

MINUTES  
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 28, 2017  
[www.hammondsd.com](http://www.hammondsd.com)

The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 4:12 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Administration Building located at 5143 Columbia Avenue, Hammond, Indiana.

President Button called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m. He stated that the Board held an Executive Session from 3:45 p.m. until 4:10 p.m. to discuss personnel and litigation matters in accordance with Indiana codes.

Commissioners Present: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Muta

Commissioners Absent: N/A

District Personnel: Marty Wielgos, District Manager  
Rachel Montes, Business Manager  
Joe Allegretti, Attorney  
Donald Woodard, HSD  
Rick Sutton, HSD  
Jeff Massey, HSD  
Jack Smith, Sewer Department  
Rebecca McKinley, GIS Department  
Kaleigh Boyle, HSD

Others Present: Mike Hickey, AB&H Donohue

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Button stated that the first order of business was the consideration of the January 24, 2017 board meeting minutes.

Muta **moved** and Dye and Hawkins **seconded** to approve the January 24, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Muta

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of the January 24, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

President Button stated that the next order of business was the consideration of the February 14, 2017 board meeting minutes.

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve the February 14, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes.

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Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Muta

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of the February 14, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

**District Manager's Report**

District Manager, Marty Wielgos, stated that he would like to turn his time over to Rick to talk about some of the problems that we are still experiencing that are causing a decent amount of havoc when this happens to the operation of the Plant, so he would like Rick to dive in about that.

Rick Sutton explained that we are having nonstop trouble with the Munster generators. It has been a persistent, ongoing problem that will not seem to go away. Most recently, Sunday morning at 4 am, the Twin Creek generator failed to start. The power went out. We called Nipsco, Nipsco came out and said that they would not have power for a while, so Don Woodard and he are involved, our Collections staff are involved, our electrical contractors are called out, and our mechanics are called out. We had an awful lot of people up Sunday morning at 4 o'clock fixing an ongoing problem with the Twin Creek generator which to the best of his knowledge and he asked Don to correct him if he is wrong, but he cannot tell you the number of times it has started, but he can tell you the number of times that it hasn't. It flat out does not work. The other one that has been causing us trouble is at the Superior pump station. We had a power outage down there because their transfer switch does not transfer over power to the Nipsco contactor close the contactor and engage. He has heard through many lines of communication (he does not want to spread rumors), but everyone believes that the transformer that supplies power to that station is too low and that the voltage sensing element in the transfer switch is not registering the power being turned on to the station correctly so it is having trouble and that HSD should call up Nipsco and get taps on the transformer and we are not doing that because that transformer taps that 460 volts supply to those pumps has been the same for 25 years. His guess is, he is not certain, but his instinct tells him but when they put the generator transfer switch in they did not measure the incoming voltage they assumed what it was and put it in and that is why it never transferred right. He told them he would give them Nipsco Business Link number and they can issue a purchase order to Nipsco to go out there and change the taps on the transformer. HSD does not need them changed. He is not sure what to do about it. HSD staff finds out that the generator does not work and we immediately dispatch people and incur big costs because it is always at a time where it is overtime for everybody. The generators are not ours. They are not supposed to be ours. They are pieces of junk. He is being as respectful as he can, but they have been nothing but trouble for how many years now. Three or four years now- nonstop.

Commissioner Muta questioned whose generators they are.

Rick replied Munster's.

Commissioner Dye asked what the maintenance schedule is like or the history.

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Marty answered that we have nothing to do with the maintenance. That is all part of the Town of Munster so maybe Commissioner Hawkins can answer that, but he cannot.

Commissioner Hawkins stated that there is an issue with generators.

Rick added that we would be happy to get a number to call for Munster when they go out and then have Munster call out their contractors when this stuff happens. We are happy to do that. We need somebody to call at 4 in the morning on Sunday morning when the power goes out and then Munster can call out their contractors. We have tried that in the past and it does not work. Munster's only play all the time is to call Hammond. Call the wastewater plant. That is what is done every time.

Commissioner Hawkins asked Rick when these issues have occurred at Superior and Twin Creek has he contacted anybody at Munster

Rick replied that he believes people have. He has not personally and he does not want to give the wrong impression that we are not going to fix this. It is a hard situation because we are monitoring everything all the time. HSD- we have somebody looking at the stations all the time. We get an alarm that there is no power at this station. Well, we dispatch people. Immediately.

