

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING
APRIL 24, 2018
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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.

Vice-President Dye called the meeting to order at 4:01 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, Dye, Hawkins

Commissioners Absent: Dimopoulos, Moore

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

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-President Dye stated that the next order of business was the consideration of the April 10, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes.

Button **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve the April 10, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Button, Dye, Hawkins

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 3-0. A copy of the April 10, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

District Manager's Report

District Manager, Marty Wielgos, stated that they were talking earlier in the executive session about the conversation that they had at the staff meeting today. Rick had brought up that he wanted to move forward with the demolition of some of the buildings across the street. We are going to look at maybe phasing those particular demolitions so that we get rid of where the

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maintenance is being done on the Sewer Department trucks- that building will probably be the first to come down. The artist building and the other couple other buildings there other than the one most remodeled building is where we have the salt dome or where we are moving the salt dome into there.

Rick explained that it is the most forward building towards Calumet and 150th. We had all of our old equipment in there before we put it up for auction and it is in the best condition. We are trying to consider at least relocating Jack's maintenance department over to that building and getting him out of the building that is in the most precarious position and want to take down.

Vice-President Dye questioned if that building is big enough to house the maintenance.

Rick answered that it is not as big as the other one and it is not ideal. He has asked Jack to go look and see if it is feasible. He knows that we can maneuver the vactors in there. There is just not a lot of room to do much once you back them in. You have to kind of go single file all the way down. Particularly since we are getting another one soon.

Marty added that our goal is to (all this is temporary with this last move) buy us more time so that we can really kind of plan where we need to build on this side of the Plant other than the basin side some kind of facility to house vactors and some of the other equipment and also the repair shop. This is just a temporary move to buy us maybe a year, but the other ones will probably come down by the end of the year. He asked Rick if he thought that would be safe to say.

Rick agreed with that timeline.

Marty said other than that, he did not have anything else unless there were questions for him. He told Rick that Commissioner Hawkins is going to want to talk about these breaks that we have been having on the force main so we can talk briefly about that.

Commissioner Hawkins asked Rick what he thinks about these breaks with the force main on Columbia.

Rick replied that this is a 14-inch diameter cast pipe (it is cast iron) so it is not new. It is old and runs in the Twin Creek pump station eventually crossing 45th Avenue and the railroad tracks after the subdivision and heads down Columbia Avenue. It actually from that point runs all the way to the south side pump station. Total length of the force main is 2.3 miles.

Commissioner Button asked if it went through Dyer Road.

Rick answered that it does not. We thought it did for years, but we dumped some dye in the pump station and popped some manholes and it actually does not run in to the Dyer Road pump station. It runs around Dyer Road pump station. The answer to the question is we have had four

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force main breaks since the 25th of February. All at the bottom of the pipe and fist size (softball size) so these are not little leaks; they are big leaks. Three of them were just north of 45th and south of the hospital so it is in the little office complexes that run along that road. It wasn't too bad of a congestion problem for anybody because we did not have to block off any entrances and you can use Calumet Avenue also to still visit those.

Commissioner Button questioned if it is on the west side of Calumet Avenue.

Rick answered that it is Columbia, but it is on the west side of the street. The last one was actually in the backyard of a resident. He believes the address is 9808- somewhere in those 9000s of Redbud. We are going to look up a couple different scenarios for the cost to replace the entire pipe, cost to replace just where we had the three force main breaks on Columbia before the hospital before the high school and north 45th street because honestly it is easy and it is not nearly as much trouble. We can temporarily block off some of the exits and entrances, put signs up ahead of time 'please use Calumet Avenue the week of May 25th or something' so that is not much of an ordeal. In front of the hospital, in front of the high school, in people's backyards that is an ordeal. Obviously we do not want to be in anybody's backyard let alone the logistics of trying to get heavy equipment in somebody's backyard and then the disruption to the homeowners and obviously working in front of the hospital or the high school is a whole other set of problems. So we are going to work up costs to and make sure that District Manager and the Board of Commissioners know what they think is involved in the scope of replacing that line, keeping the pump station operational during the replacement and the cost to fix some problem areas that are not as difficult as the entire force main.

Commissioner Hawkins commented that he knows a force main is not like a regular sewer, but he is wondering if access is limited to the point where they cannot get in there and look at it.

