

OTTAWA PORT DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 18, 2015

ROLL CALL

Keith Conrad called a regular meeting of the Port District to order at City Hall on December 18, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. with the following board members present: Keith Conrad, William Franklin, Jr., Katie Troccoli, Mark Stoudt, and Charles Sheridan. Also present were Boyd Palmer, Reed Wilson, Dave Noble, Mike Sutfin, and Rich Burton.

MINUTES

Minutes from November 17, 2015 meeting were presented and approved as amended by unanimous vote following a motion by William Franklin, Jr. and second by Charlie Sheridan.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Boyd Palmer spoke the proposed Department of Labor overtime exemption rule change. The decision delayed for one year and will probably go into effect sometime in 2017. The chamber had a limited opening event at Tanglewood which is expected to fully open in February. Two new restaurants are expected on Madison Street. The City continues to try to work with their property on Court Street.

Reed Wilson reported about organizational steps underway for the newly organized Economic Development Corporation of North Central Illinois.

Mike Sutfin discussed issues relevant to the mooring of boat in the Allen Park area. At some point Mike may be asking us to enact some resolutions. Mike also spoke about a public awareness programs under development to educate residents as to the actual location of various flood stages.

Mike and David Noble discussed the status of the potential federal grant to be used in part for river development and compensatory storage plans for a portion of Harpers Farm. The City hopes to know more about Ottawa's chances for a grant within the next month. On the planning side, the City needs to next work on converting concept plans to working plans.

Dave Noble spoke about the recent meeting between him, Arnie Banstra, the Mayor, the IDNR Director, a National Guard Lieutenant and other officials regarding re-watering of the I&M Canal. Plans discussed at that meeting included re-watering of about 290 feet of the canal, from The Cheese Shop to Guion Street. Water flow will be generated from US Silica.

David Noble reported that the City of Ottawa is applying for another brownfield grant for \$600,000.00. Of such amount, the city would be able to grant out half. The grant is geared toward municipalities with a tract record of working with brownfield areas, such as the City of Ottawa which has a large number of brownfield areas. The recent Letter of Support from the port district was appreciated.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Katie Troccoli presented a financial report, which was approved by motion of Thomas Haeberle, second by William Franklin, Jr. and unanimous oral vote. Bills were approved on motion by William Franklin, Jr. and second by Charles Sheridan and unanimous oral vote. Rich Burton advised that he has suspending his billings for the near future.

OLD BUSINESS

Ottawa River Rescue is working on concepts of a building.

There is nothing to report concerning Skydive Chicago or the Recreational Facility Study.

NEW BUSINESS

See comments above.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m. upon motion of Charles Sheridan and Mark Stout, and unanimous oral vote. The next regular meeting of the port district will be January 15, 2016.