

OTTAWA PORT DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 17, 2013

Roll Call

President Keith Conrad called the regular meeting of the Port District to order on May 17, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. with the following board members present: Keith Conrad, William Franklin Jr., John Stone, Charles Sheridan, Katie Troccoli and Mark Stoudt, who took his oath of office as a new Board Member. Absent was Thomas Haeberle. Also present were Nora Fesco, Tom Heimsoth, Jeff Heimsoth, Reed Wilson, Boyd Palmer, and Richard Burton. Mayor Robert Eschbach joined the meeting about midway through.

Reading and Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of April 19, 2013 were presented and approved by unanimous oral vote following a motion to approve by William Franklin Jr. and second by Katie Troccoli.

Hearing of Citizens

None.

Financial Report

Katie reported on the balance of the district's accounts. Her report was approved on motion of John Stone, second by Charles Sheridan and unanimous oral vote.

Communications

None.

Individual Member Reports

None.

Old Business

Nora Fesco and Tom Heimsoth updated the Board as to the USDA reporting unfavorably as a preliminary loan application relevant to a potential joint venture of the Port District with Heritage Harbor for a community dry stack facility at Heritage Harbor. The USDA did not believe that the project would involve an "essential community facility." Tom reported that he has consulted with a USDA consultant in Des Moines, and he believed that the Port District's proposal is not too different, for example, from a hotel project such have been approved in the past by the USDA as an "essential community facility." Tom suggested to the Board that the Port District revise its preliminary application and subject such again.

General discussion followed as to potential preliminary application amendments that could be considered to make the project fall more within the concept of an "essential community facility." Discussion topics included further consideration for Ottawa River Rescue, relief of damage from recurrent flood events, increased waterfront tourism opportunities, a river point entrance for emergency services, and a meeting area for the Port District and other water related entities such as Ottawa River Rescue and water safety training. Katie suggested that the Port District seek a better understanding of the cause of rejection before it considers a preliminary re-

filing. John suggested we study amendment options and consider re-filing at a later date. Mark commented on the possibility of other financial institutions reviewing the project. Following discussion, Nora was directed to speak with USDA officials and consider other community use for the project for possible re-submittal of a preliminary loan application to the USDA.

#### New Business

Mayor Eschbach presented a few updates on Central School City planning and development efforts. He additionally spoke about an anticipated nature conservancy project involving approximately 250 acres of land along the East bank of the Fox River from the current City Limits along Route 71 to Interstate 80. The city is anticipating the possibility of obtaining a long term lease providing the opportunity for an extended riverwalk through the leased land. Mayor Eschbach believed that the long term lease would open the door for potential grants.

#### Adjourn

On motion of Katie Troccoli and second by Charles Sheridan, the meeting was adjourned at about 9:00 a.m. The next meeting of the Port District will be June 21, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. at Ottawa City Hall.