Rick replied that no it pumps 24/7 365 days a year. We makes these repairs essentially while it is leaking water. It is not pretty. We have no temporary bypass route- this way back up White Oak down and across the river- it is a long run.

Marty asked if this 14-inch line be lined.

Rick answered of course it can, but to line the pipe you have to have no flow in it so we would have to have temporary piping running from Twin Creek into Dyer all the way to south side and have access points. We may end up having temporary piping anyway to replace the pipe. We are going to have to or do it in sections. There are a couple different options, but it is not an easy fix.

Commissioner Hawkins thanked Rick and told him he looks forward to what his evaluations are. He said the guys that did the repairs- Jose Porras is excellent- he communicates well and does a great job and the guys from Grimmer are very good. His grandson was even out there with him one day and he got to sit in the trucks.

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Rick stated that Grimmer did a great job. They dropped what they were doing and came the day we called and started mobilizing. We have been very lucky with them.

Marty asked Jeff Massey to talk a little bit about Cargill.

Jeff stated that he was notified this week that Cargill has the intention of putting in their own dewatering system and press their own sludge for land application and stop sending their solids to us and cutting back about 70% of their loadings to the District by the end of July. Right now with what they are discharging, they paid about three million dollars last year, so we will be losing 70% of that.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if this is totally unexpected.

Marty answered that we all know when the game changed for them and it was the right thing to do and we did what the right thing was, but we also knew in the back of our minds that nobody is going to be able on the management side over there to be able to say oh ok this new expense, this new cost, ok. We knew that was not going to happen so he was always prepared and he always told staff that we corrected something that needed to be corrected for all the right reasons and we knew some day that was probably not going to last forever so that is why he wanted it being brought up today to the board because we learned of it yesterday. Our thought is that they tried to do this once before and they were not very successful with it. He asked Jeff to correct him if he is misstating anything.

Jeff added that is right. They backed out once before and were using centrifuges to do their sludge, but had problems with the land application because their biosolids still had a smell. It was a couple of years that they were gone and they found out that it was easier and better to send it to us.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if among the industrial customers, if Cargill gives us the most solids.

Jeff replied certainly. Cargill is number one user

Commissioner Hawkins asked who would be number two.

Jeff answered that he thinks number two would come back down to Huhtamaki and EcoServices. Cargill is number one of everybody- their total dollars is greater than the customer cities.

Marty said that unfortunately we did all the things that we did earlier to make sure we are in the position that we are in today, but it is just constantly a reminder to himself and the rest of staff and we talked about today that we have to constantly look at other areas of revenue generation. It may not always be the business that we are doing today; we may have to look at other opportunities like food waste and those types of things to see if they are viable to be added into

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our operation so we can find a way to generate more revenue. It cannot always be rates. We know that and we know that we have a big hurdle coming up in 2019-2020 for our Long Term Control Plan which has not been totally negotiated yet and we all know what those numbers are. We are constantly very vigilant on how we spend the money that we have and we are also always looking towards what the future may bring and this is just another small hurdle in his opinion that we will figure out where it may end up going. We are just being very cautious about it. Jeff had told him this on yesterday so he just wanted to make sure that they shared it with the Board.

Commissioner Hawkins inquired if they gave Jeff an official communication (a letter) already.

Jeff answered that they sent an email yesterday afternoon. They are going to send something a little more official. He will have to approve the actual system that they use that they will meet limitations so they will have to put a more formal letter together, but they were just giving him a heads up that this is what they are going with before they send something with all the plans really soon he imagines.

Vice-President Dye asked Rick if he has any idea what this would cost Cargill to do this.

Rick replied that he honestly does not know because he does not know what their new process is. He heard that they are pressing it now, so they are going to run belt filter presses and try to press their own sludge. He does not know costs.

Vice-President Dye stated that he was just curious of cost savings versus project costs.

Marty added that he thinks their biggest hurdle is going to be whether they can do it efficiently and that was the hurdle that they could not cross the last time they tried to do it in house. The second part is if they can convince farmers to take this end product because of the smell. From his understanding is when they tried to do that last time, they had a lot of people complaining about the smell and we at that from from what he is being told, the District had to make sure it went on a public relations kind of tour to let people know, 'hey, this is not our stuff- this is somebody else's. Ours does not have this smell. Ours is done a little differently'. So, we are prepared for all of that.

