

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

ROLL CALL

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

MINUTES

Minutes from March 18, 2016 meeting were presented and approved by unanimous vote following a motion by William Franklin, Jr. and second by Katie Troccoli.

CORRESPONDENCE

Information was provided about the 100th anniversary celebration for the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce.

TREASURERS REPORT

Katie Troccoli provided bank statements and account balances. Her financial report was approved on motion of John Stone, second by Charles Sheridan and a unanimous oral vote. A billing in the amount of \$225.00 for Diane Stelken was approved on motion of Charles Sheridan, second by John Stone and a unanimous oral vote.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Reed Wilson reported that the City was still seeking to sell the old Little City property and the Court Street property. Reed reported on the sale of the property at the Southeast corner of Main and Fulton anticipating such property will be used for art retail sales and artist studio space. He expects the Youth Service Bureau to occupy the space before occupied by the auto parts business. Reed reported that both the Corner 230 and Alure restaurants are making progress toward openings in the near future. Reed commented on ticket sales for the upcoming wine fest coming up after the Morel Fest and Beer Tasting. Tangled Root will be participating at the Morel Fest. Reed spoke about the gardens south of town being used to grow hops for Tangled Root and for restaurant farm to table produce. Tangled Root is also considering the construction of a distillery. Reed commented on the status of the recently formed Regional Economic Development Board which is searching for a CEO. Discussion also took place about the status of area wide sand companies and potential development of a port near Buffalo Rock.

David Noble commented on the City facade program. He advised that IDOT has approved the Columbus Street lighting project which will be moving forward at a cost of over \$1,000,000.00. David spoke about anticipated construction projects which include a south side sewer improvement, a Field Hill Water loop and sewer improvements, sewer plant flood protection and Stevenson Road storm sewer and bike path improvements.

David commented on the potential of the City working with a contractor to improve high speed internet service in Ottawa. This project would likely start in limited area then expand into other parts of Ottawa.

David spoke about railroad car switching which still takes place in Ottawa significantly blocking Route 23 for extended periods of time. He and board members discussed options for other nearby switching locations. Charles commented on the anticipated costs associated with construction of new rail switching tracks.

MEMBER REPORTS

Keith led discussion about possible port district projects. Discussed took place about railroad switching, Fox River dredging, Fox River docks near downtown, and potential improvements to the Skydive Chicago airport facility.

NEW BUSINESS

The Port District's SAM report is complete and the Comptroller's office accepted the Port District's late filing without penalty.

ADJOURN

There being no further reports or business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m. upon motion of Katie Troccoli, second by William Franklin, Jr. and unanimous oral vote. The next regular meeting of the district will be May 20, 2016. The meeting will include a public hearing on the Port District's annual budget and appropriation ordinance.