

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF FOX METRO WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
HELD WEDNESDAY JULY 21, 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, July 21, 2021. Present were, Trustee Judith S. Sotir, Trustee Michael Funkey, Trustee Chris F. Childress, Trustee Dave Krahn and Trustee Randall H. Brown. Also present were Attorney Gregg Ingemunson, District Manager Thomas F. Muth, District Engineer, John Frerich from Deuchler Engineering, Assistant District Manager Karen Clementi, Human Resources Coordinator, Patrick Divine, IT Supervisor, Dan Vargas, and Norma Rodriguez.

10849

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 June 2021 be approved in the amount of \$1,299,830.57, Motion was seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the bills be paid as presented.

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

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It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Krahn, put to vote, and the Motion was unanimously carried that the minutes of the June 23, 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 July.

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With no other Public Comments, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, 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 9:38 A.M.



In the Committee of Local Improvements, Manager Muth introduced Mr. Dave Stumm and Mr. Dave Eck, the new benefit consultants from Stumm Insurance. They have helped the District in the last couple of months in obtaining a new insurance plan for the employees. The District has been having issues with the current insurance plan and Stumm insurance has been great in assisting in obtaining a new one and guiding the District through this new process.

Karen Clementi said Stumm insurance is here today to give the Board a presentation regarding the proposed new insurance coverage for the employees that will begin August 1, 2021 and will go through December 31, 2021.

Dave Stumm began the presentation by introducing his team and giving a background of their company. He said the reason they were at the Board Meeting today was to show the Board that the District is on the right path in correcting the issues and problems that have been occurring during the last few months with the current insurance plan.

Stumm Insurance had their first Open Enrollment meeting at the District a couple of days ago and met with a number of employees and explained to them the current situation.

Mr. Stumm said a few years ago Fox Metro implemented a more non-traditional insurance program which gave the majority of its employees an insurance plan which could only access Advocate doctors and hospitals. At face it is a good plan because it could save a lot of money because Advocate is a big carrier in the Chicagoland area. The issue with this plan, however, is that the nearest hospital covered under this plan is in Downers Grove and the majority of employees live 45 to 50 minutes away from this hospital. Advocate doctors were referring patients to local hospitals like Copley and Provena and then their claims were being denied because these local hospitals are not covered under the Advocate Medical System. This caused a lot of employees claims not getting paid and subsequently being sent to collections. Mr. Stumm outlined how the current medical insurance plan works and the issues and problems that the District is currently encountering. Mr. Stumm addressed all of the Board's concerns regarding the issues with the current medical insurance plan and answered all of their questions in detail. Mr. Stumm outlined the medical insurance plan that will be implemented August 1, 2021 and what is being proposed for January 1, 2022 which still needs to be evaluated. Trustee Childress stated that the District did not just hand out an inferior plan, employees were offered \$5,000.00 for the option to elect to move to the Advocate Plan and

their hospital options were explained to them. Mr. Stumm said that was correct and 80% of the employees took that option. Discussion ensued

10853 Attorney Ingemunson called for the Public Hearing at 10:00 A.M. regarding Redwood Acquisition LLC Annexation. Notice of said Public Hearing was duly published in the Beacon News. After lengthy discussion, Trustee Funkey proposed that Paragraph 7 on all future Annexation Agreements should be changed to say that Fox Metro is guaranteeing sewage treatment but only as provided in the plans that are approved. After addressing all of the Board's concerns and there being no further questions from the Board and no comments from the public, Attorney Ingemunson presented Ordinance No. 903 approving Resolution No. 991 approving the Redwood Acquisition LLC Annexation to the Board for their approval. After lengthy discussion it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Brown, put to vote and unanimously carried to approve the Redwood Acquisition LLC Annexation Agreement subject to Attorney's review, modifications to be determined as necessary, receipt of Annexation Fee and signed Agreement.

ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the Fox Metro Water Reclamation District this 21st, day of July, 2021 by a vote of 5 to 0.

10854 It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried to approve Ordinance No. 903, approving Resolution No. 987 approving the Redwood Acquisition LLC Annexation Agreement subject to Attorney's review, modifications to be determined as necessary, receipt of Annexation Fee and signed contract.

10855 At this time, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried to close the public hearing.

10856 At 10:17 A.M. Manager Muth opened and read aloud bids received for North Aurora Pumping Station Improvement as follows: IHC Construction Companies – Total Bid \$10,627,500.00 with a Bid alternative of an additional \$30,000.00 not to demolish; Joseph Henderson & Son, Inc. – Total Bid \$10,258,000.00 with a Bid Alternative of a deduction of \$50,000.00; Williams Brothers – Total Bid 10,370,000.00 with a Bid Alternative of a deduction of \$90,000.00; Whittaker Construction – Total Bid \$9,767,750.00 with a bid alternative of a deduction of \$45,000.00; Vissering Construction Company – Total Bid \$11,034,000.00 with a Bid Alternative of a deduction of \$5,000.00; Engineer's Estimate for this project is \$9,467,000.00. After Discussion and based on recommendation of staff, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress,

put to vote and unanimously carried that the bid from Whittaker Construction for \$9,767.750 with a Bid Alternative of minus \$45,000.00 be accepted and the bid from Joseph Henderson & Son, Inc., for \$10,258,000.00 with a Bid Alternative of minus \$50,000.00 be held pending specification review and contingent upon approval by IEPA by Fox Metro Water Reclamation District and Deuchler staff.

