

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING
APRIL 10, 2018
www.hammondsd.com

The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 3:58 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 3:58 p.m. He stated that the Board held an Executive Session at 3:45 p.m. to discuss personnel and litigation matters in accordance with Indiana Codes.

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

Commissioners Absent: N/A

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

Others Present: Mike Hickey, AB&H Donohue
Jim Tufford, Munster Resident
John Madeka, Hammond Resident
Pat Davis, Munster RGS (Illegible-see sign in sheet)

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Button asked for a moment of silence to pay respects to Thomas Pupilava of the Port Authority board. He will be deeply missed.

President Dimopoulos stated that the first order of business was the consideration of the March 27, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes.

Dye **moved** and Button **seconded** to approve the March 27, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of the March 27, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

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District Manager's Report

District Manager, Marty Wielgos, stated that he wanted to reflect on where we are with the board on some of the construction projects that Rick is working on. For a long time, probably about four years, we had taken money out of maintenance to be able to sustain the District as we were trying to maneuver through rate increases and a variety of other things. Rick was gracious enough to take about 1.5 million dollars a year out of his budget to help us keep everything moving forward. He asked Rick to go over the percentage rates of what the standard is in the industry.

Rick Sutton explained that in general the range of maintenance expenditures is about 1 ½-2% of your insured asset value and that is pretty much a national, industrial maintenance bench mark (wastewater plant, water plant, chemical plant, anything that has equipment manufacturing of product). That is about what it takes to keep what you have running properly.

Marty replied with that being said for the last four or so years, it is about six million dollars that he has not had available to him to use in replacing equipment, updating equipment, and doing the kinds of things in maintenance that should have been done. Every year that they would talk about it, he knew that they were taking a gamble because if something were to go down there really was no money to fix it and Rick reminded him and Rachel of that the last four years. Now, since we have gotten the rate increase in line, we put a strong game plan together on how we are going to move forward- Rick is now going to be at about six million dollars a year budget- that he needs to maintain the Plant. The problem is that he reminded him and Rachel is what about the last four years- that one million and a half that never happened, so we are going to slowly catch up as we are moving forward with some of the projects that we identified for our Consent Decree and Long Term Control Plan and get things to where they need to be. He just wanted to remind the board. He knows that the board all already knows that, but he just wanted to remind them again that he has done a phenomenal job and never complained (he did not like it), but he never put up a battle. He has never done that so now that we did the things that we needed to do on the executive side now we are going to do everything that we can to help him get things that should have been done with as much money as we can. Other than that, he does not have anything.

PERSONNEL REPORT

There was no personnel report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Safety Report

No highlights or questions on safety report.

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GIS Report

No highlights or questions on GIS report.

Sewer Maintenance Report

No highlights or questions on Sewer report.

CONSULTANTS REPORTS

The Board considered the AB&H Consultant Report

Mike Hickey stated that the board should have a copy of his status report. He would be happy to take any questions. Moving on to the Long Term Control Plan, it was submitted on March 2nd he believes and have never heard anything from EPA yet which is not a surprise, but the ball is in their court.

Marty announced that we do have a revised agenda today that we need the board to acknowledge.

Rachel stated that the revision was the Resolution number.

Dye **moved** and Button **seconded** to accept revised agenda.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if he figured out that PCCMP means Post Construction Compliance Monitoring Program.

Mike Hickey responded that yes the last P is program. He said that he used to have a list of acronyms that he included and maybe he needs to do a better job at that. It was about a page long.

Commissioner Hawkins replied that engineers use a lot of acronyms.

RESOLUTIONS

The Board considered Resolution No. 11-2018: 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 Phase One Post-Construction Compliance Monitoring Program.

Button **moved** and Dye **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 11-2018.

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Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. Resolution No. 11-2018 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The Board considered Resolution No. SW2-2018: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Authorizing an Agreement Between the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District and the City of Hammond.

Button **moved** and Dye **seconded** to approve Resolution No. SW2-2018.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. Resolution No. SW2-2018 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The Board considered Resolution No. SW3-2018: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Authorizing the Funding of the 2018 Hammond Household Flood Protection Program.

Button **moved** and Moore **seconded** to approve Resolution No. SW3-2018.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. Resolution No. SW3-2018 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The Board considered the Bank Reconciliation for March 31, 2018.

Button **moved** and Dye **seconded** to approve the Bank Reconciliation for March 31, 2018.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of the March 31, 2018 Bank Reconciliation is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 04-10-18.

Button **moved** and Dye **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 04-10-18.

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Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of the Claims Approval Docket 04-10-18 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

President Dimopoulos called for Old Business

There was no old business.

