

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING
APRIL 13, 2021
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The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 4:08 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 4:08 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, Garay, Hawkins, Miller

Commissioners Absent: N/A

District Personnel Present: Marty Wielgos, Chief Executive Officer
Joseph Allegretti, HSD Attorney
Rachel Montes, Business Manager
Jonathan Albers, HSD

District Personnel Present Remotely: Jeffrey Massey, HSD
Matthew Muta, Deputy District Manager
Robert Szczudlo, HSD
Dan Zander, HSD
Jim Alms, Sewer Department
Rebecca McKinley, GIS Department

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

Others Present Remotely: Natalie Cook, Donohue

The same rules and guidelines will apply as previous meetings. Before somebody makes a statement/motion, they need to state their name so they know who is talking. There will be roll call votes on everything.

Authorization for Board President, Sam Dimopoulos, to sign documents on behalf of the Board was done in Storm Water board meeting prior to this meeting.

President Dimopoulos stated that the next order of business is the consideration of the March 23, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

Hawkins **moved** and Miller **seconded** to approve the March 23, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

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Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Chief Executive Officer, Marty Wielgos, stated that as they talked about in the Executive session, they are still working on engineers being able to do their timely study on the leak that they have over on Kennedy Avenue underneath the railroad line right across from the Kennedy Avenue pumping station. Because that is such a delicate situation as far as repair, it has taken a little bit longer to get those estimates in and rightfully so, but they are still looking at costs of anywhere from one million to two million dollars. The added million because the only number that he talked about was close to a million would be that they are thinking that since they are going to be there and since this force main was put in in 1939 that-- and they have had other breaks along the line which runs down Michigan Avenue up to the Boulevard-- that it may be wise that they think about doing the entire line as a repair. So, they are going to give him those two options and the costs that are respectful to both of those. They are thinking probably another million to take it all the way to the Boulevard, so a possible total cost of about two million for this repair. He and Rachel sat down briefly with staff today talking about if it comes to that, if they have the money somewhere to pull because of the fact that it is only the middle of April of 2021 so they still have a long time to go in the year that they are not even halfway through yet. They are going to look at it and then he will inform the Board of the direction that he believes they should go and to keep the Board updated. Other than that, the Plant is looking really good. The construction at Headworks is almost completed. They did a walkthrough today of the original Headworks building which is where a lot of the old equipment was taken out and gotten rid of. The addition that they put on Headworks is pretty much where all of the new operating equipment is, all of the new instrumentation. He told Dan Zander that he authorized him to move forward with repainting and doing some repairs in the original building. They already had a new roof put on it and all new windows put in to that beautiful architecture as the Board has seen, all new doors put on to the building and now they are going to paint the entire inside. On the ceiling which used to just be drywall and plaster, Dan had a good idea of putting aluminum 4x8 sheets up there that look absolutely spectacular, so they never have to worry about maintenance on that ceiling again and then once again a total repainting of the structure. He walked through with Jeff and Dan and Brandon this afternoon talking about the color coordination and how he believes it should work and look and they agreed, so they made some changes. All of the railing will be yellow, all stairways and staircases will be basically aluminum. There are some wood staircases in there that he wants removed and replaced with aluminum because they are a lot safer. Then, the employee break area since they kind of eliminated a lot of the electrical components on the lower level, they have created now a big open space. The employee break area is on the first-floor kind of tucked in a corner that was built by staff years ago. He took a closer look at it today and it is kind of not built the way that it should be as far as structurally the way he would want it to be, so since they are doing this whole renovation of the interior, he told them they he wants the engineer to give him a cost to remove that break room and little kitchen area and put it on to the first floor, make it bigger and make it a little more employee friendly. That all happened today. They have a lot going and that is going to be happening up front

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in the next few days and then in the back of the Plant, they got the screw guys coming back. Tis the season because the weather is great to install the last two new screws which should be starting in about a week. A lot of good construction activity going on within the Plant. He will open it up to any questions that the Commissioners may have.

