

OTTAWA PORT DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 16, 2012

Roll Call

President Keith Conrad called the November 16, 2012 regularly scheduled meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. with the following board members present: Keith Conrad, John Stone, William Franklin Jr., Charles Sheridan, Thomas Haeberle and Katie Troccoli. Eric Miskell was absent. Also present were Rich Burton, Meg Skelly, Reed Wilson, Dave Noble, Tami Huftel, Mike Suffin and two representatives from USDA Rural Development Kevin Vetos and Herman Wisslead. Mayor Robert Eschbach joined the meeting some time after being called to order.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

Minutes were reviewed for the October 19, 2012 meeting and approved on motion by John Stone and second by Thomas Haeberle and unanimous oral vote.

Hearing of Citizens

None.

Financial Report and Payment of Claims

Katie Troccoli distributed her financial report. On motion of Charles Sheridan and second by John Stone the report was unanimously approved by oral vote.

Communications

William Franklin, Jr. reported that the Ottawa Chamber confirmed our membership the district's initial payment of membership fees. William Franklin, Jr. also reported by Brad Townsend from Ehlers and Associates will attend the district's January 18, 2013 meeting to discuss various bond issues and the services of Ehlers.

Old Business

The website is up and now linked to the Ottawa Chamber webpage.

Rich Burton reported no progress with intergovernmental agreement issues with Ottawa and LaSalle County. No updated report was available from the City of Ottawa as to the intergovernmental agreement. Mike Suffin reported that he had communicated with Paul Osman from IDNR about the port district's existence. He suggested that the Army Corp of Engineers may be more active in river related issues than the IDNR which handles many river related matters from standing state Flood Development Permits.

Discussion followed about various local permit issues such as when someone established a small private dock. Mike Suffin advised that Ottawa receives only a couple of such permit requests a year. Mike Suffin also commented that Ottawa requires significant improvements to be elevated 2 feet above the base flood elevation as opposed the more traditional one foot above the flood elevation such as adopted by LaSalle County. Mike Suffin also commented on the requirements that floodplain fillings need to be matched by have 1½ times floodplain improvement. Mike Suffin also commented that flood insurance rates will soon increase.

Discussion took place on the planning as to the old Central School property. Tami Heftel and Reed Wilson advised the board that a planning grant will help the process. John Stone commented on planning issues for other parts of the floodplain in Ottawa

#### New Business

Kevin Vetos and Herman Wisslead from the USDA presented rural development brochures and information about their various programs. Approximately \$600 million dollars was invested by the USDA last year in Illinois and the USDA has a total investment in Illinois of 3.5 billion dollars. Programs of the USDA can possibly include guaranty of loans as well as grants for community facilities. Katie Troccoli suggested that USDA supported housing projects are a major force in existing home sales in our area. Other USDA programs support drain dryers, wind farm training, business and industry guaranties, and loan money for loans for re-loan purposes. William Franklin, Jr. advised that he have been involved with Ottawa the revolving loan program.

Dave Noble advised that the city is looking at grant options for cleanup in the area of Central School and that the port district will be named in the study. Ottawa officials additionally commented on the need for a fire board with a pump for emergency purposes as a possible project for port district assistance.

#### Closing

The meeting was adjourned about 9:15 a.m. on motion of Katie Troccoli and second by John Stone. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be at 8:00 a.m. on December 21, 2012.