President Dimopoulos called for New Business

Marty noted that in front of each board member they will see some photos that Rick had taken of the generator that was so graciously donated to us by our sister Water Department. They are doing some upgrades and the generator that they had which is this in the photo was not going to meet some expectations of the upgrades they are doing so they ended up getting a larger generator and donated this generator to the Sanitary District. He asked Rick to talk about that a little bit.

Rick explained that it is a 750 kilowatt generator so it is a good size- Detroit Diesel engine- a marathon generator. It is actually identical to the unit that we have in our Headworks facility. We are going to use it to power our Tertiary Filter building. It will power the entire building so it is really a strong unit, big sized.

Commissioner Button asked if they needed switch gear and fuel tanks for it.

Rick answered that they do need switch gear and a fuel tank for it- that is correct. The 2400 volts is what the Tertiary Building uses so we have no transformers to put in. We are currently working on the pad to set it on.

President Dimopoulos said that is great.

Marty added that we were very happy with that.

Commissioner Dye thanked Rick for the pictures.

The Board considered Resolution No. 12-2018: RE: A Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Release and Termination of Easement to Accommodate the Development of Cabela's Gateway Second Addition to Hammond.

Button **moved** and Dye **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 12-2018.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. Resolution No. 12-2018 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

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The Board considered Resolution No. 13-2018: RE: Resolution of the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Hammond Sanitary District Confirming the Selection of Mesirow Financial, Inc. as Underwriter/Placement Agent Regarding the Proposed Issuance of Special Taxing District Bonds and Authorizing Execution of a Letter of Intent.

Button **moved** and Dye **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 13-2018.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. Resolution No. 13-2018 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

President Dimopoulos called for Reports from Commissioners

There were no reports from commissioners.

President Dimopoulos called for Public Expression

Munster resident, Jim Tufford, stated that there was a new gas company that opened up in the area and the name was the Humble Servant of Da Region. To get market share they charged \$1.50/gallon for gas plus a \$5 per passenger charge. The law said that gas companies could charge \$5 per vehicle, but the new gas company charged \$5 per passenger or potential passenger in each vehicle. For example, a small one-seat motorcycle would be charged \$5, a 5-seat passenger car would be charged \$25 even if all the seats were not occupied and a 15-seat van would be charged \$75 regardless of the van's occupancy. If the motorcycle filled up with five gallons at \$1.50/gallon the cost including the passenger fee would average \$2.50/gallon. If a 5-seat passenger car also pumped five gallons the average cost per gallon would be \$6.50/gallon. If the van filled up with twenty gallons the average cost per gallon would be \$5.25/gallon. Since the new gas company did not have a monopoly on selling gas they were losing a lot of customers to other gas companies since the new gas company's average price per gallon of gas was usually quite a bit higher than the other gas companies. The driver of the 5-seat passenger car ended up paying approximately \$4 more per gallon than the motorcycle and the van driver had to pay more than double of what the motorcycle paid. After all, they were all using the same gas from the same gas company. After the initial rush of new customers, the gas company's Board of Directors were quite concerned that nobody was now buying their gas. They commissioned the company's CEO and legal team to investigate to find out why. Consequently, the CEO and the legal team formed a focus group consisting of former customers in order to obtain an answer. Both the passenger car owner and the van owner relayed that they were surprised that the actual average price per gallon (even though they thought it would be cheaper) was higher. Reflecting the CEO and legal team did not try to bully the focus group into buying their gas. Treat people the way you want to be treated was taken seriously. The focus group experience concluded that the new gas company should establish a one gallon price that included all costs and profit margins then the new company can compete with a just, non-discriminatory price and sell the same gas at the same price to people regardless of the type of vehicle they drove. If you have a residential house that uses 5,000 gallons of water a month they pay on average \$3.99 per 1,000

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gallons for their sewer treatment. If you take a 4-unit residential unit using 5,000 gallons they are paying \$9.03 per 1,000 gallons which is more than double what the residential house pays. If during the winter time, both the residential house and the 4-unit, the people all went south for a good part of the month and ended up using only 1,000 gallons of water that 1,000 gallons would cost the single family house \$10.71, but it would cost the 4-unit residential multi-unit building almost \$36.00. About four times as much. If the residential house had a leak in it or they were using maybe 60,000 gallons in Munster they would get a break on the water usage, but would still have to pay the sewer bill. If that happened the single-family house would pay \$2.45 per 1,000 gallons. If you had a 20-unit, multi-unit building they would pay \$5.11. More than twice as much. This is all residential sewage. At one time and as far as he knows this law has not been canceled the rates and fees were established and they were supposed to be proportional basis attributed to how the sewer works cost attributable to the users and that should still be the case, but it is not.

