

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

ROLL CALL

Keith Conrad called a regular meeting of the Port District to order at City Hall on September 18, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. with the following board members present: Keith Conrad, William Franklin, Jr., Katie Troccoli, John Stone, Thomas Haeberle and Charles Sheridan. Also present were Boyd Palmer, Matt Stafford and Rich Burton.

MINUTES

Minutes from August 21, 2015 meeting were presented and approved as amended (as to the wrong identified maker of a comment) by unanimous vote following a motion by William Franklin, Jr. and second by Thomas Haeberle.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Boyd Palmer spoke about several business properties in Ottawa including the opening of In Bloom at 229 Main Street, the closing of Grandma's Attic, an inquiry on the old Walmart property, and possible changes in ownership of property by the new Walmart. Discussion followed as to the high square foot cost of some commercial property at various locations in Ottawa. Discussion also took place as to an apparent shortage of people in the trades needed for construction projects and the apparent lack of people turning to the trades as an occupation. Boyd commented on the work still being completed by David Noble and Reed Wilson as to a possible federal flood and riverfront grant. Boyd also commented that it appeared that nearby cities, such as Streator, LaSalle and Peru, were starting to emulate beautification projects as have been adopted by Ottawa for many years.

Matt Stafford reported on a USGS water study for LaSalle County. He reported as to the status of a possible levy for the nursing home and highway department and issues as to compensatory storage for flood plain activities.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Katie Troccoli presented a financial report, which was approved along with usual and customary bills on motion of Charles Sheridan, and second by John Stone and unanimous oral vote. There is \$162.14 in the checking account and \$11,543.18 in the money market.

COMMUNICATIONS

A Lion's Club candy day flyer was received. A monthly bill from Hupp, Lanuti, Irion & Burton, P.C. for \$200.00 was also received.

MEMBER REPORTS

William Franklin, Jr. reported that progress is still taking place on the Multi-modal project. Bill also reporting that he was continuing with correspondence relevant to a possible second CSX railroad track as had been subject to discussions in prior meeting. Charles Sheridan provided an opinion that a second track was unlikely given the ability of the railroad to handle increased traffic by use of side tracks.

Thomas Haeberle advised that Brook from Skydive Chicago will likely attend a port district meeting at a later date than he is in the Ottawa area.

Katie Troccoli advised that the annual river sweep will be taking place on Saturday.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion took place about Tangled Root brewpub construction and Little City building destruction. The recreational facility study is still in progress with the hospital joining in as a study participant.

NEW BUSINESS

A discussion took place about locations for possible additional parking in the downtown Ottawa area. John Stone commented that the Plan Commission had looked at this issue in the past.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m. upon motion of William Franklin, Jr. and Charles Sheridan, and unanimous oral vote. The next regular meeting of the port district will be October 16, 2015.