

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING
JUNE 29, 2021
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The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 4:08 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 4:08 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

Commissioners Absent: Miller

District Personnel Present: Marty Wielgos, Chief Executive Officer
Joseph Allegretti, HSD Attorney
Jeffrey Massey, HSD
Matthew Muta, Deputy District Manager
Robert Szczudlo, HSD
Dan Zander, HSD
Jack Smith, Sewer Department
Rebecca McKinley, GIS Department
Kaleigh Boyle, HSD

Others Present: Mike Hickey, MJHY, LLC

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Dimopoulos stated that the first order of business is the consideration of the June 15, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

Dye **moved** and Garay **seconded** to approve the June 15, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Chief Executive Officer, Marty Wielgos, stated that he wanted to start out by saying that all of the employees here at the District including Jack's Department (Sewer Department) worked extremely hard these last 4-5 days battling these storms that were come and go, come and go. Jack's guys were out replacing manhole covers and doing inspections when needed. They are happy to report that there has only been one confirmed basement backup through all of this which they find is pleasantly surprising. He is happy to note that the hard work that Jeff who is running the Plant and calling the shots saying, hey we need the automation to do this or that or they need to open up

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another gate or whatever that may be filling up the basin, but he is going to let him talk a little bit about this whole event so far with more yet to come. There is more rain coming tonight. Just good management style from management and he did not have a problem with any employee, not a one from all of the departments, so that says a lot. He also indicated that to the many phone calls he had with the Mayor over these last several days and he is quite happy. He asked Jeff to give a run down over this storm event over the last four days.

Jeff explained that we have had some really interesting rain with the torrential downpours. We have had right around 7.77 inches of rain since Thursday. The Plant is holding its own and doing fairly well. They are using every piece of equipment they have at their availability to use. The basin across the street is full and overflowing. It has been since Friday. They have multiple discharges throughout the system, but all in all everybody has come together and done very, very well in preventing any backups. He is pretty proud of everybody because the staff has been outstanding at doing what they do. He knows they appreciated when Marty was here and he let them know, so they appreciated him telling them that they were doing a good job. It went a long way. They are just hoping that sooner rather than later because they were here a couple of weeks ago hoping that it would rain a little bit because we needed a little bit of rain and he guesses they should watch their wishes a little bit because now they are hoping it would dry up a little bit. Hopefully, by this weekend, they will get past this.

Marty added that he was talking to the Board and all the staff that is in the room today about how good the planning and a lot of good luck, but more so good planning on the say that they decided to purchase not only one screw, but all of the screws. Not only because of the pandemic and probably what would have happened, but what most likely would have happened in these heavy rainfalls if they had not replaced those screws, but more importantly the cost that they would have incurred along with having a broke down system. He just thinks about how horrible it could have been if they had not done what they did with Board approval not only buying one screw, but buying all of the screws and having them all delivered. They are actually working on putting the last one in tomorrow.

Jeff said they have four in and operational and thank goodness they did because they ran all four over the weekend. The fifth one, they are going to hopefully take the last screw out tomorrow marring another torrential downpour and get ready to reset the fifth one and they will be done with that. He thinks they would have been in deep trouble without having the new screws. It really outperformed the ones that were there in the past and he does not know if the old ones would have lasted- they were cracking all the time. They could have had real problems had they not replaced those screws.

Marty asked Jeff what he had the Plant up to as far as volume at certain times.

Jeff answered that at one point they were pushing around 80 million into the Plant, but at the peak on the overflow side, they were pushing over 400 million out of the basin. Every pump they had anywhere was running at the time. This was an extensive downpour.

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President Dimopoulos commented that there was mention of the power coming in from both sides.

Marty replied that what he was telling the Board was that he was hoping to see all of the money that they spent with the now two full sources of power automated, he wanted to see it actually work, but it didn't because of the fact that it didn't need to switch power because they didn't lose power.

Jeff stated that it worked so well that it didn't have to work. Thank goodness on that. They had during this whole thing one minor little power outage at one of the storm stations that actually had a generator and it kicked on and did what it was supposed to do. He is nervous to say anything about power because they said they had no backups yesterday and then got one yesterday, so he is afraid to say anything now, but they are very blessed that it has continued on the way it has and hopefully they can slide through these next couple days. Supposedly, weather is supposed to be a lot better on Thursday.

Marty commented that another thing they are wanting to do after they get the Plant a little more settled with all of the construction going on and just about done is the big tour the Mayor wants of the Plant where they are going to have other elected officials. He thinks it will be a good time after these big storms and what the Plant just went through and he sees and knows, but for him to see for himself all of the new, big equipment. Everything is going to be in and running, so they are going to finish cleaning up some parts of the Plant and tidying up some areas. He just wants the Mayor to know that he has not forgotten about that because he knows he is anxious about it, but is also being very patient to ensure that it is ready.

President Dimopoulos said to make sure they know when that is happening. He also wanted to thank the entire staff of the Sanitary District for the great work that they did during these last few days of storms, so a big thumbs up to everybody. He is really happy that everything went well.

PERSONNEL REPORT

There was no Personnel Report.

CONSULTANT REPORTS

MJHY, LLC

Mike Hickey stated that on the Long-Term Control Plan update, he is working with Max on the responses to EPA's questions and they are waiting on one piece of information from Griffith. They need their estimated SSO cost before they can answer EPA's questions and they do not have that info yet, but once they get that, they can start finishing up. That is all he got on that.

There were no questions or comments.

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RESOLUTIONS

President Dimopoulos commented that they do have one Resolution that is on the agenda.

The Board considered Resolution No. 23-2021: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the City of Hammond Sanitary District, Lake County, Indiana for Planning, Design and Management Engineering Assistance.

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of Resolution No. 23-2021.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 06-29-21.

Garay **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 06-29-21.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

President Dimopoulos called for Old Business

There was not any old business to discuss.

President Dimopoulos called for New Business

President Dimopoulos stated that they do have a Resolution under new business.

The Board considered Resolution No. 24-2021: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Authorizing Execution of a Release and Termination of Easement to Accommodate the Development of the Interstate Plaza Development Project.

Dye **moved** and Garay **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 24-2021.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

Commissioner Garay stated that she had one question for Rachel She asked if they looked at any of their bonds that are outstanding that may be callable to refund given the rates are so low right now.

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Rachel responded that she thinks they just did a refunding bond in January and she thinks it was the only one and then they did some adjusting on the Building Corp. one, but that was not on our end. That was on their end.

Marty added that when they saw the rates going down, that is exactly what they did and they went and explained it to the Mayor because they did not want the perception in the public to be that they were taking and borrowing new money, but were just refinancing because of the rate so he went in front of the City Council and explained that to the City Council and to the public and it all went well.

Rachel explained that for the lease one, there payment went down and she believes it went down from \$575,000 semiannually to \$488,000.

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 Hawkins **seconded** for adjournment.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

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Sam Dimopoulos, President

Michael Dye, Vice-President



Michael Hawkins, Sr., Member



Owana Miller, Member



Heather Garry, Member

ATTEST: 

Rachel Montes, Secretary

Kaleigh Boyle, Assistant Secretary

Board Minutes Prepared By: Kaleigh Boyle