

MINUTES  
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING  
OCTOBER 13, 2020  
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The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 4:00 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 4:00 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, Garay, Hawkins

Commissioners Absent: Miller

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

Others Present: Mike Hickey, MJHY LLC  
Natalie Cook, Donohue  
Ken Schoon, Town of Munster

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Dimopoulos stated that the first order of business was the consideration of the September 29, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve the September 29, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

**District Manager's Report**

District Manager, Marty Wielgos, stated that as they talked briefly in the executive session, the screws are finally going in at Tertiary. They had a little trouble today because of the wind so they called it early and are going to be back tomorrow. If any of the Board members have any time and would like to see an amazing job being done, they should come watch it for a little bit. It is truly amazing. They are doing five- all five of them are being replaced. They have two now and there is

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more on the way, so if they get lucky with weather, they are hoping to get them all in before the end of year. He asked Jeff if that is right.

Jeff replied that if they get lucky, they will be in by the end of November.

Marty said that would be a God send if they could get those in by the end of November. They are doing a hit list on the expansion and the upgrades that they did at Headworks. Just some minor cleanup stuff and little things that need to be straightened out, so they are hoping within the next few weeks or so—he asked Jeff what he thought about the Headworks building.

Jeff responded that from what he saw, by the end of the month they are hoping to be basically done. Just working on the punch list items and stuff like that, but most of the construction will be completed.

Marty went on that he decided as they talked about in the last board meeting, he was not happy with the width of the road that runs behind that building. The intention was to take it out and put it back in, but they are running out of time because of the weather and the asphalt so he told them to just go ahead and put it in, pave it and they will deal with it some time in the early part of next year because that makes more sense at this point. Other than that, he does not have anything else to add unless there are questions from the Commissioners.

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

There was no Personnel Report.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Safety Report**

No questions or highlights.

**GIS Report**

No questions or highlights.

**Sewer Maintenance Report**

No questions or highlights.

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**CONSULTANT REPORTS**

**MJHY, LLC**

Mike Hickey stated that he had a couple of things that he wanted to talk about on his status report. The PCCMP for Disinfection (item 3), EPA had some questions. They sent the questions on September 24<sup>th</sup> and he is bringing this up because they submitted that report on June 29<sup>th</sup> so it took them about three months to review that report which is fast for EPA. He is saying that to give them an idea on the Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) which was submitted on September 18<sup>th</sup>, so they may be getting a response in about three or four months with that. It seems like they are on things now so he just wanted to bring that to their attention. That is all he has, but if there are any questions, he would be happy to answer them.

**Donohue**

Natalie Cook stated that they should have a status report from them. She sent it, but it got lost in the mail. She does not have anything else to highlight.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**The Board considered Resolution No. 25-2020: 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 Garay **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 25-2020.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins  
Nays: None  
Motion **carried** 4-0.

**The Board considered Resolution No. 26-2020: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Establishing a Compensated Absences Calculation Policy Regarding the Annual Compensated Absences Liability Amount for the Hammond Sanitary District.**

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 26-2020.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins  
Nays: None  
Motion **carried** 4-0.

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**The Board considered the Bank Reconciliation Document dated September 30, 2020.**

Dye **moved** and Garay **seconded** for the approval of the Bank Reconciliation Document dated September 30, 2020.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

**The Board considered the Revised Claims Approval Docket 10-13-20.**

President Dimopoulos commented that there was a slight calculation error on the one that was in their packet.

Hawkins **moved** and Garay **seconded** for the approval of the Revised Claims Approval Docket 10-13-20.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

**President Dimopoulos called for Old Business**

President Dimopoulos asked if there has been any update on the discussion between Munster and Hammond with regards to what was discussed at the last meeting from the comments Commissioner Hawkins said.

Attorney Allegretti explained that after their conversation initiated by Commissioner Hawkins it appeared that there was some unhappiness or at least a disconnect on Munster's approval of the RFP/RFQ for the cost of service study soliciting contractors to perform the study. He contacted the District's consultant, Diana Hamilton, and asked about what email threads existed between the District's representatives and the Town's as far as going forward and signing off and approving the request for qualifications to begin the selection process for the cost of service contractors. It appears and people can always disagree that it was in the District's minds and the minds of the consultants there was consensus for proceeding and going ahead and proceeding to solicit the cost of service contractor. He asked Diana to call Mr. Anderson, the Town Manager, to try and find out what is on his mind because after the conversation with Commissioner Hawkins, he got the impression that Dustin Anderson was the correct person to weigh in on the subject and express any unhappiness or find out where they stood. She has reported to him, he thinks, that there is no objection to proceeding with the process itself. That Munster is insistent that there be no delay in soliciting a contractor. However, Mr. Anderson told Diana that the Town was interested in the contractor either performing a cost analysis of the retail cost allocation and he is not sure exactly what that means between the City and the Town of Munster.