Don Woodard added that we have been contacting Anton. He does not know how to say his last name. We call him every time that it goes out.

Commissioner Dye thinks that the main thing is getting to the root cause of the problem and figure out because there is something that has not been looked at.

Marty said that this has been an ongoing problem. He knows the Commissioner and he have talked about this now for several years and have talked about it with some of the Town Council members of Munster and he thinks they have tried as best as they can with the different manufacturers because each of these generators are not the same manufacturer. There is generic and other brands and some of them are gas-powered, some are diesel-powered and so what he is going to ask the board to try to come to some conclusion when we are asked to try to solve the problem and it is a generator problem since we have now dispatched time and money out to these sites along with overtime. He is asking the board to authorize him to generate a bill for the time spent, gas and mileage and anything else along with that to be sent to the Controller of the Town of Munster for payment of these services until something can be done because it has been ongoing and we have had several meetings on it. There have been some personnel changes in Munster so that could be where some information was dropped, but all he hears is the heartache that it is causing with his staff. This is ongoing. It is not just every once in a while. It is a constant problem and it is not always the same location. It bounces around to wherever these generators are at. So, he is looking for authorization from the board to initiate a bill that will go to the Town of Munster and maybe they can put more pressure on these manufacturers or whatever it is going to take, but currently it still is not working.

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Commissioner Dimopoulos commented that he thinks that is the only fair thing to do. He wonders why we should incur the costs to take care of generators that are not really ours when they should be maintained by Munster.

Commissioner Muta asked other than the inconvenience of everybody being woken up Sunday morning, what this does to the plant operationally.

Rick replied that the sump level starts rising so you got a window there that you have to get power back on, get a generator or get a temporary bypass pump going on before you flood somebody. The ultimate result is that we will flood people.

Commissioner Muta verified that the ultimate result will be that people will be flooded. He asked if this would happen in Hammond.

Rick answered that this is all in Munster.

Commissioner Hawkins asked with the generators (and he believes he knows the answer) with the generators in place you are prevented from using a portable generator because of the wiring.

Rick stated that we could still do it, but we would have to go out there and it would take a long time to unland wires that are landed with big lug nuts and stuff. We could conceivably—

Commissioner Dye added that is not a permanent solution.

Rick agreed that no it is not a permanent solution. Us hauling the temporary stuff around- we've done it. It will work, but as you recall the Fisher Street transfer switch we had trouble with, we brought our generator out there unlanded the leads from the transfer switch and put our generator. You can do it, but it is not—

Commissioner Dimopoulos commented that is not the answer. The answer is Munster has to take care of their generators that is the bottom line here.

Commissioner Hawkins added that the answer is the generators need to work number one and number two there needs to be communication between the Town and the District to resolve this issues.

Commissioner Dimopoulos **moved** to authorize the District Manager to put a bill together every time we dispatch our people out to take care of Munster's generators and Dye **seconded**.

Commissioner Dye commented that maybe we request or share (on the operation side) with Munster the maintenance schedule that you guys have in place compared to what not is being done in Munster. Just a guideline. This is what works for us.

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Marty replied and asked to be corrected if he is wrong that we have a regular maintenance schedule that we have a guy physically going out to each and every pump station. That individual looks at all of the various pumps and things at that site. He does not look at the generator or have anything to do with the generator. In fact, we insist that he not touch that generator because without having any educational experience he can actually kill himself if he does not know what he is doing. We keep him 100 miles away from it even though it is right at the door. The Town of Munster has always said that this has been an ongoing problem, they have called the different manufacturers and he knows they have put a lot of heat on these manufacturers. They have, in his opinion, tried a lot of things, it is just that we have regular communication with the Town of Munster. When a generator is not working, from his understanding is that somebody from the Town of Munster is calling us and saying, hey the generator is not working over at our site.

Rick added that it is more the other way. Eventually there is communication between Munster and Hammond, but Don sees a station go out of service- we do not call Munster right away- the station is out of service. We are not flooding anybody so we dispatch crews out there, but then if it is the generator problem, we work on them if we have to and we are happy to, but we dispatch people and try to take care of it.

Commissioner Muta stated that he thinks we should emphasize that if they do not fix the problem, Munster homes are going to flood.

