



## RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION SAFETY DISTRICT

Board Meeting  
September 2, 2003

Meeting Began At: 10:03 A.M.

Meeting Ended At: 10:25 A.M.

Members Present: Deb Schoor, Jonathan Cook, Larry Hudkins, Ray Stevens

Members Absent: Glenn Friendt, Ken Svoboda

Others Present: Roger Figard, Dick Nuernberger, Bill Kuester, Kurt Micek,, Bruce Sweney, Charlie Wilcox, Fran Mejer, Maggie Kellner, Tina Mackel.

### **Order No. 03-14 Call to Order. Approval of the Previous Minutes.**

Schorr called the meeting to order.

Stevens motioned to approve the previous minutes. Hudkins seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

### **Order No. 03-15 Report of Treasurer.**

Dick Nuernberger presented the treasurer's report. As of August 18, 2003, the District had investments in various banks totaling \$5,346,347.03. As of August 18, 2003, a balance of \$278,382.40 was carried in the District's checking account. As of July 31, 2003, the County Treasurer's balance for the District was \$953,992.40.

Stevens motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Hudkins seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

### **Order No. 03-16 Approve 2003/2004 Budget.**

Figard handed out a new flow of funds statement. He thanked the County Board for setting the levy at 0.024805. This does not affect or require us to amend the budget that was approved in June, but does reduce the cash at the end of the year by about \$200,000.00. The cash balance will change to \$725,209.00 if all capital improvements are expended. The budget the board approved in June had a total operating expense request of \$57,750.00 and capital improvements totaling \$9,907,800.00 for a total RTSD budget of \$9,965,550.00. There is a duplication of projects in the County Crossing portion of the budget (899.515, 899.516). Project 899.610 continues to show that the money is intended for right-of-way costs. This project is almost completed and is intended to be used for any final construction costs or contingencies. No money was budgeted for the Southwest 40th Street project (899.170) for the upcoming year.

The City will finish the study portion. If they derive a project, next year the RTSD could include monies in the budget to assist the City in paying for that study. This project will still be shown in the long range 6 year program for a potential overpass starting in years 3, 4 and 5 of that program. \$117,530 has been spent so far paying for phase I and phase II of the study report. The City will ask for reimbursement if the study results in a project. The budget can be approved today as previously approved in June. Chairman Friendt will need to sign the budget so that the budget information gets to the State Auditor's Office by September 20, 2003.

Cook asked about any additional projects that might be added in mid-year like the 27th and Highway 2 improvement project.

Figard stated that \$250,000.00 is in the construction budget for miscellaneous crossings. Those funds would be used to assist in that kind of a crossing.

Hudkins motioned to approve the 2003/2004 budget. Steven seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

### **Order No. 03-17      General Project Updates.**

Figard stated that the 3rd and A overpass along with the Salt Creek bridge will be opened up at one time, approximately November 21, 2003.

Hudkins stated that the Haymarket bridge has been a great addition to the City of Lincoln and appreciates Figard's recommendation of that project.

### **Order No. 03-18      Non-Agenda Items.**

Figard introduced a packet of financial information provided by Micek and Crouch. The Management's Discussion and Analysis handout is a voluntary document this year, but next year it would be a requirement of the budgeting and auditing process to be provided to the State Auditor's Office. This is good executive summary of what has happened in the last year without wading through all the financial documents. Micek and Crouch have acknowledged that the RTSD needs to work harder with the County Treasurer's Office in getting money transferred and deposited on a more timely basis.

Hudkins asked if the RTSD has ever invested monies in NPAITE. The County Board and other governmental agencies are all eligible to invest. It is managed by Union Bank in Lincoln. No minimum amount of money is required. There are 2 versions, short term and long term. Money can be withdrawn within hours.

Figard replied that no money has been invested in NPAITE. State statute gives that authority to the County Treasurer. Figard will visit with Mr. Nuernberger and investigate the investment opportunities.

Cook asked for an update on the sales tax exemption issue.

Figard replied that if the Board was interested in pursuing that issue, the RTSD would need to initiate that activity and not go through the league.

Cook asked about if we are still pursuing bonding authority.

Figard replied that if that is a continued discussion in the upcoming year, he can continue that investigation.

Stevens stated that with the way the RTSD operates, bonding authority is not applicable. Hudkins agreed with Stevens.

Hudkins motioned to authorize Roger Figard to meet with the Chair of the Revenue Committee, Senator Dave Landis to explore the possibilities of pursuing a sales tax exemption for the RTSD. Stevens seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Schorr announced that the next RTSD Board Meeting will be held on Monday, December 15, 2003 @ 8:00 a.m.

Stevens motioned to adjourn the meeting. Hudkins seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0. Meeting adjourned.

**Prepared by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Tina Mackel, Public Works & Utilities**