

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING
MARCH 9, 2021
www.hammondsd.com

The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 4:01 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 4:01 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

Commissioners Present Remotely: Dye, Hawkins, Miller

Commissioners Absent: Garay

District Personnel Present: Marty Wielgos, Chief Executive Officer
Joseph Allegretti, HSD Attorney
Rachel Montes, Business Manager
Kaleigh Boyle, HSD

District Personnel Present Remotely: Jeffrey Massey, HSD
Matthew Muta, Deputy District Manager
Robert Szczudlo, HSD
Dan Zander, HSD
Jack Smith, Sewer Department
Rebecca McKinley, GIS Department

Others Present: Mike Hickey, MJHY, LLC

Others Present Remotely: Natalie Cook, Donohue

There was a roll call of attendees for the meeting to be documented in the minutes.

The same rules and guidelines will apply as previous meetings. Before somebody makes a statement/motion, they need to state their name so they know who is talking. There will be roll call votes on everything.

President Dimopoulos stated that he would entertain a motion that he as Board President has the authority to sign all documents today on behalf of the Board.

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to give Board President, Sam Dimopoulos, authority to sign all documents on behalf of the Board.

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Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller
Nays: None
Motion **carried** 4-0.

President Dimopoulos stated that the next order of business is the consideration of the February 23, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

Dye **moved** and Miller **seconded** to approve the February 23, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller
Nays: None
Motion **carried** 4-0.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Chief Executive Officer, Marty Wielgos, stated that as they discussed in the Executive session, yesterday morning there was a couple of leaks found on one of their mains that run along Kennedy Avenue. The one that is most concerning to them is the force main that is leaking between a set of parallel railroad tracks. It is pretty much across from the pumping station on Kennedy Avenue. It is bubbling up to the surface at about three gallons per hour. The railroad company found it and called them immediately. The big concern about this leak and its location is that it is very difficult to get to and repair and of course the railroad will not stop trains from using these tracks. He is just forewarning the Board that this is going to be a very costly repair. They have engineering working on it now. Once they come up with a couple of plans, they will sit down with staff and choose the one that they think will be the best. That needs to then be submitted to the railroad's engineers and they have to sign off on it because it is on their property. The second leak is on the same line that heads north that comes actually into Kennedy Avenue which is being repaired as they are speaking right now. Hopefully, it will be done today. They had to shut down one lane of Kennedy Avenue and then they started on the repair. They put a sleeve on the crack and it seems to be working, but he will know more probably by the end of this call. He just wanted to forewarn the Board that his major concern along with Rachel is this one that needs to be repaired between the two railroad tracks. It is not going to be an inexpensive fix, but it has to be taken care of. He asked the Board if they had any questions for him on that.

There were no questions.

Marty stated then that it all that he has for them.

President Dimopoulos commented that once Marty gets more information on the situation, that he knows he will share that with the Board.

Marty replied absolutely. He said that will be done (just so the Board knows) since it has to be done ASAP once they get the process started, he is going to do that under emergency repair where he does not have to bid it out.

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PERSONNEL REPORT

President Dimopoulos commented that the Board all received a copy of the Personnel Report via email.

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of the Personnel Report

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Business Manager, Rachel Montes, stated that she did not have anything to highlight, but would take any questions.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Safety Report

No questions or comments.

GIS Report

No questions or comments.

Sewer Maintenance Report

No questions or comments.

CONSULTANT REPORTS

MJHY, LLC

Mike Hickey stated that the Board should have a status report and he would be happy to answer any questions if they have any. He would like to give an update on the Long-Term Control Plan. Yesterday he received a call from Dean Maraldo from EPA and he said they had a few technical questions that he wanted to make sure he understood, but he said EPA was getting close to giving them a conditional approval of the Long-Term Control Plan. The reason it is conditional is because they are still reviewing the FCA (Financial Capability Analysis) portion of the Plan. Things are moving along so that is good. That is all he has, but would be happy to take any questions.

