 and H2 Floor Grouting and Drain Jetting
  - Reevaluate project priority list based on Health, Safety, and Welfare projects identified in the Electrical Coordination Study
5. Update Elected Board of Trustees boundary map as required by Public Act 101-0523.

### 2022 STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Maintain continuity of operations while adequately protecting staff during COVID-19.
2. Update website for ADA compliance and general content refresh. Staff will be using a third party to accomplish this task.
3. Complete five public relations events, as appropriate during the pandemic.
4. Work with Mooseheart to develop an annexation plan and timeline. The District has given Deuchler the task of updating all of their locations where Mooseheart would connect to the District. The key will be to take high flow measurements to see the improvements Mooseheart has made to their sewer system. This model will help staff determine what the high flow would be if/when they connect to Fox Metro. Once this information is obtained, it will be presented to the Board. Due to the cost of this project it will take place two or three years from now.  
Discussion ensued
5. Initiate a strategic planning process to improve internal priorities and establish a blueprint for future planning efforts.

With no other matters to come before the Committee of Local Improvements, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Committee of Local Improvements adjourn and the Regular Board Meeting reconvene.



The regular meeting reconvened at 10:00 A.M.

Attorney Gregg Ingemunson advised the Board there was no Attorney's Report this month.


Mr. Drew Zeipen addressed the Board with the Engineer's Report. He reviewed the project and requested approval of Partial Payment No. 9 to Frank Marshall Electric, in the amount of \$25,222.50 for the Orchard Road Pump Station Upgrades.

Mr. Zeipen requested approval of Final Payment No. 7 to Whittaker Construction in the amount of \$41,524.80 for Building B Grit Tank Cover and Odor Control.

Manager Muth requested approval of Partial Payment No. 2 to Whittaker Construction in the amount of \$25,110.00 for the North Aurora Pumping Station Project. Pictures of the site were shown and Manager Muth gave a detail overview of the project and described the progress, challenges and issues that have developed during construction.

Manager Muth shared pictures of the DCM-4 project, reviewed it in detail and requested approval of Partial Payment No. 1 to Williams Brothers Construction in the amount of \$306,195.32 for the Digester Complex Improvements (DCM-4) Project.

Manager Muth updated the Board on the Digester Cover Project. There has been considerable discussion with Walker Process. They delivered the steel for one of the Digester covers and due to COVID they had to go back out to the marketplace because the contract they had with the District one year ago was going to use one specific vendor to supply all the steel. With the prices escalating, Walker Process went back out to the marketplace and obtained four quotes. Walker took the lowest quote and it was from a manufacturer in Mississippi and the cost increase was 13% including transportation. A Change Order needs to be paid in the amount of \$31,656.00. Drew added that there was a price escalation clause included in the Contract that states Walker Process would be entitled to any material procurement over 2%.



Trustee Sotir questioned why Walker Process did not check with staff before agreeing to purchase the steel at a higher price. Manager Muth said that there is a tight construction timeline and they had to get the steel on site by July 1, 2021 and that was achieved. Walker Process has proven to staff that they did their best from a cost standpoint during this pandemic. The process was followed and now they are requesting payment. Discussion ensued regarding the Digester Project.

Drew reviewed in detail with the Board the Planning and Design Projects they are:

#### Building N Window Replacement

- Quotes were received by FMWRD on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The project was awarded to Mark Industries in the amount of \$39,901.00 and the project kick off meeting was held.
- H3/4/5 Valve Vault Improvements
- District staff and Deuchler | A Division of Fehr Graham evaluated the bids and recommends awarding the project to Williams Brothers Construction in the amount of \$1,568,000.00.
- Deuchler | Fehr Graham moved forward with getting the Agreements signed, and insurance and bonds forwarded over to Gregg Ingemunson for review.
- A task order is currently under review with Deuchler | Fehr Graham to review shop drawings and RFI's for the project.

#### 111<sup>th</sup> Street Pump Station

- 90% documents were delivered to District staff from Strand and a progress meeting was held. Bidding documents are on schedule to be ready for the January Board Meeting.

#### Mooseheart Evaluation

- The District staff had met with Mooseheart / Endpoint Solutions to discuss the feasibility of Mooseheart connecting to the District's

system. A task order was executed with Deuchler | Fehr Graham to perform a feasibility assessment.

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Engineer's Report be approved as published and payments be made as requested.

Manager Muth addressed the Board with the Managers Report and updated the Board regarding COVID prevention at the District. He said the biggest challenge is trying to keep all of the employees safe during this time. A letter will be distributed to all employees regarding vaccination and enforcing face masks in some areas that are not being enforced at this time. Trustee Funkey inquired the percentage of vaccinated employees. Manger Muth said that 65% of District employees have been vaccinated. Discussion ensued

Karen advised the Board that the COVID sampling cost is \$295.00 per sample which is more economical than what the District was paying before. When the State switches over to the same lab the District is using, COVID sampling will be free to the District. Trustee Funkey wanted to confirm that Boulder Hill was selected for COVID sampling because it was predominantly residential. Karen confirmed that was correct and another reason it was selected was due to the lack of combined sewers which is key in order to obtain accurate results. Trustee Funkey inquired if there were any other areas in the District that would benefit from the testing. Karen said there are no other areas that are not impacted by combined sewers, food service establishments and infiltration which would affect the results.

Currently COVID Sampling is performed on a weekly basis by District Staff but the State is going to be requesting Sampling be done twice a week. Once the new lab is utilized the Sampling will be free to the District. With the high COVID numbers right now, it is beneficial to conduct sampling twice a week to capture the high levels and perhaps when numbers go down, sampling can be scaled back to once a week.

Manager Muth requested Executive Session to discuss personnel, Union Negotiations and other related matters.



10922

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Regular Board Meeting adjourn temporarily for Executive Session.

The Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned for Executive Session at 10:25 A.M

10923

It was moved by Trustee Funkey seconded by Trustee Krahn put to vote and unanimously carried that the Executive Session be adjourned and resume the Regular Board Meeting.

Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 11:03 A.M.

No decisions were made in Executive Session

10924

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that the Executive Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2021 to November 17, 2021 be approved as recommended by Attorney Ingemunson and Manager Muth.

10925

With no other business to come before the Board, it was moved by Trustee Brown seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote and unanimously carried that this meeting be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 11:04 A.M.

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