

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MARCH 10, 2020
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The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 4:04 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 4:04 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, Hawkins, Moore

Commissioners Absent: Button

District Personnel: Marty Wielgos, District Manager
Matthew Muta, Deputy District Manager
Rachel Montes, Business Manager
Joseph Allegretti, HSD Attorney
Jeff Massey, HSD
Dan Zander, HSD
Jack Smith, Sewer Department
Rebecca McKinley, GIS Department
Kaleigh Boyle, HSD
Shannon Ferguson, HSD

Others Present: Mike Hickey, MJHY LLC
Natalie Cook, Donohue
Chris Spolnik, Town of Munster
Ken Schoon, Munster Resident
La’Kisha Girder, City of Hammond

President Dimopoulos stated that the first order of business was the consideration of the February 25, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

Dye **moved** and Moore **seconded** to approve the February 25, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

District Manager’s Report

District Manager, Marty Wielgos, stated that they sent the Board a packet out talking about the screw pumps that they are in the process of getting ready to order. He knows some of the Commissioners had a few questions, so he would like to turn it over to Dan and Jeff to talk about

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the direction they are heading and most importantly, that they have to move quickly because of the condition of those pumps.

Dan explained that they have two screw pumps that are basically out of service-they are broke- so they went through and got quotes from the all the screw pump manufacturers that there is which is about four of them. They are pretty competitive. The one that they really liked the manufacturing on also come in with the best price (it just worked out that way), but they really need to get this going because there is a five-month lead time so they need to get that going. They are going to have to rent some pumps to make sure in the big rains that they have enough to handle to go to Tertiary you know to get our water through there. They came up with some eco-friendly bearings on there which only need service every five years or every 25,000 hours which is going to be a big help to them because they will not have grease going into their filters which is a big upgrade from the ones they have now. The three that are still in service were put in in 1975 so they got their life expectancy and then some out of them, so we need to get this going and get the constructions and installation out for bid as their next step. That is where they are sitting if there are any questions.

Commissioner Hawkins commented that he looked through the information and there are some very solid things there. The two that are down now and when they get them in and he saw it will be later this year at the earliest since they are fabricated across the pond, would he do two at once to start with or does he have any expectations.

Dan answered that once they get the installation quotes done, they would like to get the two that are kind of dead in the water out and get them ready for the first two that come over so they are ready to be installed as soon as they get here. They will get them installed and then do the other three because when they put the fifth one in there, the price came down dramatically. Doing all five of them brought the price to about \$125,000 per screw pump which is one heck of a deal.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if he has any expectations on what construction will cost.

Dan responded that they are hoping it is going to be about 35-40% of it so that is what they are shooting at now.

Commissioner Hawkins stated that it could be a million-dollar project.

Dan replied that he is shooting for around \$900,000, but they will see where they come back at.

Commissioner Hawkins questioned if that amount is going to be a problem for the District.

Marty answered no since it is a replacement, they are going to take it out of the Replacement Fund.

Jeff added that the key is that these pumps are very old and are vital to the operation of the Plant. Under typical operations, they run two of the pumps at a time, but when it rains, they will run

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three and big rains, they will pick up four. They do not have the ability to run four at this time because there are nor four available. The two that are broken (the torque tube is broken completely) so they are not fixable. They are just done. They need to get something going in a quick timeframe because the ones that are existing are from 1975 and we are basically living on borrowed time. They are going to have bypass pumping available during the rains to substitute for one of the screws. They cannot wait very long on this because if they wait too long and lose another screw, they can be in big trouble. This is not a shelf item. These all need to be custom made and they are trying to be as friendly as they can with the price. They are retrofitting into the existing space with existing gear boxes and just changing out the bearings and screws itself.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if they are working off of existing prints

Dan responded that they are basing it off the original design for that building.

Marty stated that just so the Board knows they are going to issue a purchase order by the end of the week to get this going.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve the Personnel Report.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Business Manager, Rachel Montes, stated that she had nothing to highlight, but would take any questions.

Commissioner Hawkins asked about the disappearing of the Non-Exempt Debt Service Fund.

Rachel answered that the Exempt Debt Service Fund disappeared so she combined them. They did do a small tax anticipation warrant, but it was not large enough. They can borrow from another fund if they'd like to or just carry the balance as is.