John Madeka and he lives at 1234 Davis Avenue in Robertsdale. He spoke at the City Council meeting last night and he will just rephrase what he said. A little over a week ago, on Good Friday, he goes to St. Casimir Church in North Hammond and he was born and raised in North Hammond and spent 43 years there before moving to Robertsdale about 14 years ago. He was standing in front of the St. Casimir Church which was closed (he got there too early) and a lady popped up and she checked the door so he told her they were too early. She started talking to him and they started chatting and she told him her life story in five minutes. Basically she said that she had breast cancer, she was a breast cancer survivor, and he said oh really. So he asked where she lived and she said the 3900 Block of Torrence Avenue in North Hammond and she said most of her neighbors have breast cancer. He talked with her for a while and he started going into almost a nightmarish scenario because he has not thought about this for many years. One of the reasons that he moved up to Robertsdale was because his mother passed away from colon cancer in 2000. They lived at 4024 Hohman Avenue and not only his mother. They had a tenant because it was a duplex, his tenant and next door neighbor died of colon cancer. All in a row- within two or three years of each other. He is sure we are all aware with what happened with Keil Chemical. They were making a flame retardant which they were sued by the EPA and they ended up shutting down that particular facility to make the flame retardant. They have since sold to Dover Chemical and have since made additional chemicals out of there. Some of which are carcinogens. One being a vinyl chloride which is a known carcinogen. It is used in vinyl siding on houses. Anyway the reason he said it is kind of a nightmare for him because he has not thought about this whole cancer thing. He thought with EPA and the mitigation (they were fined 3 million dollars) he thought the whole thing kind of went away. Then he started inquiring and he remembered his girlfriend who lives on North Hammond- her mother who lives at the 4400 Block of Cameron she just had an operation for breast cancer back in January and one of the main church ladies had breast cancer last year. He started putting two plus two together and he remembers asking the woman in front of the church Friday where she thought it was coming from and she said it is environmental. It is definitely environmental. He started inquiring about it and he is a sportsman who has been living out here for 56 years and he knows North Hammond and the winds better than anybody and he has studied the National Weather Service and it started

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dawning on him what may have attributed to the cancer cluster in North Hammond and he thinks it may have been coming from the sewers and through specifically the sewer that runs from Dover Chemical right down Sheffield Avenue and goes through North Hammond to the Hammond Sanitary District where we are standing. He started thinking that the sewer pipe in his old house in North Hammond (he went to his old house and they let him in) and there is no trap on that sewer pipe. So the sewer pipe goes into your house and you all know you because it is by code that you have a vent pipe that goes right through the roof of your house. His old house had four vent pipes- two for one side, two for the other. Most houses have either one or two. These are large vent pipes- they are about four inch and have lead sheeting on the side. The funny thing is that their bedroom window, kitchen window, side door window if you measure the distance it was about eight to ten feet from their windows. His contention is and here is why he is here tonight he figured out that if that is a potential cause of carcinogens entering people's homes in North Hammond there is a simple solution. It is an engineering solution. He works at US Steel and most respirators used by the government, in the industry most respirators have activated carbon filters and lo and behold they make carbon filters for vent pipes. They are usually used out in the burbs when people have septic systems because they get septic odors that come back up through the vent pipes. They cost anywhere from \$50-100 and if you calculate the number of homes in North Hammond it is anywhere from 1500 to 1750 (he just did a brief survey on Google) he calculated the cost being between \$75,000-93,000 to install carbon filters. Those carbon filters neutralize all odors and all gases. That is retail prices mind you. It would be very inexpensive to do. It may not be the root cause, but as an engineer he can tell you that the concentration of a solvent or a hydrocarbon in our sewer system is far higher than it is in the air because the air is being monitored. However, if it is coming up through the vent pipes and into your homes (there are a few vent pipes in North Hammond- he went in to six people's homes) that do have traps. Some people do have traps, but his old house and several others do not. It is a straight shot from the City's sewer from Hohman Avenue right into your house straight up to the roof. Just a theory of his and he appreciates their time.

President Dimopoulos called for a motion to adjourn the meeting

Button moved and Dye seconded for adjournment.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

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

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Sam Dimopoulos, President



Michael Dye, Vice President

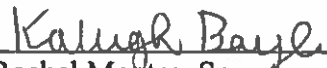


Dean Button, PE, Member



Michael Hawkins, Sr., Member

Patrick D. Moore, Member

ATTEST: 

Rachel Montes, Secretary
Kaleigh Boyle, Assistant Secretary

Board Minutes Prepared By: Kaleigh Boyle