Commissioner commented that he wanted to ask either Don or Rick since this is going to effect the loadings to the Plant (we are going to have less load coming into the Plant) that you would think that less load would translate to less cost. So, we are trading off some expense. He questioned if we are going to shut some equipment down, are we going to operate to a lesser degree- what is the plan—

Don replied that we would not be shutting any equipment down. He explained that we will use less polymer, less air, less electricity, etc., but it is not going to change the operation. It will make it easier actually.

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Marty added that the bigger savings that he would see would probably be in the transportation of getting it to the farmers. He asked Don if he would agree with that.

Don said that we will have less production, so less going out.

Commissioner Button commented that from his experience is that low loadings becomes low solid, less BOD to the Plant is hard to operate sometimes. He questioned if this was going to cause us problems in the operation of the treatment plant by having a lot less loads coming in.

Don said that he does not anticipate any problems.

Jeff added that the problem will come in with them if they cannot control their systems and they go for a while at a low rate and then start having problems and start slugging high rates back to us. The Plant does not like that a lot. That is their choice, but he cannot one day decide that he is not going to do that and then start dumping stuff down the drain the next day.

Commissioner Button commented that our ease process is pretty forgiving.

Don said yes. It has some buffering, but it is not going to take slug like it used to back in the 80s and 90s.

Commissioner Button reiterated that they do expect some reduced costs because they are treating less material.

Don said yes. Probably nowhere near three million dollars though which is what we are losing.

PERSONNEL REPORT

There was no personnel report.

RESOLUTIONS

The Board considered Resolution No. 14-2018: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Hammond Sanitary District, Lake County, Indiana Adopting the 2018 Financial Expenditure Plan for the Pretreatment Fund (609) in the Amount of \$498,945.

Button **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 14-2018.

Ayes: Button, Dye, Hawkins

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 3-0. Resolution No. 14-2018 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

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The Board considered Resolution No. 15-2018: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Hammond Sanitary District, Lake County, Indiana Adopting the 2018 Financial Expenditure Plan for the Operation and Maintenance Fund (606) in the Amount of \$22,564,887.

Button **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 15-2018.

Ayes: Button, Dye, Hawkins

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 3-0. Resolution No. 15-2018 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The Board considered Resolution No. 16-2018: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Amending Fixed Salaries and Wage Rates for the Hammond Sanitary District for the Year 2018.

Button **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 16-2018.

Ayes: Button, Dye, Hawkins

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 3-0. Resolution No. 16-2018 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The Board considered Resolution No. 17-2018: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Hammond Sanitary District, Lake County, Indiana Authorizing the Permanent Transfer of \$150,000 for the 1st Quarter of 2018 from the Operation and Maintenance Fund (H) to the Replacement Fund (R).

Button **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 17-2018.

Ayes: Button, Dye, Hawkins

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 3-0. Resolution No. 17-2018 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

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The Board considered Resolution No. SW4-2018: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Hammond Sanitary District, Lake County, Indiana Adopting the 2018 Financial Expenditure Plan for the Stormwater Fund (425) in the Amount of \$2,322,733.

Button moved and Hawkins seconded to approve Resolution No. SW4-2018.

Ayes: Button, Dye, Hawkins

Nays: None

Motion carried 3-0. Resolution No. SW4-2018 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 04-24-18.

Button moved and Hawkins seconded for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 04-24-18.

Ayes: Button, Dye, Hawkins

Nays: None

Motion carried 3-0. A copy of the Claims Approval Docket 04-24-18 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Vice-President Dye called for Old Business

Commissioner Button asked if there was any more discussion on paving- the work that we talked about doing late last year, but ran out of time.

Rick answered that he would like to pave. It was a big paving job and it needs to be done, so yes.

Commissioner Button replied he knows there was a lot of work in the Plant and then across the street at the Basin. He said that he would support Rick's efforts in doing this, so if there is anything that he can do to help or coordinate through the City's annual paving contract.

Rick stated that he will get a list, map and square footage area for him and it would be nice if he could go through the City's contract with Walsh & Kelly. That would work wonderful.