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The suggestion was that it be done as part of the cost of service study by the selected contractor or as a second matter. He is not trying to ambush Commissioner Hawkins, but he of course can tell him if he agrees with his restoration of the facts or maybe he wants to enlighten him on the definition of the cost analysis of the retail cost allocation. As soon as he hears from the District's consultant and they can get some clarification on what this disconnect might be, he will be reporting it to the Board- his employer.

Commissioner Hawkins responded that he had a discussion with Dustin Anderson last Friday. The Munster Town Manager and Diana Hamilton talked last Friday and his result on the conversation he should say was similar. They talked last Friday and it was a process conversation and timeline on where the parties were at- HSD and Munster. The Town of Munster continues to look at opportunities to participate at least as noted in the June 2017 agreement between the partners and function in compliance of that agreement. In addition, the Town looks forward to form an establishment committee and engaging actively with the consultant they both have selected.

Attorney Allegretti stated that his function is not to argue with him, but the purpose of the cost of service study is of course to establish a rate to be paid by their customer communities (Griffith and Highland) not to determine whether or not Munster has some grievance with the rate structure or their participation as a community of ratepayers as customers of the Sanitary District or property owners who pay as part of their property tax bill for their taxable property- the tax-backed debt service or tax-backed bonds previously issued by the District. That was a mouth full. They no longer as part of the tax reform legislation and circuit breaker legislation, they no longer issue tax-backed bonds only revenue bonds supported by sewer user charges so whatever grievance might have existed if there was a grievance concerning the calculations of those (that debt service) that is gone. It does not exist anymore. They can talk about it as a historical fact, but that horse is out of the barn. That is just his observation to the Commissioner's comments and all he has to say.

President Dimopoulos wants to invite Dustin to come to their meetings some time so they can sit and talk with him. He would like to invite him to come to their next board meeting so they can sit down and that way they can hear exactly from him what his issues are with their process and what they've done so far and quite honestly he does not believe he should be going through Commissioner Hawkins because he should just come to the meetings and tell them what he thinks is going on. That way they can talk about it, set a timetable to further discussions with him, but he thinks he should come and see them. He does not think he has ever been here. He questioned if anyone remembered him ever coming.

The people in the room collectively shook their heads no, that he has not.

President Dimopoulos invited him again to come to their meeting.

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Commissioner Hawkins replied that in part he agrees with the Board President. There needs to be face-to-face discussion because many times those discussions can resolve things that may seem like they can't be resolved. They may seem like big rocks, but in reality, they are gravel or very small pebbles. He might suggest the Town and the District have conversations. He is not sure if this meeting is an appropriate venue. He does not know if it should be a work study session or another kind of meeting, but that can certainly be decided and he urges it.

President Dimopoulos said no. He wants him to come to the meeting. He does not think they are ready to schedule any work study sessions at this time. If he would like to come to the meeting, they can sit and talk and go from there. He does not think they are at the point where they need to set any other types of meetings. They have been working on this for so long, the consultants have been working on this for so long, they are not starting over. Just to address any issues since it seems like he has issues or the Town of Munster has issues, let him come here and express his problems with what is going on and then they can talk about it. That is just his thought.

Commissioner Garay commented to Attorney Allegretti that he had previously mentioned that they were coming up on a deadline and questioned if that was the RFP submission deadline.

Attorney Allegretti answered yes.

Commissioner Garay asked if that was this week.

Attorney Allegretti replied that it is either about to expire or it has expired and they have only received two proposals or two people/contractors interested. They may be coming back to the Board to suggest extending that time limit to maybe enlarge the pool and get maybe some of the big players.

Commissioner Garay asked if there is contention over whether or not the RFP that was issued is valid or is there potential issues regarding the selection process and what the scope of work will be once a contractor is selected or if a contractor is selected.