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried to reconvene the Committee of Local Improvements.

Continuing with the Committee of Local Improvements, Mr. Stumm continued with his presentation and explained the specifics of the new insurance plan, the discounts and addressed all of the concerns from the Board and answered all of their questions in detail.


Trustee Childress inquired what this plan is going to cost the District. Mr. Stumm said he had a cost analysis that he would be distributing to the Board. Trustee Childress stated that the District had a signed contract with the third-party administrator, PBA to pay the claims and direct the employees to the right facilities and doctors. He inquired why the District now has to pay those unpaid claims and is there any recourse against the contracted parties that did not perform the job correctly? Discussion ensued

Trustee Sotir said the important thing is to get through this year and then get the right insurance program in place. There were so many extenuating circumstances that we would not have if the District was not self-insured.

Trustee Funkey stated it might be worth spending some time to investigate how the third-party administrator handled past claims and how it is handling the current claims. Discussion ensued

Mr. Stumm reviewed the process of run-out claims and how they will be processed from August 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. He also discussed the financial impact associated with the run-out coverage.

Mr. Stumm discussed the coverage, reviewed the financial data associated with the new proposed insurance plan that will be in effect January 1, 2022. He also discussed the open enrollment and the advantage of having all the employees in the same plan. Discussion ensued and all of the Trustee's questions and concerns were addressed.



Trustee Childress stated that a PPO and an HMO option should be offered to the employees and asked Mr. Stumm for a quote for both options. Mr. Stumm said he would provide that to the Trustees and the consensus has been the simpler the better. Discussion ensued regarding the financial aspect of these options and cost sharing with employees.

The next item discussed in the Committee of Local Improvements Mr. Mark Halm from Deuchlers gave a presentation regarding the Proposed DCM4 Project. Mr. Halm said every treatment plant has one pipe that comes in and two that leave. One of the pipes that leaves is effluent water and the other pipe is solids. He said the DCM4 Project focuses on the solids stabilization process that the District has.

Mr. Halm in his presentation reviewed the purpose and need for the project. He said one of the key components are the digester covers and mixers. There are some improvements to the existing Digester Control Building DCM-1 and DCM-2 and the new building that is being proposed, DCM-4. Mr. Halm showed where the sludge stabilization digesters are located at the Plant and he explained the purpose and need for this project in detail.

The primary need for this project is the aging equipment because is at the end of its service life. The M3 & M5 covers and mixers date back to 1979 and they had major repairs in 2009. There is a motor control center in Building DCM-1 that is approximately 40 years old and it is located in a difficult place to operate and maintain. There are boilers located in buildings M-B1 and M-B2 that are not functioning. The waste gas burner located on the roof of building F-1 will be replaced. The sludge control valves and motorized actuators will be replaced along with the roof and HVAC at DCM-1 will be replaced. Mr. Halm said another main aspect for the project is safety concern for the existing equipment. There is a code by the National Fire Protection Agency that governs the construction of water and waste water facilities in terms of safety and these buildings have to be brought up to code. Pictures of the existing conditions of the Digester Complex were displayed and explained in detail.

Mr. Halm reviewed the key design criteria and considerations for this project. He explained the NFPA 820 Conformance and safety for the new DCM-4 building for electrical power, the process heat requirements, the new mechanical mixing system, the new digester covers and construction sequencing. He said one of the most difficult aspect of this project is maintaining current operations and levels of treatment while construction is taking place and explained in detail the project

construction scope. He said this is one of the largest and most complex projects he has worked on in his career due to the current structure that it has to be tied into.

Mr. Halm shared some slides illustrating images of the new DCM-4 building, including a panoramic view of inside the structure, and explained in detail the design and specifications of the building. He said the construction time line is approximately 762 days because you can't take a unit off line and one digester cover is completed each year. Construction of the first digester cover is scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2022. The life expectancy of these covers is approximately 40 years.

Mr. Halm reviewed the Engineer's Opinion of Probability Construction Cost (EOPCC). He said he used the American Association of Cost Engineers Classification System (AACE). He reviewed in detail the low and high range of estimated cost. The low estimated cost is \$7,431,000.00, the EOPCC is \$7,822,000.00 and the high estimated cost is \$8,996,000.00. Advertisement for bid will go out today and will open bids at the August Board Meeting.

Trustee Krahn inquired if one month was enough time to find a compatible bid and a capable contractor given the complexity of this project. Manager Muth said he is confident that it is. Mr. Halm said that contractors will be monitored as they come in with questions. If there is a large request for more time from contractors, staff will come back with a bid extension.

