

OTTAWA PORT DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 15, 2016

ROLL CALL

Keith Conrad called a regular meeting of the Port District to order at City Hall on January 15, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. with the following board members present: Keith Conrad, William Franklin, Jr., Mark Stoudt, John Stone and Charles Sheridan. Also present were Boyd Palmer, Reed Wilson, Dave Noble, Matt Stafford and Rich Burton.

MINUTES

Minutes from December 18, 2015 meeting were presented and approved by unanimous vote following a motion by William Franklin, Jr. and second by Charlie Sheridan.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Boyd Palmer reported that Tanglewood is expected to open near the end of February and is still awaiting required licenses. Four special open house events are scheduled. Two new restaurants on Madison Street are expected to soon be open. The City has accepted a bid for their property on Court Street. Boyd reported that Jim Schultz, the Assistant Director of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, made a presentation in Peru. Some of the highlights were comments about the high price of workers compensation insurance in Illinois in comparison to neighboring states.

David Noble commented on continuing work in re-watering a portion of the I & M Canal in Ottawa. He also spoke about the status of the Central School area development and a possible wetland bank on a portion of the land commonly known as Harpers Farm.

Matt Stafford provided an update about the docking facilities and activity taking place on the County's property near Buffalo Rock State Park.

Reed Wilson reported about fundraising and organizational steps underway for the newly organized Economic Development Corporation of North Central Illinois. A board will soon be appointed. An office will likely be cited at IVCC and staffing will soon be determined.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The normal billing for Diane Stelken in the amount of \$105.00 was approved by unanimous oral vote following Motion by Charles Sheridan and second by Williams Franklin, Jr. John Stone questioned if the Port District's website might be supported by the City of Ottawa's website. David Noble reported that the City is reviewing the multiple entities already incorporated into their website.

OLD BUSINESS

A meeting is scheduled next week for review of the recreational facility study.

William Franklin, Jr. reported there to be no current activity on the regional multi-modal transportation study.

NEW BUSINESS

David Noble reported that Mike Sutfin and Sue Resin were in communications with the Army Corp of Engineers about establishing an emergency warehouse in the Ottawa area. Such a local facility would greatly improve response time.

John Stone and Charles Sheridan reported as to progress on the rail spur development in the area of Route 52 and Interstate 39.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m. upon motion of John Stone, second by Charles Sheridan and unanimous oral vote. The next regular meeting of the port district will be February 19, 2016.