

MINUTES  
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING  
AUGUST 28, 2018  
[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 Dimopoulos called the meeting to order at 4:12 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  
Donald Woodard, HSD  
Jeff Massey, HSD  
Rick Sutton, HSD  
Becky McKinley, GIS  
Jack Smith, Sewer Department  
Kaleigh Boyle, HSD  
Shannon Ferguson, HSD  
Jonathan Albers, HSD

Others Present: Mike Hickey, AB&H Donohue  
Jim Bennett, J M Bennett & Associates  
Tony Hauprich, Teamsters Local 142 B.A.  
Earl Courneya, Local 142 Steward  
Gary Dreischorf, Hammond Resident

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Dimopoulos stated that the first order of business was the consideration of the August 14, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes.

Dye **moved** and Button **seconded** to approve the August 14, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of the August 14, 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 they were talking about how we are getting closer (not quite there yet) to acquiring the old railroad property that is north of our property along our fence line. The two reasons why we need it are one being the agreement that we have with the City for Dean putting in the bike trail there to connect all the way to East Chicago and then Rick had indicated just recently with the upgrades that are happening at Headworks that Nipsco needs some of that property just beyond our fence line on the railroad side so the timing is working good. That is \$500,000 plus that we are looking at spending and Rachel put aside when we started this conversation a couple of years ago. He wants to bring up something real quick (the question that Dean had) and he and Rick had talked about this, but he asked Rick why we cannot go underground with that instead of putting this all on poles.

Rick replied that they absolutely can, but his discussions with the Nipsco line crews is that they always prefer above ground. They do not like below ground for the simple reason that they can see it and do maintenance on it because he asked the same question. The line crew foreman who dispatches all of the crews and their engineers from the line department all said that they prefer to keep lines above ground if they have a choice because they like to physically see the switches and transmission lines. The tree limbs and people running into poles is worth it to them anyway.

Marty asked Rick to comment a little bit about Dyer Road and what he talked about in the staff meeting today.

Rick commented that at the Dyer Road pump station they started installing new stainless steel doors today and will finish that this week. At that point, flight put the three new pumps on a plane this week also so we will get those sometime early September. They are hoping for maybe the end of September to be moved out of the Dyer Road pump station.

Commissioner Button asked Rick what his opinion was on over or underground. He asked if he had a preference on the electrical service feed to the facility.

Rick answered that he has always preferred underground until he talked to all of those line crews and they are adamant about it.

Commissioner Button explained that the risk is ours though. The risk is the service to this facility and it is subject to everything that Rick just said and more- storm events, tree limbs in the way, people running into poles. There is a tradeoff. Underground has risks and overhead has risks. He asked Rick again what his preference is.

Rick responded that he does not have a preference. We are talking about a run from Columbia Avenue to the east to our substation. If we do go underground we have to come up for the switch because there is an actual switch there. This goes to the Sanitary District's power reliability. The problem that we have right now is that we have an east and a west 2- 34kv supplies but they are

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very close to each other on the same pole system. When there is a problem with the switch on one of the two supplies they cannot work on it unless both supplies are down because they run within six feet of each other. No line crew can get up and work on a 34.5 kilovolts system with the other one active so close even jumpering it out is too close, so they want both sides killed and we immediately say no. A switch that failed on us back in March is still not working so this will help our reliability and allow us to more fully utilize our supplies that Nipsco has given us. They seem very interested in completing the project. They sent some people that can actually make the job happen, but they need 15-20 feet from the existing pole line which would put us into railroad property.

Marty asked Rick who is paying for the above ground project.

Rick answered that he does not have an answer for that yet. He is not sure what our contribution will be. We will have to pay something, but he does not know for sure. They are more motivated than what they have been in the past because they did not really like this March episode when we lost power so many times and IDEM went directly calling them so that provided a boost for them to separate the two systems and the gentleman he spoke to was not clear if we would have a contribution or how much it would be. As soon as he knows something he will let them know.

Marty commented that the thought was if we are paying for it then depending on what Rick finally decides what he wants to do, we should do it the way that he wants if we are paying for it. If they are paying for it then that is up to them, but if we are paying for it then it should be whatever Rick decides to do.

Commissioner Button added that even if they are paying for it, he thinks we should still have a say. He asked Don Woodard if he had an opinion on this.

Don replied that it is not relevant to him as long as he has power.

Commissioner Button stated that he knows, but it still puts him at risk. Don signs the DMR (Discharge Monitoring Report) and MRO (Monthly Report of Operations) so he is at risk for whatever happens here. He asked again if Don cared if it is over or underground.

Don answered that it does not matter.

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

There was not a personnel report for this meeting.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

There were no highlights or questions for/from Department heads.

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**The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 08-28-18.**

Button **moved** and Dye **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 08-28-18.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of the Claims Approval Docket 08-28-18 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**

There was not any new business.

**President Dimopoulos called for Reports from Commissioners**

There were no reports from Commissioners.

**President Dimopoulos called for Public Expression**

Gary Dreischorf from the 6700 Block of Alexander. He has been working with Councilman Dave Woerpel regarding his short block being neglected to be redone. He has been told that there is a sewer issue that is very expensive. He was wondering if the Sanitary District Board can assist in getting that block redone when they do it. If you ever go down the 6700 Block of Alexander, you will see that it is a short block and everybody else has been redone except their block. He and his neighbors would really like for it to get redone so if there was a possibility to put it on the schedule for next year that would be great.

Commissioner Moore commented that he would like them to put his address down too.

Commissioner Button responded that from his understanding and he has been the City Engineer for about 2 ½ years and his understanding is that the project had been designed up to a point. He does not have all the details on that, but from his understanding that particular road construction is somewhat expensive and the Councilman are limited to the amount of gaming funds that they have. He thinks was a good start to reach out to the Sanitary District Board about what funding they might have available to support the project.

Gary replied that he really appreciates that. He would really like you all to go down it and see how really bad it is- curbs, sidewalks, everything and it is a short block.

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

Button **moved** and Moore **seconded** for adjournment.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

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Sam Dimopoulos, President


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Michael Dye, Vice-President

  
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Dean Button, PE, Member

  
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Michael Hawkins, Sr., Member

  
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Patrick D. Moore, Member

ATTEST:

  
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Rachel Montes, Secretary  
Kaleigh Boyle, Assistant Secretary

Board Minutes Prepared By: Kaleigh Boyle