Donohue

Natalie Cook said that they should also have the status report from them in their packets, so if there are any questions on that, let her know. Aside from that, obviously it was not included in that status report because it was done prior to event, but they have been working on the two leaks that were identified over the weekend.

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RESOLUTIONS

The Board considered Resolution No. 9-2021: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Entering into a Services Agreement with Crowe LLP and the Sanitary District of Hammond for Certain Professional Services.

Miller **moved** and Dye **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 9-2021.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

The Board considered Resolution No. 10-2021: RE: A Resolution of the Sanitary District of Hammond Supplementing Resolution No. 27-2012 Concerning Bonds Issued for the Construction of Additions and Improvements to the Sewage Works of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Indiana.

Dye **moved** and Miller **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 10-2021.

Commissioner Hawkins asked to have a little bit of discussion explaining this. He understands that the driving force behind this Resolution is to save money and he asked how this is affecting that.

Rachel responded that they have an adjustable interest rate on this bond and they are going to get one interest rate for the rest of the life of the bond. She said not to quote her, but she believes the balance is about 3 million dollars. They just want to get rid of the adjustable interest rate.

Marty asked Rachel what the savings were by doing that.

Rachel responded that she could not answer that.

Marty replied that they kept telling them an approximate amount of what savings were going to be. He explained that there is going to be substantial savings by doing this move for the term of the bond because of the interest rates being so low and because they were able to lock into a rate. The one that preexisted had a variable rate, so that is why they did that Commissioner Hawkins.

Attorney Allegretti added that this is kind of a housekeeping Resolution. The 2015 Bond that is now being refinanced had a redemption option and in order to refinance it, they have to formally (by adoption of this Resolution) waive those redemption rights, so it is just kind of a technical housekeeping thing to satisfy their Bond Counsel. There is not much substance, but just one hurdle and hoop to jump through in order to complete the refinance.

Commissioner Hawkins questioned if there was going to be a cost to issue this.

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Attorney Allegretti answered that there is going to be a cost of issuance, but there will be a net savings with the reduction of the interest rate. They are also not extending the term of the bond, so it is kind of a win-win for the District.

Rachel said that the amount of the refunding bond is going to be \$3,060,000 and the interest rate will be 2.15% which is the fixed rate.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

The Board considered Resolution No. 11-2021: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Authorizing Execution of a Professional Services Contract with Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc. (HRC)

Dye **moved** and Garay **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 11-2021.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

The Board considered the Bank Reconciliation Document dated February 28, 2021.

Hawkins **moved** and Dye **seconded** for the approval of the Bank Reconciliation Document dated February 28, 2021.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 03-09-21.

Dye **moved** and Miller **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 03-09-21.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

President Dimopoulos called for Old Business

There was not any old business to discuss.

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President Dimopoulos called for New Business

Marty commented that he just wanted to reiterate that for this repair on Kennedy Avenue, it is going to be an emergency repair so it will not be bid out. They are going to find the best and most qualified. In order to do this work on railroad property, they have to have certification with the railroad, so there are not a lot of choices. That is all he has.

Attorney Allegretti explained that under the emergency public works statute, they are required to have two bids and the minutes that will be from the next meeting must reflect the nature of the emergency, identify the two contractors from whom the two bids were received by the Sanitary District and that will occur at the next meeting. At that time, the Board will be asked to ratify the emergency contract awarded by the CEO.

President Dimopoulos called for Reports from Commissioners

There were no reports from Commissioners.

President Dimopoulos called for Public Expression

There was no Public Expression.

President Dimopoulos called for a motion to adjourn the meeting

Dye moved and Miller seconded for adjournment.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

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Sam Dimopoulos, President

/S/

Michael Dye, Vice-President
(attending and voting via teleconference)

/S/

Michael Hawkins, Sr., Member
(attending and voting via teleconference)

/S/

Owana Miller, Member
(attending and voting via teleconference)

/S/

Heather Garay, Member
(attending and voting via teleconference)

ATTEST:



Rachel Montes, Secretary
Kaleigh Boyle, Assistant Secretary

Board Minutes Prepared By: Kaleigh Boyle