Trustee Childress inquired about cost savings. Mr. Halm said one of the bigger items were the mixers. The current mixers are 50 horse power and the new ones are 10 horse power which accumulate to energy cost savings. The existing compressors are difficult to maintain and that problem will be eliminated which equals savings in maintenance cost. A lot of the driver for this project is the age of the equipment and health, safety and welfare. Discussion ensued

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It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that the request from staff to seek bids for the DCM-4 Project be approved to be opened August 18, 2021 at 10:00 A.M., at the Board of Trustees Meeting.

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



The regular meeting reconvened at 11:53 A.M.

Attorney Gregg Ingemunson addressed the Board with the Attorney's Report. He said that Dan Kramer has not gotten the Grant of Easement back for the Redwood Development and they cannot break ground until that document is signed and delivered back to the District. Manager Muth said staff will help get this accomplished.

Mr. John Frerich addressed the Board with the Engineer's Report and requested approval of Partial Payment No. 24 to Whittaker Construction, in the amount of \$380,889.42 for O&M Building Phase II Improvement Project.

Mr. Frerich requested approval of Final Payment No. 3 to Mechanical, Inc., in the amount of \$26,837.75 for Building P3 HVAC Controls Upgrades Project.

Mr. Frerich requested approval of Final Payment No. 4 to Dahme Mechanical, Inc., in the amount of \$319,427.90 for Building K – Raw Sewage Valve Replacement Project.


Mr. Frerich requested approval of Partial Payment No. 5 to Frank Marshall Electric in the amount of \$19,330.20 for Orchard Road Pump Station Electrical Upgrades Project.

Mr. Frerich requested approval of Partial Payment No. 3 to Whittaker Construction in the amount of \$3,257.73 for Building B Grit Tank Cover and Odor Control Project.

Mr. Frerich requested approval of Partial Payment No. 2 to Impirium Group, in the amount of \$88,604.60 for Fiber Optic Network Improvement Project.

It was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, 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, by giving the Trustees a project update. He and Drew Zeipen gave a presentation outlining the current projects that are taking place at the District.



The projects that have been completed:

- Building I – Tertiary Filter #5 Grout Bed Replacement- This grout needed to be replaced because it was discovered that it began to float because the base plates that hold the filters in place had floated due to them not being drilled to the existing concrete. The best solution was to take all the old grout out, replace the base plates and drill them in to the existing concrete and be stabilized for many years. The cost for this project was \$50,000.00.


- Building K – Valve Replacement Project – Staff just approved the final product for the valve system. Manager Muth described the aspects of the project in detail. This was a \$1.275M project and the District received a \$55,000.00 credit because the contingency funds were not used. There were only \$10,000.00 contingency funds that were used on painting. The big aspect of this project was to get rid of the hydraulic operated valve system.

- Building N – OH Rolling Door Replacement Project – Staff used two different contractors to complete the job. There was a structural issue and a contractor was hired to fix the issue. He had to re-frame the door and re-brick and mortar above it. The second contractor supplied the two doors that were needed. There were additional cost savings because the electrical work was completed in house by Fox Metro Electricians. A photo was displayed of the completed project.

- Operation and Maintenance Facility Construction – Slides were shown of the Maintenance Shop and outside of the building. Manager Muth reviewed all aspects of the project in detail.

- The projects that are ongoing or are in queue are the Fiber Optic Network Improvements, Exterior stair sand blasting and coating at Building N and H3/H4/H5 Valve Vault Improvements, Orchard Road Grinder Procurement and In-House Installation, Odor Control and Cover Installation at Building B, Receiving shipment of Fixed Anaerobic Digester Cover for DCM-4 Project. Manager Muth gave an overview of every project in detail and addressed all the questions from the Board.

Manager Muth advised the Trustees that he and staff have been working with Arnie and Shawn from Progressive Energy on a potential second solar field. That location would be adjacent to the existing solar field and there is also one acre that the District would like to use as a show piece when



there are school tours. This topic will be discussed in the August's Board Meeting.

Karen Clementi informed the Trustees that in March her and staff worked on an application for a small grant for an electrical charging station for vehicles to be placed in front of the Administrative Building. This grant is through Power and Safe Communities, who is funded by ComEd. She received notification last week that Fox Metro was awarded the grant. This charging station will be available to the public.

Manager Muth requested Executive Session to review prior six months of Executive Session Minutes, discuss personnel and related matters.

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At this time, it was moved by Trustee Funkey, seconded by Trustee Childress, put to vote and unanimously carried that this meeting be temporarily adjourned for Executive Session.

Regular Board Meeting temporarily adjourned for Executive Session at 12:18 P.M.

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

Trustee Childress thanked Karen and everyone else who is in the Insurance Committee for the outstanding job they have done. He knows it is very difficult and time consuming and he appreciates all of their efforts.

Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 1:03 P.M

No decisions were made in Executive Session

10863

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:04 P.M.

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