

OTTAWA PORT DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 20, 2017

ROLL CALL

Keith Conrad called a regular meeting of the Port District to order at City Hall on January 20, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. with the following board members present: Keith Conrad, William Franklin, Jr., Charles Sheridan and John Stone. Also present were Boyd Palmer, Mike Sutfin, David Noble and Rich Burton.

MINUTES

Minutes from December 16, 2016 meeting were presented and approved by unanimous vote following a motion by John Stone and second by William Franklin, Jr.

COMMUNICATIONS

One bill from Diane Stelken for the website was received. John reported contacting Diane regarding details needed on her website services for the district and the potential for updates to be completed by district members. The district currently owns the website domain.

TREASURERS REPORT

Keith reported that there is \$236.39 in checking and \$9,551.00 in savings. The financial report including the Diane Stelken bill was approved on motion of William Franklin Jr. and second by Charlie Sheridan

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Boyd reported that as of February 1, the old Walmart building and land will be under one ownership as the current lease holder is leaving. This is positive progress that will hopefully bring another tenant to the building.

Boyd also reported as to a meeting with himself, Reed Wilson, Dave Noble and Ivan Baker, who is CEO of North Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation. During the meeting, Ivan noted that Ottawa is an obvious standout in the region thanks to great leadership that pushes to make difference. He expressed frustration, however, about the lack of project sites available in the surrounding communities. There will be a new website for the EDC in February.

Boyd noted a new restaurant; the Pink Chihuahua is coming to downtown with a proposed opening date of February 1. Another new restaurant is coming from Chicago soon.

Boyd reported that he and Dave met for the first time with the Vice President of Sigan America. Sigan has been in operation within the city for seven years producing personal care products. Meetings continue with significant executives of existing businesses in the area.

Mike Sutfin reported that Ottawa was selected to be part of a USGA and Illinois State water survey program, called Tipping Point. One foot contour data will be available for the Ottawa area. The program should make Ottawa better suited for grants and not for profit funding.

Other updates from Mike Sutfin included:

-The Starved Rock Lock and Dam to be closed June 1 until July 7.

-The Starved Rock Alliance will be starting a small business Development Center for the area east of Morris to Pontiac to Mendota. There will also be a new director.

-There will be a March 28 citywide public policy meeting for new school board at Central School. There are currently eight candidates for the school board position.

-There will be a regional alliance meeting January 23 at 10:30 a.m. at LaSalle County Emergency Management office. The Deputy Director of IEMA will be there.

Dave Noble reported a list of flood related items the city accomplished or is in the process of completing which including purchasing Central School, building a floodwall around the sewer treatment plant and elevating Green Street.

OLD BUSINESS

David Dave provided updates in discussion and investigation into a relocating of railroad switching facilities to the East side of Ottawa off of Boyce Memorial Drive, which should help with train and travel congestion. One options connects CSX tracks, other option does not. Dave anticipates that rail officials may want to meet with port district as the project progresses. Discussion also took place about advance warnings along the roadways approaching railways with traffic backups.

ADJOURN

There being no further reports or business, the meeting was adjourned at about 9:00 a.m. upon motion of Charles Sheridan and second by John Stone and unanimous oral vote. The next regular meeting of the district will be April 21, 2017.