

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JULY 14, 2020
www.hammondsd.com

The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 4:02 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 4:02 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, Hawkins, Miller, Moore

Commissioners Absent: Dye

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

Others Present Remotely: Natalie Cook, AB&H Donohue

President Dimopoulos stated that the first order of business was the consideration of the June 30, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

Moore **moved** and Miller **seconded** to approve the June 30, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Hawkins, Miller, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

District Manager's Report

District Manager, Marty Wielgos, stated that he wanted to reiterate what they had talked about in the executive session. They have about 700 checks delivered and in the hands of residents out of the almost 1700 that they have. What they are finding though is that they are disqualifying quite a few as they go through the process because they are not owner-occupied, they are a tenant, or they are someone who is an investor and has multiple homes in the City getting homestead credits and they are turning those over to Code Enforcement to go after them. They actually found one guy who has three units in Hammond (three rental properties) and each of them has a homestead. He also has a homestead on his \$500,000 house in Crown Point and he is cheating the City out of a ton of money. The City gets about half- let's say his tax bill is \$1000 on each house, the City

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receives almost half of that back, so just do the math on that one person. They turned those over to Code and then Code will go after them. He talked to Dave Hamm on Monday morning to ask what the County has as far as their system and he said they have a full-time attorney Dave told him that does this and this only. Marty told him well, if you look at the percentage of what we have and are already finding, something is not working at County because one of the homes that this individual has actually had an LLC as the name so he does not understand why their system or this person is not catching this stuff when we are looking at it and almost catching it right away. As bad as the backup was, we are actually finding people that we can get converted back to paying the 2% on these investment properties and getting the City more money. Other than that, the construction project is going well. They had their staff meeting today and there has been a few glitches on some of the electronics that were not quite the way they wanted them so they are working through those, but he does not see any major problems there at all. They have all the pumps installed where they had the screws because the screws have began slowly dying on them, so they have four major pumps (two that they own- bought- and two they are renting) in case they have more screw failure, they are all set and hooked up and ready to go and they will keep them out of trouble. That is all good news. Regarding the financial situation, as you can look at the financial report, it is doing very well. Collections have dropped just a little, but nothing to get him concerned and it seems like everyone is doing what they asked them to do as far as the residents- they are paying their bills. He does not see anybody who is holding off, even the big industries. They are paying, so they have not had to go to 60-90 days, they have stayed at payables being paid at 30 which he thinks is very good. A lot of folks/vendors need that money to keep their employees employed so they have done everything at 30 days. They have the one million dollar line of credit set up in case they need it, but have not drawn on it yet because they have not had to, but he needed to have that just in case something major happens in the Plant and because hopefully this program is going to only cost about \$800,000 that he had a little cushion there between some of the monies that Rachel had set aside over the years and having that extra million in case they need it. If they do have to draw on it, the interest is at 1.5% which you cannot beat. Other than that, he does not have anything unless some of the Board members have questions for him.

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.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Safety

Nothing to highlight.

Sewer Department

Nothing to highlight.

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GIS Department

Nothing to highlight.

CONSULTANT REPORTS

Donohue

Natalie Cook stated that since Mike is not here, she wanted to comment on the Long-Term Control Plan. As the Board has heard, they submitted some responses to EPA's questions on June 2nd and they said they would get back in about two weeks and they are still waiting on that response. It has usually taken a little bit longer which is no surprise, but they will get going on those as soon as they hear back. She also wanted to highlight the Post-Construction Compliance Monitoring Plan (PCCMP). The disinfection amendment report was submitted at the end of last month thanks to all of the hard work that Jeff's team is doing and troubleshooting the disinfection system over at the Basin, they were able to use that work and also model to show there is no additional work required at the Basin because it technically meets their disinfection requirements, so that is submitted and they are waiting to hear back from them as well. That is all she wanted to bring up, but will be happy to take any questions.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if Donohue was involved in the financial capability assessment.

Natalie answered indirectly, yes. They are assisting Mike with it, but Mike Hickey is mostly completing that.

