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Jodi Davis  
*General Manager*

**SMEAA OFFICERS**  
Mike Coffey, Jr.  
*Chairman*  
Mary Frances Squires  
*Vice-Chairman*  
Brad Mills  
*Secretary*  
Jeanette Goza  
*Treasurer*

**SMEAA MEMBERS**  
Deborah Grant  
Marissa Lesko  
Jason Loftus  
Gail Simpson  
Tony Smarjesse  
Bill Taft  
Terry Young

***Springfield  
Metropolitan  
Exposition &  
Auditorium  
Authority***

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**April 22, 2024**

**12:00 PM**

The regular Board Meeting of the Springfield Metropolitan Exposition and Auditorium Authority was called to order at 12:00 PM in the Boardroom of the Bank of Springfield Center by Chairman Mike Coffey, Jr..

A roll call was taken and the following Board Members were present, representing a quorum:

Ms. Goza  
Ms. Grant  
Ms. Lesko  
Mr. Loftus  
Ms. Simpson  
Mr. Smarjesse  
Mr. Taft  
Mr. Young

Also present were Jodi Davis, General Manager; Janet Jennings, Dir. of Finance; Greg Sronce, Legal Counsel; Madison Devlin, Chief of Staff for Mr. Coffey; Jim Dickey.

Mr. Coffey asked if there were any statements from visitors or guests.

Mr. Coffey asked for a motion to approve Action Item A, which is for approval of having the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of each Board meeting. A discussion took place regarding yes or no votes and the reasons behind either. A motion was made by Mr. Young, and seconded by Mr. Smarjesse. A voice vote was taken: 6 Aye, 3 Nay and 2 no present. Motion carried.

Mr. Coffey asked for a motion to approve Action Items B & C, which were the Board Meeting Minutes from March 18, 2024 and the Lease Contracts. A motion was made by Mr. Young, and seconded by Ms. Simpson. A voice vote was taken, motion carried.

Mr. Coffey asked for a motion to approve Action Item D, which is approval ratification of the Laborers Union Contract. Mr. Coffey asked Ms. Davis to explain some of the changes to the new 5-year contract. Ms. Davis explained the hour pay rate increase that would go into effect on July 1, 2024 and the subsequent increases through 2029. She also explained that though The Center has been participating in the Holiday Juneteenth, it has now been added to the contract. A motion was made by Mr. Young, and seconded by Ms. Simpson. A voice vote was taken, motion carried.

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Mr. Coffey presented the Chairman's report. Mr. Coffey provided updates on the Feasibility Study. He stated that he did not know how information got out to the press to be published and on social media. He stated that everyone should have received a copy of the plans, which indicate options for the expansion. He stated that it is up to the County and City to determine what is feasible. A discussion took place regarding the Wyndham Centre and the needs of the Capital City. Mr. Coffey stated it could take years to get everything figured out but for now The Center has to wait-and-see.

Mr. Coffey called upon Ms. Goza to give the Finance Committee Report. Ms. Goza stated that the Finance Committee met at 11:50 AM.

Ms. Goza stated that the Finance Committee approved the list of bills as presented, but needed full Board approval.

Mr. Coffey asked for a motion to approve the list of bills. A motion was made by Ms. Simpson, and seconded by Mr. Smarjesse. A voice vote was taken, motion carried.

Ms. Goza stated that there was one (1) pre-approved expenditure over \$1,000.00, but needed full Board approval.

1. Entec - \$26,000.00...Chiller 1 repair and refuel charges...pre-approved via Mr. Coffey and Ms. Goza.

Mr. Coffey asked for a motion to approve the pre-approved expenditure over \$1,000.00. A motion was made by Mr. Taft, and seconded by Mr. Loftus. A voice vote was taken, motion carried.

Ms. Goza stated that she would like to thank Mr. Coffey and Mr. Reichert for working with Entec to lower the cost of the original invoice to the new cost of \$26,000.00. Mr. Coffey stated that he would like to thank the Finance Committee for inquiring into the cost and asking for a closer look at the charges.

Ms. Goza stated that there were three (3) expenditures over \$1,000.00, but needed full Board approval.

1. E.L. Pruitt - \$1,476.00...Repair Backflow Relieve Valve (FJ Murphy quoted \$1,900.00)
2. Kone - \$2,226.19...Repairs to Passenger Elevator
3. Sangamon Co. - \$57,000.00...Professional Services rendered for proposed expansion

Mr. Coffey asked for a motion to approve the expenditures over \$1,000.00. A motion was made by Ms. Simpson, and seconded by Mr. Taft. A voice vote was taken, motion carried.

Mr. Sronce presented the General Counsel report. Mr. Sronce stated that he was present to represent Mr. Stratton and Mr. Reichert.

Ms. Davis presented the General Managers report. Ms. Davis stated that it has been another busy month with very few days open and sometimes multiple events happening at the same time. She stated that WWE went well and that it was reported that it out grossed the previous high grossing event.

Ms. Davis stated that the new Outdoor Messaging Center is in the process of being installed. Once that is complete, they will move indoors to install the other Messaging Centers.

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Ms. Davis stated that the Christian concert slated for October will be making an announcement on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Davis stated that everyone should have received a copy of the Rental/Catering sliding scale and data collections. She explained the percentages received based on the type of event.

Mr. Young inquired if there was a way to get word out to the public about what actually goes on at The Center. He stated that after the article about the expansion hit, all of the negative comments were concerning. A discussion took place regarding selling advertising and whether or not someone should be hired to do that. Ms. Davis explained that we did have someone in the past but it did not work out. She stated that she is working on something that she was going to bring to the next meeting, which would explain new avenues in advertising on the new indoor video boards.

Mr. Coffey asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Mr. Young, and seconded by Ms. Goza. A voice vote was taken, motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 12:32 PM.

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Tracy Motter  
Office Manager

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Mr. Mike Coffey, Jr.  
Chairman