

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING
APRIL 14, 2020
www.hammondsd.com

The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 4:05 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 4:05 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

Commissioners Present Remotely: Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Moore

Commissioners Absent: N/A

District Personnel: Marty Wielgos, District Manager
Joseph Allegretti, HSD Attorney
Kaleigh Boyle, HSD

District Personnel Present Remotely: Rachel Montes, Business Manager
Matthew Muta, Deputy District Manager
Jeffrey Massey, HSD
Dan Zander, HSD
Jack Smith, Sewer Department
Rebecca McKinley, GIS Department

Others Present Remotely: Mike Hickey, MJHY LLC
Natalie Cook, AB&H Donohue

President Dimopoulos stated that the first order of business was the consideration of the March 10, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve the March 10, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

District Manager's Report

District Manager, Marty Wielgos, stated that the only thing he wanted to report is some policy changes that he implemented based on weekly meetings with the Mayor and five other department heads that they have every Monday. These started about three weeks ago in the Mayor's office. Basically, the Mayor is watching the finances for not only the City, but for all the outlying

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departments like the Sanitary District, Water and Port Authority very very closely. He realizes that fortunately the Sanitary District is in a very good spot with its finances based on the activities that they have taken over the past several years and things that he and Rachel have implemented about six years ago to kind of tuck away a little bit of money which has now become very very helpful to them. What the Mayor has asked every department (including Fire and Police) is that he does not want any overtime. No overtime period. Even though we are considered essential like Fire and Police, he has asked them to become creative in how to accomplish that request and so what they have done here at the District is that he has suspended- not gotten rid of- he has suspended all personal days and vacation until further notice based on the fact that those are the two things that cause them to go into overtime. So that has been implemented, the unions have been notified and he can tell the Board that they were not real happy, but they understand the environment that we are currently in with the virus. That will almost immediately stop any overtime here at the District and including the Sewer Department. Like he said, he watches the collections daily along with Rachel and he has seen a little bit of a dip, but nothing major so far. He can tell the Board that knock on wood, financially, they are very good. Very solid actually and are happy to be able to report that. That is all that he has.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if there is any concern due to the potential loss of some property tax collections until a later time in regards to bond payments or anything like that.

Marty stated that he will speak and then turn it over to Rachel. He said that is what they talked about in the executive session. They are actually going to do a tax anticipation warrant and he and Rachel are going to sit down and discuss what they think they need. The thinking is that in good times they normally collect 93-94% and now the State has said that they are going to delay the May 11th property tax deadline and move it back 60 days and so what they are saying to the taxpayers is that they are going to give you another 60 days to pay their May 11th installment with no penalties. They then safely took a look at what that means to the District that has to be its bond payments usually in June when they receive their tax collections. So what they said was how many people escrow their taxes with their mortgage and they think that is probably 60% and maybe 20% that do not and they are thinking that the ones who do not escrow their taxes will take advantage of the extra 60 days, so they are thinking a 60% tax collections that would be turned over to the District. That is why they are already anticipating that they want to do the tax anticipation warrant to be able to cover and float that gap until the payments start coming into the County. He asked Rachel if she had anything to add to that.

Rachel added that they are working with Karl Cender from Cender & Company regarding going to the Hammond Bond Bank for the tax anticipation warrant and if that is not a choice, they will use the Indiana Bond Bank.

Commissioner Hawkins replied that it sounded like a good plan and policy. Thank you.

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PERSONNEL REPORT

There was no personnel report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Marty stated that the one thing he would like to mention that they spoke about at last meeting and he spoke to the Mayor about is even though they are in a good financial position, that cannot last forever and they do not know when this is all going to end so he indicated to the Mayor and now to the Board that they are going to go to 60-90 days on payables other than local vendors. They will make sure local vendors are paid in an appropriate time, but every other vendor will be 60-90.

President Dimopoulos commented that he thinks that is a smart idea.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Safety

Nothing to highlight.

Sewer Department

Nothing to highlight.