Attorney Allegretti answered that he thinks Munster acknowledges or is saying, he is not sure, that the solicitation is valid and appropriate- there is no objection to that. They still have a seat at the table and wish to participate in the selection process. The process to where the contractor would ultimately be selected and what the framing or scope of the study and that has yet to occur.

District Manager, Marty Wielgos, stated that one thing he wants to add is that because this deadline is coming up and since they only have two participants that have responded, that he would say they should extend that deadline so they can attract some other really qualified participants because of the COVID. COVID had everybody shut down, so he thinks it would be in their best interest and he would maybe ask the Board to authorize for him to do that now that

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if and so he feels that they need to do that, he already has the authorization of the Board to extend the deadline.

President Dimopoulos asked if the Board thought that would hurt anything- if they extended the deadline. They are not under any real time crunch, so he thinks they should try and get some more players and get a better number. He thinks they should do that.

Commissioner Hawkins agreed.

Hawkins **moved** and Dye **seconded** to extend the deadline and give the District Manager, Marty Wielgos, the authority and opportunity to extend the deadline and try to solicit more RFP vendors due to the issues that are going on in life right now.

Commissioner Garay asked if they are extending a specific extension time frame or just at the discretion of the District Manager.

Marty responded that he thinks that would be to the discretion of Diana Hamilton who has been their point person and handling this. He is sure she will direct them and say they need to do three or four weeks or whatever it may be, that is the direction that he would go.

Hawkins modified his **motion** and Dye **seconded** to say that discussions with Diana will be initiated for more time.

Commissioner Hawkins commented that somewhere in the back of his head and he could be wrong but he seems to remember there may be an issue with one of the current people.

Marty said he thinks there is.

Commissioner Hawkins added that it is more than just having the two vendors, but they need to give Marty the authority and look for more people out there. The more you get, the better chance and opportunity you have.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

Attorney Allegretti added that while they are on the topic of their sister community (Munster), as everyone knows there has been a lot of wonderful development in Southwest Munster west of Calumet Avenue south of 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There is a sewer capacity certification request sitting on Mr. Massey's desk which is certainly being considered for that development which is the requirement for the issuance of a State building permit from the State agency. They are trying to learn the impact this new development will have on the existing infrastructure and pump stations- most notably Dyer Road and the 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue station. He is not the best person to talk

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about those locations obviously and these technical issues. Mr. Massey and Mr. Hickey are here and they are the ones who received and reviewed reports from the Munster consultant, SEH, concerning the impact of this development and what impact it will have on the infrastructure with the collection system and the ability to service that area once developed and impervious services and what impact it is going to have on the pump stations and whether or not improvements or additions and expansions for those pump stations need to be considered. They are also reviewing older reports from the Town concerning the capacity of the collection system which hasn't changed much in 15 years or 25 years as long as he knows of. Although, he does see some new sewer pipes going into the ground, so they are trying to analyze and assess that situation. He thinks it is ongoing and historically when raw land is developed as was the case of the West Lakes Subdivision- any raw land developed anywhere in the District (in the City or in the Town) it is normally and historically the obligation of the developer or the Town or City whichever the case may be to as part of the development to make improvements to be able to expand the system and improve the system to accommodate the new customers and the new water generated from the new development or expansion. They want to learn what assessment has been made by the Town in improving these expansions and what impact it has on the Sanitary District's owned and operated pump stations that they are responsible for. That was not delivered in the most artful fashion because he is not the best person to talk about these technical engineering issues, but they have Jeff Massey who could expand on his comments and correct him if he is misstating and Mr. Hickey of course who is sitting next to him.

Marty asked Jeff Massey to put it in more layman terms—

Joe said he put it in layman terms.

Marty asked Jeff about the 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue pump station. What the concerns are there specifically.

Jeff explained that the major concern with the 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue station is that in the event of rain, that station is surcharged pretty much immediately with the businesses in the area now. As they continue to redevelop that area or develop that area, more and more condos and restaurants and whatnot are being added to that system and the pump station is not being improved to handle additional flow. There is real concern that as development continues in that area, that station will not function well enough in a rain event and they will start to have sewer backups.

Marty stated that particular station was put in when there was nothing there, so the station was sized for basically what was there. Now, they look at what has been added and once again it is very positive development, but yet the original station is the original station. That concerns them.