Commissioner Button said he is glad to help out whenever. He explained to Attorney Allegretti that there was some talk last year, but they ran out of time and did not coordinate. He said that they carried over their rates from the previous year, but he thinks we can apply it to any project within the City. He said we will have to work something out because it is a little different (they are not paving streets), but it is pretty straightforward, but we can certainly apply our roads here in the treatment plant towards the City's contract.

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Marty asked Commissioner Button and Dean to talk about the Kennedy Avenue. He asked Rick to start and then Commissioner Button can explain closures he is planning to help with that.

Rick explained that the sanitary force main from the Kennedy Avenue pump station- it is a 24-inch- they are not sure of the material because they originally thought it was cast iron, but are thinking now it may be some kind of thin-walled concrete. They were able to dewater a metering vault and get in there to look a little closer this afternoon. In any event, the pipe size is 24 inches in diameter and there is a sinkhole- obviously a break- on the south bound lanes of Kennedy Avenue and it was essentially in the center line between the two lanes. If you can recall Kennedy Avenue by the pump station there are two south bound and two north bound lanes. The leak is directly across from if you were heading east on Michigan Avenue and took that hard U-turn to enter Kennedy Avenue right where you come out of the U-turn on Kennedy Avenue directly across from there is the break in the pipe. It is kind of congested, truck traffic, bad area to be working in, so Dean is helping us with traffic control and they are going to block off the two south bound lanes of traffic as well as Michigan or the Route 20 exit onto Kennedy Avenue. Starting tomorrow because the force main clearly has a bad lead, a bad sinkhole and we want to get people off that section of the road. We are hoping tomorrow at noon we finish locates (we have to give 24 and 48 hours) he believes we are still waiting on AT&T, but they are close to finishing that so if they complete the traffic rerouting and give us the green light, we will start making saw cuts and doing some exploratory work which is preliminary. Our big problem is there is a high-tension Nipsco pole right next to the dig area. A very big pole- every bit of at least 40 foot—

Commissioner Button commented that it has to be 100 foot.

Rick said it is the biggest thing that he has ever seen. We have them scheduled to come Thursday morning to support the pole. He does not have a real rosy feeling about them because he wishes they would come visit the site first and make a plan, but railroad tracks are behind the dig site, traffic is on the other side of the dig site, there is not a lot of room to maneuver. They usually have a truck with a pair of jaws that grabs the pole and sits there throughout the entire dig. Until we open up the ground and look at what we have we are not sure to the extent of the repair, how much of the pipe is bad and needs replaced. We have our drawings that show it going in a certain direction, but we do not know because these are from 1939 so it is a very old pipe. We are going to reroute traffic starting tomorrow morning and start doing some preliminary scratching on Wednesday afternoon and hope to start digging Thursday morning. Once we start, we are going to dig until it is done. We are not going to play around. We are going to dig sun up to sun down every day until it is done.

Commissioner Button commented about flow able fill for back valve.

Rick answered that he would be open to recommendations.

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Commissioner Button commented he thinks so and then we can do concrete if needed. He would not normally do that, but in this case he thinks it is important.

Rick said that we have a twenty foot section of piping here and couplings ordered (two different types- one that is more forgiving than the other). It is an odd pipe that is in the ground now, but we did our best to order materials so that we are ready to go when everything is finally set up. It is just hard with the underground work because you are guessing. We ordered the piece of pipe and several different couplings that may be able to be used on there until we see the break and know for sure.

Commissioner Button added that the right hand south bound lane is closed. The left hand south bound lane is still open. Traffic is still getting through and we will just push everybody over to the north bound lanes. So the south bound left hand lane is passable. There is no settlement occurring in that lane right now.

Vice-President Dye called for New Business

There was no new business.

Vice-President Dye called for Reports from Commissioners

Commissioner Button just wanted to thank Matt Muta for the picture of himself above his head.

Vice-President Dye called for Public Expression

Marty stated that it is Jeff Massey's 60th birthday today.

Jeff replied then that would make Marty 67. He is 51 today.

Vice-President Dye called for a motion to adjourn the meeting

Button moved and Hawkins seconded for adjournment.

Ayes: Button, Dye, Hawkins

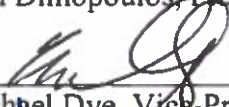
Nays: None

Motion carried 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 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