

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
APRIL 23, 2019
www.hammondsd.com

The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 4:10 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 4:10 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
Joe Allegretti, Attorney
Jeff Massey, HSD
Dan Zander, HSD
Becky McKinley, GIS
Jack Smith, Sewer Department
Kaleigh Boyle, HSD
Jonathan Albers, HSD
Jack Smith, HSD
Dan Zander, HSD
Becky McKinley, HSD

Others Present: Mike Hickey, AB&H Donohue
George Loxas, Hammond Resident
Nicholas Loxas, Hammond Resident
Chris Spolnik, Munster Public Works

President Dimopoulos stated that the first order of business was the consideration of the April 9, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes.

Dye **moved** and Button **seconded** to approve the April 9, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of the April 9, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

District Manager's Report

District Manager, Marty Wielgos, stated that the only thing he had to report was about the emergency force main break in the Town of Munster on Columbia Avenue just north of Ridge

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING
APRIL 23, 2019
www.hammondsd.com

Road. He says he is going to let Matt Muta talk about it and says he did a fabulous job in overseeing it along with Dan Zander. Marty restates that he's going to let Matt talk about what took place.

Matt begins by saying that around 9:00 Friday morning, April 12, 2019, he, Dan Zander, and Jeff Massey went out to Munster and just south of Ridge Road kind of at the top of the hill at Columbia Avenue there was a considerable force main break. They knew by the location and where the water was coming out that it was the Twin Creek Force Main. He says they had Grimmer Construction come out and they also had a few people from the Hammond Sanitary District come out on site as well. He says they had Grimmer Construction dig down and when they did, they saw it was a pretty big break. Matt says a good 30-foot section of the sewer was completely shot. He continues on saying that as they kept digging down, they kept finding new breaks and that they had to put in quite a bit of effort into finding a good spot to tie into the pipe. He says they had to dig up so much pipe that the effort continued into Saturday morning, April 13, 2019. He states that they didn't finish working until 3:30 on Friday. Matt goes on to say that the guys here really did a great job. He says the Sewer Department came out with a vactor and helped out with the contractor. They hydro excavated for the contractor the entire time. He says they were done by 3:30 p.m. on Saturday and that everything is fine now. Matt says the road was affected as both lanes of traffic were affected on Columbia Avenue. He continues on saying that off and on they had to close the north bound route of Columbia Avenue in order to get the excavator where they needed to get it as they had to dig underneath the road.

He says as of this morning, April 23, 2019, everything should be finished and that it is his understanding that they finished the striping of Columbia Avenue and that it should be all fixed, as he has not been out there since. He says its great news and that everyone who helped did a fantastic job. On-call mechanic was here overnight and was on-site overnight and had to communicate with somebody at the pump station and tell them when to turn the pump station on and off to regulate the pump station manually to ensure the road would not flood. Matt says it was a super challenging task and that we did a good job with it. He thanks everyone who was involved, personally thanking Dan, Jeff, Jack, and the Sewer Department. He restates that all should be fine now.

Commissioner Michael Hawkins says he wants to add something. He tells Matt he gave an excellent description of what happened. Commissioner Hawkins says that he was out there on and off and says he'd like to express his thanks as a board member and a resident of Munster and tell how appreciative the Town of Munster is for the response and the work that was done there. He says the road looks great, the sidewalk has been restored, the road has been restored, and that it has been a really great paving job. He says there was an awful lot of effort out there. He says it was a very good effort by everyone involved including Jack Smith's people and that he appreciates it.

The rest of the board thanks Matt Muta. Marty Wielgos says that's all he has.

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
APRIL 23, 2019
www.hammondsd.com

There were no questions for the District Manager, Marty Wielgos.

PERSONNEL REPORT

There was not a personnel report for this meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Safety Report

There were no questions.

RESOLUTIONS

The Board considered Resolution No. 8-2019: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana, Adopting the 2019 Financial Expenditure Plan for the Pretreatment Fund (609) in the Amount of \$557,442.

Button **moved** and Dye **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 8-2019.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of Resolution 8-2019 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The Board considered Resolution No. 9-2019: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana, Adopting the 2019 Financial Expenditure Plan for the Operation and Maintenance Fund (606) in the Amount of \$22,798,893.

Button **moved** and Moore **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 9-2019.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of Resolution 9-2019 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The Board considered Resolution No. 10-2019: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Hammond Sanitary District, Lake County, Indiana, Amending Salaries and Wage Rates for the Hammond Sanitary District for the Year 2019.