Marty said that what he thinks he hears from staff is that we go out, we figure out what the problem is, in this case a generator is not turned on and we have lost power. The first thing that they are going to do is assess how much time we have before we have a real problem and flood. Once that assessment has been made, which is fairly quickly, then a decision is made to take one of our portable generators out based on whatever conversation they have had with Munster within that time. If they feel that Munster cannot respond in whatever critical moment we are in, we will take a portable generator out there and we have in the past.

President Button commented that their inaction to deal with these generators is going to result potentially in basements in Munster backing up for which they would be responsible.

Marty replied that is correct. He just wants the board to know that we will do everything within power to try and make sure that doesn't happen.

President Button stated that the board would like a letter to reinforce the fact that this is causing a problem for their own.

Commissioner Dye wanted to clarify that when he said maintenance schedule, it was not the actual maintenance for the generators. When it is a commercial unit like that, there is a schedule that has to be done on a regular basis.

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Marty answered that we have no part in that, so he cannot answer on that.

Commissioner Hawkins stated that he has been involved several times whether on purpose or on accident and he remembers they have had problems at Hohman, problems at Superior, problems at more than one place. He can remember one of the critical things a vendor mentioned about the Hohman Avenue generator was the transfer switch. That has to be tested at a certain time to make sure that when a power failure results that it works to transfer power and he thinks at Hohman Avenue the last problem which would have been a couple years ago was that it did not work. The idea was that you have to test it. It is quite logical to think lets test it to see if the switch works and to see if the generator worked, so in actuality all the generators and transfer switches need to be tested on a schedule or initially to make sure that they work. Well, he does not know where that stands and it needs to be done. When he goes back to Munster this evening, he is going to put a very urgent message out that they have some serious issues that requires communication with the District because the District is the one that is responding. Both sides- he is not saying one side or the other because this problem obviously needs to be resolved.

Rick stated that it is a reliability issue. It goes to reliability. The fact is the machines are reliable or they are not. Clearly, they are not. What he can do about it, Rick does not know, but he is just saying in general it is an overall reliability issue.

Commissioner Hawkins replied that it has got to be resolved because they spent a lot of money (and that was before his time) they were purchased for a certain reason and a lot of money was expended we are talking millions of dollars for these generators. The one at Calumet Avenue may have been one million dollars itself. Obviously a big investment was made, there is an issue with it and you guys are discovering it and perhaps communicating it to Anton, but we need to get this resolved. Period. No matter what. It is unacceptable the way that they are working now. It is unacceptable and that is going to be his message in going back. A frank, direct message that it has got to be resolved. One of the things Munster was going to do was put an electronic monitoring system, a SCADA system, on all of the generators, but he is not sure where that stands. He will know a lot more tomorrow though and this information should be communicated back to you guys at the District. If there are issues with the generators, they need to be resolved. If there are issues with the transfer switches, they need to be resolved. It is going to take some work back and forth.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Muta

Nays: Hawkins

Motion **carried** 4-1.

President Button wanted to add on that same subject that he would ask District Manager to write a letter to Munster on the particular subject with help from Mr. Allegretti. It sounds like the system that we have in place is not working and that is that Don Woodard is calling Anton and that system is not working and so we need to escalate the issue to resolve the problem rather than to start sending bills back and forth.

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Marty replied that with all due respect, prior to Anton there was a gentleman that Marty believed to be a great asset to the Town of Munster whom has now left and Anton replaced him, we had the same communications with him and we really respected him. He actually came here to the District for a meeting arranged by Commissioner Hawkins and even with all that it fell apart.

President Button understands that but says if you continue to do the same thing at the same time, you are going to get the same results. So, this needs to be escalated in writing between the District and the Town of Munster.

Marty stated that now with the direction of the board of sending a bill that is now taking it to the next level because everything we have done prior to sending a bill is just not working.

President Button stated that he thinks Marty should tell Munster what he is going to do.

Marty replied that Commissioner Hawkins will be able to relay that message.

Commissioner Dimopoulos commented that these generators are theirs. They have to maintain them. That is not our problem. When they see the bill of our people going out there taking care of their problem and when they have to pay for it, then they might go take care of their generators.

Other than that, Marty wanted Rick to talk about the photographs that he handed out and what they are.