Commissioner Hawkins said that he just wonders because he remembers being in meetings some time back and is wondering if there has been any significant change in the Government's position on what is included with the financial capability.

Attorney Allegretti replied no, but maybe when the census information comes out, that may trigger something.

Marty added along that same line, what they have heard and this is a preliminary discussion, the rating (S&P) folks are looking at maybe changing some of the guidelines as far as how they rate utilities because of the COVID. They realized that some communities, some folks may not be paying their bills which has a direct impact on those utilities. They are looking at maybe changing the formula- to what degree or how he is not really sure- but he has been given some preliminary information that they are concerned that the current formula that they use to give a rating may be in trouble because of the COVID, so they are looking at maybe changing it which would probably be more beneficial to like the City of Hammond and Munster and Highland because of the fact that we have all been hit pretty hard. It will be interesting to see where that goes.

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RESOLUTIONS

The Board considered Resolution No. 21-2020: 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 2nd Quarter of 2020, from the Operation and Maintenance Fund (O&M) to the Replacement Fund (R).

Moore **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 21 -2020.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Hawkins, Miller, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

The Board considered Resolution No. 22-2020: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Authorizing the Temporary Transfer of \$1,500,000 Between the Operations & Maintenance Fund (606) and the Debt Service Non-Exempt Fund (309).

Moore **moved** and Miller **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 22-2020.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Hawkins, Miller, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

The Board considered the Bank Reconciliation dated June 30, 2020

Hawkins **moved** and Moore **seconded** for the approval of the Bank Reconciliation dated June 30, 2020.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Hawkins, Miller, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 07-14-20.

Miller **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 07-14-20.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Hawkins, Miller, Moore

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

President Dimopoulos called for Old Business

There was not any old business.

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President Dimopoulos called for New Business

Marty commented that he was in a meeting with the Mayor yesterday and he actually brought up that he really likes the format that he receives as far as the taking of the minutes that Kaleigh does. In fact, he likes them so much because they are so detailed that he has asked all of the other Boards to follow what we do and what Kaleigh does. He can read our minutes and does not have to call to ask any specific questions because the minutes are very detailed. The other minutes, from specifically the Water Board, he was very unhappy with. He asked Kaleigh to forward a couple of our minutes to Sharon Daniels (she is the President of Water Board) because she wants to model exactly what Kaleigh does.

President Dimopoulos stated that we all know we have the best people here, so that is no surprise.

Commissioner Hawkins joked that Kaleigh was going to be stolen by the Mayor.

Marty responded that he does like what Kaleigh does, but would hope she would reject any offers that she gets.

Kaleigh thanked the Mayor, Marty and Board for their compliments.

President Dimopoulos called for Reports from Commissioners
There were no reports from Commissioners.

President Dimopoulos called for Public Expression
There was no public expression.

President Dimopoulos called for a motion to adjourn the meeting

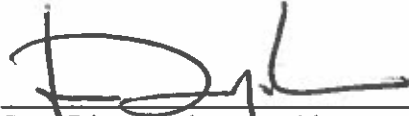
Dye moved and Miller seconded for adjournment.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Moore

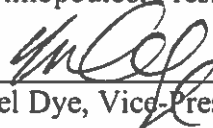
Nays: None

Motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

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Sam Dimopoulos, President



Michael Dye, Vice-President



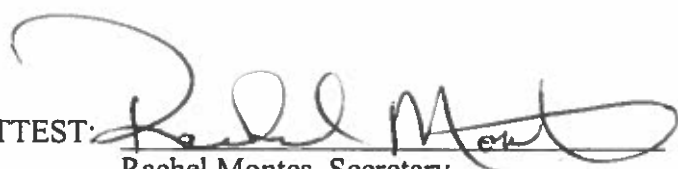
Michael Hawkins, Sr., Member



Owana Miller, Member

Patrick D. Moore, Member

ATTEST:



Rachel Montes, Secretary
Kaleigh Boyle, Assistant Secretary

Board Minutes Prepared By: Kaleigh Boyle