President Dimopoulos added that in the past they have asked for this information before the development first started which he believes was a couple years ago, so they definitely need that information to see how that pump station is going to be affected.

Commissioner Hawkins asked what sewer capacity request are they referring to.



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Jeff answered that right now there is a sewer capacity request for the construction just to the north side of the tracks at 45<sup>th</sup> and Calumet. It is supposed to be a hotel and whatnot there.

Joe clarified that it is going to be Maple Leaf.

Marty stated that they may as well touch briefly while they are on the subject of the pump station request that they received on the development of the 60-acres of the old golf course.

Jeff replied that he received some questions being asked by a developer who is concerned about trying to redevelop 60-acres of the Lansing Sportsman's Club and where the sewers would go for that. There is some real concern about that too. One of the ones he suggested was Fisher which could not be it because it is a storm station only or Manor and Timrick which is a small can station so he is not exactly sure where sewers would go for that facility if it would be developed for medical and commercial use at that site.

Attorney Allegretti commented that they are not saying that this development is not possible, but it is just going to take money, planning, and design.

President Dimopoulos stated that if that pump station is not deemed adequate enough to handle the new development, typically the pump station upgrade should be part of the development itself. If that is the case, they should be receiving design documents, specifications and everything that is related to that station upgrade/expansion or whatever you want to call it so that their team can look at it and make sure that everything is adequate and that they are using the proper materials and the proper configurations and everything else that is related to that upgrade on the station. He asked if he was correct.

Marty and Jeff both said that is absolutely correct.

President Dimopoulos stated they need to see that as well. He asked Commissioner Hawkins if he was going to relay this all back to Munster.

Commissioner Hawkins said you bet and that the minutes will also.

**President Dimopoulos called for New Business**

There was not any new business to discuss.

**President Dimopoulos called for Reports from Commissioners**

Commissioner Dye commented that on behalf of the Board, he would like to express their condolences to Dan Zander who lost his father this past week.

Marty added that he had a very good, text conversation, very pleasant with Pat Moore's widow. He hadn't talked to Robin in quite some time and she texted him on Saturday. She had heard that

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they were trying to do something as far as a little memorial with a tree and a plaque for Pat of which he talked to the Mayor about several months ago. The Mayor gave them his blessing to move forward on it. He asked if Marty would lead that up with Matt Muta. She had heard rumors about it, so she just text him to see if that was true and he told her yes, they were working on it, but then COVID hit so everything kind of slowed down, but it was not forgotten. She was grateful to hear that and asked to keep her updated on the progress. She did indicate to him that she is going to have a private memorial service for Pat. She does not have the date yet because she wants to wait and see where the COVID thing settles out at. The reason for that is because most of Pat's friends are older and she is afraid if she tries to do something now, that they will not come and that made sense to him. She said it will be held at the Mohawks when she finally picks a date and that it will be by invitation only, so he just wanted the whole Board to know because he is sure that all of them will be invited to that once that is decided. It was a very nice, pleasant conversation so he just wanted to share that with the Board. Actually, he asked Matt to run with that and now that things have slowed down with the flood program checks and that is all behind them, he has a little bit more time to devote to getting that done fairly quickly. What he wants to do now is collect any money that they can get so he knows what they have. Meier's Landscaping has agreed to donate whatever tree they want so the money will basically go for the plaque which he envisions something that is really nice that will last and grow technically with the tree meaning that he does not want something small that all of a sudden in 20 years the tree is so big that you do not see the plaque. His vision is to have a bigger plaque so that as the tree gets bigger it does not get lost. He just wanted to share that with the Board.

Commissioner Garay commented that she thinks they should reach out to the Parks Board of Directors as Pat spent a good amount of his time with the City in the Parks administration so hopefully, they will contribute as well.

Commissioner Dye stated that they are (Park Board) meeting next week so he can present that to the Board.

Marty thanked Commissioner Dye for his help with that.

**President Dimopoulos called for Public Expression**

There was no public expression.

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

Dye moved and Hawkins seconded for adjournment.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins

Nays: None

Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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Sam Dimopoulos, President

/S/

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

/S/

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

/S/

Owana Miller, Member  
(Attending and voting via teleconference)

/S/

Heather Garay, Member  
(Attending and voting via teleconference)

ATTEST: 

Rachel Montes, Secretary  
Kaleigh Boyle, Assistant Secretary

Board Minutes Prepared By: Kaleigh Boyle