Button **moved** and Dye **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 10-2019.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
APRIL 23, 2019
www.hammondsd.com

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of Resolution 10-2019 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The Board considered Resolution No. 11-2019: 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 2019, from the Operations and Maintenance Fund (H) to the Replacement Fund (R).

Button **moved** and Dye **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 11-2019.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of Resolution 11-2019 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The Board considered Resolution No. 12-2019: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Authorizing Permanent Transfers of Money between Certain Funds.

Button **moved** and Dye **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 12-2019.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of Resolution 12-2019 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The Board considered Resolution No. 13-2019: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Hammond Sanitary District, Lake County, Indiana, Authorizing Approval and Execution for Professional Services with Donald Woodard

Button **moved** and Moore **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 13-2019.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of Resolution 13-2019 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The Board considered Resolution No. 14-2019: RE: A Resolution of the Hammond Sanitary District Authorizing the Donation of 25 Parcels of Real Property from the Hammond Sanitary District to the Hammond Redevelopment Commission.

Button **moved** and Dye **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 14-2019.

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING
APRIL 23, 2019
www.hammondsd.com

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Moore

Nays: Hawkins

Motion **carried** 4-1. A copy of Resolution 14-2019 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 04-23-19.

Button **moved** and Dye **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 04-23-19.

Ayes: Button, Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of the Claims Approval Docket 04-23-19 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

President Dimopoulos called for Old Business

Commissioner Michael Hawkins says that President Dimopoulos, Commissioner Button, and Mike Hickey had emailed back and forth with questions regarding the Munster Report that contains information regarding the 45th Avenue pump station and other items. Commissioner Hawkins states that it is a quite comprehensive report. He says it includes the water shed that flows in and out of the pump station and examines the pump station from West Lake and other items. Hawkins says that report should be shared with the District in about a week. He continues saying that it is undergoing a few modifications that were developed from the Examination Report by various people. President Dimopoulos asks if there is a real date. He says he wants a real date of when this is going to be shared. President Dimopoulos goes on saying they have qualified people here who can also review the report just like the Munster people can. He goes on saying that they have been waiting for this report for a while and that they'd like the report as soon as possible. He then says he sees no reason why they shouldn't have the report as they can review it along with the Town of Munster. He continues on by saying that it isn't like they aren't qualified to review the report and that the Hammond Sanitary District can review it. He announces again that he wants a date of when the Sanitary District will have the report.

Commissioner Hawkins states that he is not going to give a date and that as soon as the modifications are made it will be shared. Dimopoulos interjects saying that they've been waiting this long for it and they aren't getting anywhere. He says he thinks they need to contact the Munster people and let them know they want the report. He says there's no reason to wait for it anymore, as it's been awhile.

Michael Hawkins responds saying that they certainly can do that but the Munster people told him yesterday that in about a week they will get the report. President Dimopoulos abruptly tells him that's fine and we'll get the report.

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
APRIL 23, 2019
www.hammondsd.com

President Dimopoulos asks if there is anything else on this item. Dean Button thanks the President. President Dimopoulos then says he thinks its ridiculous they have to wait this long for this report when they're supposed to be a team. He asks why shouldn't they be able to review the report. Commissioner Hawkins responds saying that he can appreciate that and that it is on Munster's end stating that it is not his report so he's not going to defend it but everyone has a process for everything and asks that they respect the process. President Dimopoulos says he can respect that but that they also have to respect that they need to review it because it directly affects what they do. He tells Hawkins that if they're not going to have a report, and to please relay this to them, if they aren't going to have the report to them before the next meeting that he'd like for them to come here and tell the Sanitary District why they aren't getting the report.

Dean Button says that he thinks it is important because the Sanitary District operates the station and are inundated with the flows that are coming into the station. He states that they need the input about what that station is going to look like and the equipment that is going to be installed. President Dimopoulos says they have made these concerns before and they still aren't getting anywhere. Commissioner Button tells President Dimopoulos he couldn't agree with him more.

President Dimopoulos asks if there is anything else with Old Business. No one has anything else.