Rick explained that there is one group that shows the push remaining to get our chlorine system online. We start chlorination here on April 1<sup>st</sup> so we are in the process of rebuilding our evaporators and our chlorinators. There is some of the pieces and components that we have taken apart. That is easy to see with the new one right next to it how bad that corrosion really was. That is one of our main thrusts right now- from now until April 1<sup>st</sup>. The other pictures are the secondary clarifier project. Today we poured 320 cubic yards of concrete into clarifier #12 on the floor and this was the second half of the floor so in total we poured 640 cubic yards of concrete for the floor of the new clarifier and there are some pictures that show the tail end before that was done. Today we finished pouring that one. We are hoping to start up this fine bubble diffuser membrane replacement project in March. Don is trying to get a few things together operationally and make some adjustments so they are ready to start digging. They are hoping to start that the week of March 20<sup>th</sup> and they have five tanks about eight to twelve weeks of worth there, so they should finish that two million dollar project in the early summer.

Commissioner Dye thanked Rick for the visuals.

### **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Dye **moved** Muta **seconded** to approve the Personnel Report.

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Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Muta

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of the Personnel Report is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**The Board considered Resolution No. 14-2017: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana for Assistance in the Preparation of a Sewer Overflow Response Plan.**

Dye **moved** and Dimopoulos **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 14-2017.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Muta

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of Resolution No. 14-2017 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

**The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 02-28-17.**

Hawkins **moved** and Muta **seconded** to approve Claims Approval Docket 02-28-17.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Muta

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of Claims Approval Docket 02-28-17 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

**President Button called for Old Business**

There was no old business.

**President Button called for New Business**

President Button stated that he had three items to bring up under new business. His first item is an agreement between the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission and the Sanitary District of Hammond for an Interlocal agreement whereby the Little Calumet River will fund our Linden Storm Basin planning, design, and construction in the amount of \$150,000.

Dye **moved** and Dimopoulos **seconded** to approve agreement with Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Muta

Nays: None

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Motion **carried** 5-0.

His second item is a utility agreement between the Sanitary District and the City of Hammond with the Indiana Department of Transportation related to a project for Chicago Street phase III which is the section of Chicago Street between White Oak and Calumet Avenue. It is a utility funding arrangement whereby approximately \$115,000 of sewer infrastructure will be paid for by the utility. That project is set to bid on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Funding would be made initially through the City with that contribution and a 20% matching contribution of the overall participating portion of the project by the City and then we would in turn seek reimbursement of \$115,000 from the Sanitary District.

Muta **moved** and Dimopoulos **seconded** to approve agreement between INDOT, the City of Hammond and the Sanitary District of Hammond.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulous, Dye, Hawkins, Muta

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

**The Board considered Resolution No. 15-2017: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana, Authorizing a Lease Agreement to Finance the Purchase of a New Vector Truck for the Sewer Maintenance Department.**

President Button clarified that this particular resolution also includes a purchase of the vehicle at the end of the lease in the amount of one dollar.

Dye **moved** and Muta **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 15-2017.

Commissioner Dye commented that Jack did a good job negotiating the purchase and getting the leasing company to give us the reduced rate of the entire machine. He heard they tried to raise the rate for 2017 and he was able to renegotiate the pricing.

Jack replied that he cannot take the credit for that. He has to pass that credit to Rachel because she has done an excellent job on all of the paperwork.

Ayes: Button, Dye, Hawkins, Muta

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of Resolution No. 15-2017 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

**President Button called for Reports from Commissioners**

There were no reports from commissioners.

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**President Button called for Public Expression**

There was no public expression.

**President Button called for a motion to adjourn the meeting**

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

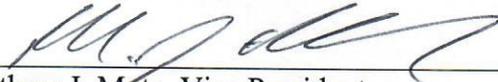
Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Muta

Nays: None

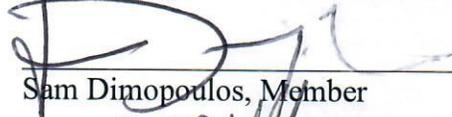
Motion **carried** 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.



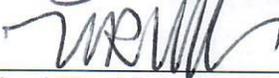
Dean Button, PE, President



Matthew J. Muta, Vice President



Sam Dimopoulos, Member



Michael Hawkins, Sr., Member



Michael Dye, Member

ATTEST: 

Rachel Montes, Secretary

Kaleigh Boyle, Assistant Secretary

Board Minutes Prepared By: Kaleigh Boyle