

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 29, 2020
www.hammondsd.com

The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 4:09 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Administration Building located at 5143 Columbia Avenue, Hammond, Indiana.

President Dimopoulos called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m. He stated that the Board held an Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel and litigation matters in accordance with Indiana Codes.

Commissioners Present: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins, Miller

Commissioners Absent: N/A

District Personnel: Marty Wielgos, District Manager
Matthew Muta, Deputy District Manager
Joseph Allegretti, HSD Attorney
Rachel Montes, Business Manager
Jeffrey Massey, HSD
Dan Zander, HSD
Jack Smith, Sewer Department
Kaleigh Boyle, HSD

Others Present: Mike Hickey, MJHY LLC

President Dimopoulos stated that the first order of business was the consideration of the September 15, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

Dye **moved** and Miller **seconded** to approve the September 15, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

District Manager's Report

District Manager, Marty Wielgos, stated that as he indicated in the Executive Session, they are almost 100% completely wrapped up with the \$500 relief program. He is sitting on about 4-5 that are sitting in his office with people who had loved ones in the hospital still at the time that could not make it here for various reasons that are acceptable to the District. As soon as they get some relief one way or another, he will be meeting with them and will be finishing off those. He is expecting within the next 30 days or so, those will be completely done. The construction project is just near the end. Last Friday they fired up both of the new transformers and they are running and humming like clockwork. One at a time depending where the feed is coming in, so the main

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING
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one is working great. They spent a little longer here on Friday than what was expected- they had just a little hiccup, but everything turned out well and things are running very, very well. The project on the Tertiary screws (the removal of those) started this week and they are slowly getting everything in order to start cutting out one screw at a time. Two of the new screws are on their way. He thinks they are in Nova Scotia somewhere so they are halfway here and that is good news, so that project is moving along really well. Other than that, he thinks they are starting to get back to normal since they are no longer having to do the flood relief. That really took a lot of extra work and effort of all the staff here because that was added to the regular work that they do and at times working with Owana and her staff. Everybody came together to get the job done and he thanks Owana again for her help and motivation because they had never done this kind of thing before. The paperwork and how everything had to be in order and getting the right documentation. They learned that in about a week and the next 4-5 months actually getting the implementation. Once again, he is very happy with the staff here and the volunteers from across the City that came to help. They had several departments that sent their employees to help with that. He was really, very grateful for that. Other than that, he does not have anything else to add.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Rachel stated there was a Personnel Report- the addendum that was passed out.

Dye **moved** and Garay **seconded** for the approval of the Personnel Report.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

CONSULTANT REPORTS

MJHY, LLC

Mike Hickey stated that the LTCP update is that it was submitted September 18th as he reported at the last board meeting. EPA seems to be on top of this stuff and reviewing it quicker so he is guessing it will be about two months and then they will hear something, so he will keep them posted.

RESOLUTIONS

The Board considered Resolution No. 24-2020: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Authorizing the Permanent Transfer of \$150,000 for the 3rd Quarter of 2020 from the Operation and Maintenance Fund (O&M) to the Replacement Fund (R).

Miller **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 24-2020.

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 29, 2020
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Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins, Miller
Nays: None
Motion **carried** 5-0.

The Board considered the Revised Claims Approval Docket 09-29-20.

Dye **moved** and Miller **seconded** for the approval of the Revised Claims Approval Docket 09-29-20.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins, Miller
Nays: None
Motion **carried** 5-0.

President Dimopoulos called for Old Business

Commissioner Hawkins commented that he would like to bring up the discussion he had with Marty, Joe and other staff in regards to the request for proposals and the cost of service study. There may be some issue that the Town of Munster has with the RFP. He said there was a very good discussion that was had and some follow up and some necessary discussions with the Town concerning where they were at and should go with this. He asked if Marty or Joe had anything to say about that.

President Dimopoulos said that he would like to make a statement. He just wanted to note that this is the first that they are hearing that there are any issues coming from the Town of Munster on this. They have been working on this for a long time. Munster has been involved and as of today, they thought that Munster was on board and everything was copacetic so this is something that they have to dive into and find out if there is actually an issue or not. The Commissioner is telling them that there is an issue with it, but they have never been informed of any so Mr. Allegretti is going to contact the proper people—

Attorney Allegretti stated that he has done that. He does recall a discussion in a phone conversation that he and Marty participated in and he does recall the Munster initial comments and suggestions to the RFP. The District's consultants were directed at drawing a distinction between the Town and the Sanitary District. The customers within the Town and the Sanitary District which was contrary to the fundamental understanding they had when they made the agreement with Munster to approve and that is the purpose of this cost of service study is to get an appropriate rate for the customer cities, but is not to draw any distinction or make any inquiry as to whether there should be a difference between different classes of the same classes of customers who live within the Town as to those within the City- drawing a distinction. It appeared to him at the time the comments that Munster were making were designed to make that distinction. He asked if the Commissioner was following him. They are the same. Hammond and Munster are the same and the purpose of this inquiry was not to make a distinction or come to some conclusion or make an inquiry as to whether he as a residential customer in Munster should

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 29, 2020
www.hammondsd.com

be paying less or more than Marty Wielgos who is a residential customer in Hammond. That was never the purpose of the inquiry and he thought they made that clear and any disagreements went away. If there is a misunderstanding, he is going to get to the bottom of it, but that is where he was at the time. He asked if the Commissioner recalls that conversation.

Commissioner Hawkins responded that he recalled—

Commissioner Hawkins was asked to speak up or please remove his mask so everyone could understand him.

Commissioner Hawkins stated that he was not going to take his mask off because he would then be in violation. He does remember something kin to that though he does not know the resolution or the outcome of that.

Attorney Allegretti commented that he has a lot of emails clarifying that this would never be the purpose of the cost of service study. It was never going to be done and they were never going to be paying for that. this was all about what the customer cities were going to be paying. Munster, of course, is the District's partner as the Commissioner always refers to himself as and part of the District- not a customer city. There was some talk a couple of years ago when Munster seemed to be unhappy and there was some suggestion that maybe they would like to withdraw from the Sanitary District and become a customer city, but that never went anywhere.

Commissioner Hawkins replied because that was not from Munster.

Attorney Allegretti added that the two are joined at the hip with long-term general obligations and bond issues to pay out of their combined real estate property taxes. Nobody is going anywhere like that, so there was no reason to make an inquiry into whether Munster is paying a fair share, but that is his take.

President Dimopoulos said he wants to contact the people involved in this RFP and at the next meeting determine if there is an issue or not. If there is, he wants to get it resolved because they have been working on this for a long time. He thought things were getting ready to snap forward and now they are taking a step back, so he wants to see what the players involved have to say. He asked if this made sense to everyone.

President Dimopoulos called for Reports from Commissioners

There were no reports from Commissioners.

President Dimopoulos called for Public Expression

There was no public expression.

MINUTES
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President Dimopoulos called for a motion to adjourn the meeting

Dye **moved** and Miller **seconded** for adjournment.


Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.



Sam Dimopoulos, President

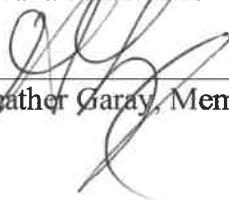


Michael Dye, Vice-President



Michael Hawkins, Sr., Member

Owana Miller, Member



Heather Garay, Member

ATTEST: 

Rachel Montes, Secretary
Kaleigh Boyle, Assistant Secretary

Board Minutes Prepared By: Kaleigh Boyle