President Dimopoulos called for New Business

Commissioner Hawkins says he has a couple things regarding the Force Main is Munster. He says that Chris Spolnik is here and asks him to hold up his hand. Chris Spolnik raises his hand. Commissioner Hawkins explains that Chris Spolnik is the Superintendent of Munster Public Works Department and says he introduced him because he has been to a couple of meetings here at the Hammond Sanitary District and has shown some interest in the meetings. Hawkins says awhile back it was mentioned by Dan, he thinks, the possibility of verification of condition of 2 or 3 sections of pipe at Twin Creek. Commissioner Hawkins says he is wondering the status of this. He says one reason is because Mr. Spolnik has some plans to do work in that area and because of that and to do some follow up. Dan talks about how they discussed to do some spot checks and says that discussion is still on the table about what they'll do if they do dig it up and there is a problem. Dan also says the discussion is still on the table regarding what areas they will do the spot checks, what the plan is and how they will work out the solution. He says that if they are looking underneath the railroad tracks and if they do have a problem that they are really looking at, it creates a real problem. He says there is still discussion going on about that. He then turns it to Marty Wielgos.

Marty says that unfortunately they have a limited budget where they must determine whether to repair or maintain. He says to do that process and to take a look that they thought unless there is a problem there is no reason to address it. He states that they address it as the problems occur because of the fact that they have a limited amount of money to spend and unfortunately that is the nature of the beast. He says this is why they took the action they did.

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING
APRIL 23, 2019
www.hammondsd.com

Commissioner Hawkins asks Chris Spolnik if he has any concerns. Chris says that he guesses his concern is the tracks and asks what the spot check would be. Dan responds that it would be to determine the structure of the pipe and its integrity. Chris says that the concerns is that this is in the backyards of everyone, dealing with fences and landscaping, along with everything else. Chris Spolnik then says his next concern is that if it breaks where the school is at that there is no way they can shut down Columbia Avenue with school in session. Mr. Spolnik says he would like to see a plan that's good for everyone because if there is an emergency break there its going to be hell to get kids to and from school.

Commissioner Hawkins asks exactly which portion he is talking about and Chris Spolnik confirms that it is Columbia Avenue by Fisher and from the hospital to almost where they are at now by where it was fixed close to the break that they just had. Marty joins the conversation again and says that Hammond's system is far much older than Munster's. He explains that Hammond has Force Mains that run through areas by schools, hospitals, and other major entities that would be an inconvenience to residents of Hammond along with Munster residents. He says if there was an unlimited budget, that would be the crystal ball he would have to say 'you know what you're talking about, let's do it.' He says unfortunately there is a limited amount of money that is all designated for these emergency repairs, so unless someone is willing to pipe up the money and say hey you know what we think this is a very strong interest to the Town of Munster and because we want to do things out there or because of where its at, we have concerns about that, we want to pay for that because we don't want to wait for something to break, we want to do that now. Marty says he's all ears for that. Marty continues saying that unfortunately they have a limited amount of money that is stretched between two communities for those repairs and unfortunately emergency repairs pop up, like this last one, holiday weekend, on a Friday, and its just the way it happened and has to be addressed immediately. Marty says that they don't waste any time or delay. He says they are out there immediately to take care of it, like they would anywhere, including the Town of Munster. He says he thinks the answer they have and the reason he pulled back is because if they keep looking for things, he's sure they'll find all kinds of things. He continues on saying that the problem is they do not have the resources to do maintenance that is preliminarily pre-striking.

Commissioner Dean Button addresses Commissioner Hawkins saying just to echo Marty and says that if the Town of Munster wants to provide the funding for the Force Main replacement where there aren't funds available that would be great. Commissioner Hawkins then asks about a long-range plan for this issue and for other issues. Marty asks Commissioner Hawkins as far as what? Commissioner Hawkins asks if there is long-range planning or should there be for items as this for Munster or Hammond or whatever. He says he knows the District does planning but he knows they're talking about something they know they have problems along with and is sure there is other things with Hammond also. He says sooner or later there has to be rate increases, etc., etc. to take this long-range planning into effect. He goes on to say it appears there is a Force Main in Munster that is failing rapidly now. Commissioner Dean Button interjects saying they have this thing called a Long-Term Control Plan and believes copies have been provided to

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING
APRIL 23, 2019
www.hammondsd.com

the Commissioners and it defines the things they are doing and required to do that have been accepted by EPA and Department of Justice. Commissioner Button goes on to say those financial, economic impacts of this District to the tune of \$250 million. He says that is their plan, and that is the plan they are going after, and if its in the plan then he (Commissioner Hawkins) can refer to that.