GIS Department

Nothing to highlight.

Marty stated that he wanted to acknowledge Jack and his department on the wonderful job they did on the recent cave-in on Chicago Avenue. Jack, being the bulldog that he is, actually indicated that he knew who the culprit was and immediately jumped on it. They immediately had the City participate, including the Mayor, who he had called because this was a major thoroughfare- east and west thoroughfare that had just got opened up- that they had to close for this repair, but Jack was on top of it along with his foremen so he just once again wanted to say great job.

CONSULTANT REPORTS

MJHY, LLC

Mike Hickey stated that the Board should have his status report in their packet and he would be happy to answer any questions. He did want to talk about the Long-Term Control Plan for a second because they actually did get a response from the EPA. They submitted the Long-term Control Plan on 9/30/19 and on April 3rd at 7:30 at night on a Friday they sent Marty a response. They had about thirty questions- a lot of them were clarifications- and a few needed some detail,

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but they think they can answer them all. They also asked for an update to the financial capability assessment. They updated it September 2019 and EPA said they had questions so they have been waiting for questions so anyway they asked them to update. They are working with Karl Cender and he is going to help them update that report. EPA gave them 60 days to respond which is probably not enough time so they are gathering information to see how long of an extension that they are going to need. He would be happy to take any questions.

Marty added that within that response that they received from the agencies, there was nothing in that report that said they do not agree with the cloth media disc filters system which he thought was fabulous. They could have easily said go to plan b. and not accept what we were trying to do and they did not say that at all so he thinks that is a big win for the District.

Mike Hickey replied that they have a couple details they are looking for, but he thinks they are in good shape.

Donohue

Natalie Cook commented that the Board should have a status report from Donohue as well in their packet and she welcomes any questions.

RESOLUTIONS

The Board considered Resolution No. 9-2020: 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 Post-Construction Compliance Monitoring Plan (PCCMP) Report.

Dye **moved** and Miller **seconded** for the approval of Resolution No. 9-2020.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

The Board considered Resolution No. 10-2020: Re: A Resolution Authorizing Execution of Certain Perpetual Pump Station Easements in Favor of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission.

Dye **moved** and Moore **seconded** for the approval of Resolution No. 10-2020.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

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The Board considered Resolution No. 11-2020: Re: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Entering into a Services Agreement with Crowe LLP and the Sanitary District of Hammond for Certain Professional Services.

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of Resolution No. 11-2020.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Moore
Nays: None
Motion **carried** 5-0.

The Board considered Resolution No. 12-2020: Re: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Authorizing the Permanent Transfer of \$150,000 for the 1st Quarter of 2020 from the Operating and Maintenance Fund (H) to the Replacement Fund (R).

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of Resolution No. 12-2020.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Moore
Nays: None
Motion **carried** 5-0.

The Board considered Resolution No. 13-2020: Re: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana for Engineering Assistance in the Preparation of a CSO Notification Plan.

Dye **moved** and Moore **seconded** for the approval of Resolution No. 13-2020.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Moore
Nays: None
Motion **carried** 5-0.

The Board considered the Bank Reconciliation dated February 29, 2020

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

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Moore
Nays: None
Motion **carried** 5-0.

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The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 04-14-20.

Dye **moved** and Moore **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 04-14-20.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Moore
Nays: None
Motion **carried** 5-0.

President Dimopoulos called for Old Business

There was not any old business.

President Dimopoulos called for New Business

President Dimopoulos commented that they should have done this at the beginning of the meeting, but they wanted to welcome their new Commissioner onto the Board- Owana Miller. He thanked her for joining them and said he thinks that she is going to find this is one of the most efficient boards in the City. There are a lot of good people here that know what they are doing. There is a great staff here at the Sanitary District, probably one of the best attorneys in Lake County- Joe Allegretti on staff, so welcome again. Hopefully when this is all over, they will see and welcome her in person.