Commissioner Hawkins said with this tax shortfall—

Rachel said it is not a tax shortfall. They will be positive at the end of the year, so like she said, they could borrow from a different fund or leave it as is. Whatever the preference is. If the Board does not like to see it, they can bring a transfer Resolution next meeting.

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Safety Report

No questions or highlights.

GIS Report

No questions or highlights.

Sewer Maintenance Report

No questions or highlights.

CONSULTANT REPORTS

MJHY, LLC

Mike Hickey stated that he had a status report in board packet, so if there are any questions, he would be happy to answer them. If not, he will report on the Long-Term Control Plan. Last month, he talked to EPA and they said they had comments together that they were going to review by committee and they said they would go out in two weeks. Well, four weeks have gone by and he has not seen them. He will keep them posted, but they are still waiting on EPA's comments on the Long-Term Control Plan. That is all that he has got.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if there were any expectations on if and when they are going to respond.

Mike replied no. He thinks it is sooner rather than later. He thought four months (they turned it in in September) and Max thought six, so they are at five right now, so he is expecting within the next thirty days they will get something.

DONOHUE

Natalie Cook stated that they also have their status report, so she will answer any questions.

Commissioner Hawkins questioned that under current activities, they said something about Munster evaluation. He would like to know what that is.

Natalie responded that they are looking right now at the value of Hammond facility's in Munster and how much in the future—she asked Mike to help out with this.

Mike added that on his report he called it HSD assets (number 4), but there were some gaps in the total assets of HSD and they are trying to fill in the gaps. There were some pump stations and force mains of HSD (some in Munster and some in Hammond) that they did not have costs for. So, they are trying to figure out the costs to build them now and go back and figure out how much it would cost when they were built and depreciate them accordingly, so it is an asset exercise.

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Commissioner Hawkins verified that this is the entire HSD system.

Mike replied yes. Some are in Munster and some in Hammond.

Commissioner Hawkins inquired about what precipitated this.

Attorney Allegretti responded that we are required to have an up-to-date assessment of our fixed assets.

Marty added that it had not been done in a long, long time.

RESOLUTIONS

The Board considered Resolution No. 6-2020: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Amending Salaries and Wage Rates for the Hammond Sanitary District for the Year 2020.

Dye **moved** and Moore **seconded** for the approval of Resolution No. 6-2020.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

The Board considered Resolution No. 7-2020: RE: A Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Release and Termination of Easement to Accommodate the Development by Unifirst Corporation.

Moore **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of Resolution No. 7-2020.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

The Board considered Resolution No. 8-2020: RE: A Resolution Authorizing Disposal of Certain Equipment and Materials No Longer Needed or Unfit for the Purpose for Which It Was Intended.

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of Resolution No. 8-2020.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

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BANK RECONCILIATION

The Board considered the Bank Reconciliation Document dated February 29, 2020.

Hawkins **moved** and Moore **seconded** for the approval of the Bank Reconciliation Document dated February 29,2020.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 03-10-20.

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 03-10-20.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

President Dimopoulos called for Old Business

There was not any old business.

President Dimopoulos called for New Business

Rachel stated that they had a Personnel Report.

President Dimopoulos replied that they already voted on that.

Rachel responded that she missed that.

Commissioner Hawkins commented that they have a new face here today. It may not be a new face to him, but it is a new face to them. They have in their audience today, Dr. Ken Schoon. Dr. Schoon is an educator, professor of Indiana University Science Education Area. He is an author; he is a writer; he's well known for his efforts in Northwest Indiana, particularly Munster. He's probably been involved in Munster for thirty-five years and he is their new Town Councilman in Munster from Ward 1 and he is right over there.

President Dimopoulos and Commissioner Dye both welcomed Dr. Schoon.

President Dimopoulos called for Reports from Commissioners

There were no reports from Commissioners.

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President Dimopoulos called for Public Expression

There was no public expression.

President Dimopoulos called for a motion to adjourn the meeting

Dye moved and Moore seconded for adjournment.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.



Sam Dimopoulos, President



Michael Dye, Vice-President
(attending and voting via teleconference)



Owana Miller, Board Member
(attending and voting via teleconference)



Michael Hawkins, Sr., Member
(attending and voting via teleconference)



Patrick D. Moore, Member
(attending and voting via teleconference)

ATTEST: 
Rachel Montes, Secretary
Kaleigh Boyle, Assistant Secretary

Board Minutes Prepared By: Kaleigh Boyle