Commissioner Hawkins asks that if it isn't in the plan then will it ever get done. Marty responds saying that as he had just explained that the reason it is emergency repair only as it is in Hammond. Marty says there are a lot of Force Mains in Hammond that he would really like to address. He says that they don't have that luxury and they treat both communities the same. When there is a break, and Jack (Smith) can be the first to attest to this, they address it immediately no matter where it is at because it is a Force Main. Marty continues on saying he wishes he had the resources to lay out a long-term plan for Force Main replacement based on age and any other variables that go into that, but they do not have that luxury. He refers to Dean Buttons comments saying that they have a Consent Decree that tells them that they are going to spend \$250 million just to be able to treat everything that comes into the Plant. He says that right now they are not 100% capable of doing that and they toss that back into the river, which the federal agency said that can't be done anymore. Marty says again that he is all ears if people want to come forward and put in the ante that they will participate in any way that they can.

Commissioner Button adds that they can also take over the system if the money is brought forward. Commissioner Dye says his only comment is that he supports Marty and his opinion on the matter. President Dimopoulos adds that it seems pretty clear that the funding is not there, so if Munster would like to address it and support it financially that they would be more than happy to sit down with them about it.

President Dimopoulos called for Reports from Commissioners

Commissioner Hawkins brings up that Dave Wickland has made multiple requests via email and letter regarding the cost of service. Commissioner Hawkins says that Mr. Wickland has received no response from the 26th of March. Commissioner Hawkins is wondering if there is going to be a response. Marty says he is going to let Joe Allegretti answer, but first continues on saying that he thought, and asks Joe Allegretti to correct him if he's wrong, there was communication between Diana and the Town of Munster. Joe Allegretti says that it is his understanding that their contractor, Diana Hamilton, has spoken and communicated with the subject matter with Mr. Anderson and if that's not true then that's news to him. Commissioner Hawkins responds saying that doesn't seem to be. Joe Allegretti says that he got a letter from Brother Wickland that says he talked to the cost of service team and decided that the most direct and practical solution was to get the two of them together. Joe says they welcome and it would be helpful if Munster would offer a cost of service participant, either from an outside consultant or somebody on the Munster team to work with their group. Commissioner Hawkins responds to Joe Allegretti and asks why don't you give Dave Wickland a call and tell him that. Joe says he thought that message was conveyed and says he knows Wickland well and has known him for 40 years and he'd be happy to do that. Michael Hawkins says that would be helpful because there seems to be questions

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING
APRIL 23, 2019
www.hammondsd.com

about the status updates and the discussions with Diana Hamilton. Hawkins says there were some items she was not aware of in regards to the Town of Munster RFQ that was sent to her and there was not a response after that. He continues on saying there hasn't been a discussion since, along with no follow up and says a follow up with Dave Wickland would be nice. Joe Allegretti agrees saying he'd be happy to.

President Dimopoulos called for Public Expression

George Loxas of 1623 Caroline in Robertsdale section of Hammond. He says good afternoon and thanks everyone for taking his public comment. He states his name again and says he wants to make the board aware of a billing issue concerning his father, John Loxas, at the address 1623 Caroline. He says to quickly give a background, his parents split their time between Arizona and Indiana. In the preceding 9 months they had spent more time in Phoenix than Hammond, including the summer months due to medical necessity. For 8 months from June 2018 to January 2019, they consumed 1 unit of water at their Hammond home. While away in the last few days of January 2019, Hammond saw a deep freeze and near record low temperatures. This weather caused the pipe to freeze and to separate at a connection when temperatures returned to seasonal. The water pipe was in a 1,400 square ft sand crawl space that has no sanitary or storm sewer drainage. During regular visits to the house by himself and his siblings, there was no evidence of a water leak or damage in the living area of the home. They only became aware of a possible leak when they found a door hanger from the Hammond Water Department saying an inside reading of the water meter was necessary due to an excessively high reading outside. This was on the first of March. Immediately he went to the meter and saw that it was registering usage. He investigated this right away and found no leaks in the living area so he shut the water off. On a hunch he checked the crawl space and found that a half inch copper pipe had separated and was the source of the leak for approximately 28 days. His father was billed for 410 units of water and the accompanying sanitary fees. While he believes its fair to pay for the water, he is asking for relief from sanitary fees, charged for water that did not enter the sanitary or stormwater systems, but merely percolated into the soil beneath the home. They believe it is equitable to have a one-time discount for the excess sanitary charges billed for this water. He says they are open to discussion and are available to answer questions from staff.

Commissioner Dimopoulos thanks him and asks if there is any other public expression.

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 4:35 p.m.

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
APRIL 23, 2019
www.hammondsd.com



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: Jonathan Albers