Marty added that he has had the privilege to work with Owana over the years when he was Chief of Staff and since he has been at the District and she is extremely intelligent, she is well-respected, the Payor thinks very highly of her. She is in the Planning and Development Department and she does a phenomenal job there. He is so happy that she agreed when the Mayor asked her to take this position and he thinks she will enjoy learning all about the Sanitary District, the things she may not know and also working with the other board members because he has a really, really good board.

Owana appreciated the compliments and looks forward meeting each one of them.

Commissioner Dye asked Attorney Allegretti if they need to make a motion approving the Board President as the authority agent to execute all of the documents.

Attorney Allegretti said that was a stipulation that President Dimopoulos listed at the beginning of the meeting. He said that was actually at the beginning of the Strom Water meeting, so he asked if the Board could all acknowledge that the same stipulation is being made for Board of Sanitary Commissioners they are covered. Plus, in the future they are going to clarify the signature page of the Resolutions to specify that the non-physically present Commissioners are participating via telecommunications. He thanked Commissioner Dye.

President Dimopoulos called for Reports from Commissioners

Commissioner Hawkins stated that he was contacted the day after the last meeting which was a month ago by a resident and user of the Sanitary District. Her name is Lillian Borich and she is a

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senior and she has been ill over a year and hasn't lived in her house in that time. She lives in Munster on Poplar Lane. She has used zero water during that time. About a month or so back, probably two months now, she was notified by a clerk in the Town of Munster that her water bill was abnormally high. Abnormally high would be anything other than zero for her over the last year period. She used 133,000 gallons for the month billing period. The Town of Munster has a procedure that allows a resident to petition the Town to get an adjustment on a bill. The Town has granted this adjustment and she is requesting an adjustment or consideration from the Sanitary District for the sanitary part of the bill. That amount for that month period according to the Town of Munster's Clerk-Treasurer's Office is \$307.23. She is a very nice lady and he talked to her today so he is doing what she asked him to do which was ask for a consideration of that bill. Thank you.

Marty asked what she is requesting because the Town of Munster collects the fees and then on a monthly basis turns those over to us so what is she asking from the Hammond Sanitary District.

Commissioner Hawkins replied that she is asking for an adjustment or consideration of some adjustment of the \$307.23 that was turned over to the Hammond Sanitary District.

Attorney Allegretti asked if this has been paid.

Commissioner Hawkins answered that these funds would have been turned over in the first part of March.

Attorney Allegretti clarified that the Munster bill was paid by the customer.

Commissioner Hawkins said it has been paid by the customer and the Town has verified that they transferred the money to the Hammond Sanitary District.

Marty stated that he will have to talk to Rachel. He said this is starting to ring a bell with him. He asked if she said that she had talked to him.

Commissioner Hawkins answered no.

Marty said they would look into it and for him to forward Marty her information and the address of her house. He clarified that house is in Munster and she has not lived in it.

Commissioner Hawkins repeated that she has not lived in it in over a year. The cause was that someone went over to check on it and evidently flushed a toilet on the lower level and didn't check to see that it stopped so it ran over. The clerks and Clerk-Treasurer's Office kind of keep an eye on that when there is a very high bill, they will contact somebody.

Marty said to let them review it and give him her information and the address and they will respond accordingly.

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President Dimopoulos called for Public Expression

There was no public expression.

Marty announced that the next meeting is April 28th and they will do exactly what they are doing here because he believes the Mayor's executive order is good through April 30th. The 28th meeting will be done electronically just as this one was so everyone knows.

President Dimopoulos commented that he thinks everything worked out pretty well. They can all hear them so he thinks it worked out fine.

President Dimopoulos called for a motion to adjourn the meeting


Dye moved and Moore seconded for adjournment.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Moore

Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

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Sam Dimopoulos, President

 /5/

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

 /5/

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

 /5/

Owana Miller, Member
(attending and voting via teleconference)

 /5/

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

ATTEST: Kaleigh Boyle
Rachel Montes, Secretary
Kaleigh Boyle, Assistant Secretary

Board Minutes Prepared By: Kaleigh Boyle