There were no questions or comments.

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.

There were no questions or comments.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Safety Report

There were no comments or questions.

GIS Report

There were no comments or questions.

Sewer Maintenance Report

There were no comments or questions.

CONSULTANT REPORTS

MJHY, LLC

Mike Hickey stated that the Board should have a copy of his status report. He would be happy to take any questions if there are any. As far as the Long-Term Control Plan update, he reported at the last board meeting that they received technical comments from EPA on March 17th. They have prepared a letter that Marty signed today on how they propose to answer the questions. They are deferring upgrading the Long-Term Control Plan until they get the FCA comments so they only have to submit it once. They are staying on top of this and would be happy to answer any questions.

President Dimopoulos thanked Mike Hickey for all of his hard work.

Donohue

Natalie Cook stated that they should also have a status report from them. They are supporting the work on the Long-Term Control Plan. She does not have anything else to highlight.

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RESOLUTIONS

The Board considered Resolution No. 12-2021: 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 2021 from the Operation and Maintenance Fund (606) to the Replacement Fund (460).

Hawkins **moved** and Dye **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 12-2021.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

The Board considered Resolution No. 13-2021: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the City of Hammond Sanitary District, Lake County, Indiana for Engineering Assistance in the Preparation of a CSO Public Notification Plan.

Miller **moved** and Dye **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 13-2021.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

The Board considered Resolution No. 14-2021: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the City of Hammond Sanitary District, Lake County, Indiana for Engineering Assistance in the Preparation of a Revised Final Long Term Control Plan (LTCP).

Dye **moved** and Miller **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 14-2021.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

The Board considered Resolution No. 15-2021: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Authorizing Permanent Transfers of Money Between Certain Funds.

Hawkins **moved** and Dye **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 15-2021.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

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The Board considered the Bank Reconciliation Document dated March 31, 2021.

Garay **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of the Bank Reconciliation Document dated March 31, 2021

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 04-13-21.

Miller **moved** and Dye **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 04-13-21.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

President Dimopoulos called for Old Business

There was not any old business to discuss.

President Dimopoulos called for New Business

Commissioner Hawkins asked about the progress on the Long-Term Control Plan with the EPA, MJHY, Donohue and District representatives. Mike Hickey noted that on March 17th the letter from the EPA and there were ten comments, etc. If he understands today, there has been a response back under Marty's signature in regards to this. He wonders if the Board could have copies of both of these documents to better inform themselves on the current state.

President Dimopoulos commented that is a good idea.

Mike Hickey replied that the letter is going to go out on the 15th and he will make sure that the Board gets copied. The response letter includes the actual questions that EPA had, so the response letter will have everything that he is asking for.

Commissioner Hawkins thanked Mike Hickey.

Marty added that it seems and to correct him if he is wrong that it seems like the questions that the EPA sent them did not seem to bother the District. There did not seem to be anything that they were not agreeable to as far as just getting them answers. They were not changing their tune on pretty much anything which they thought was very positive.

Mike responded that Commissioner Hawkins will see the questions in the response and they were pretty much editorial.

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Marty explained that the good thing and Mike Hickey is working on it is trying to get the extension of time. They've already agreed to five years and that was just right out of the door. Mike and his group are going to do some work because they are wanting to get the twelve years. That is what Mike and his group are working on.

President Dimopoulos replied that is great. He asked if there was anything else for them to discuss under new business today.

Marty wanted to add one more thing because he thinks it is crucial if the Commissioners remember when they started on this long path with the EPA so many years ago, they were adamant that they didn't even want to talk about the cloth filter system and because of the hard work led by Mike and a bunch of their internal team at the District, they stayed their course. They kept saying that this works and in fact, they even the bold move to actually have a demo machine if they remember brought to site so they were able to run their various tests to be able to bring the local and state level people here to see it for themselves and it worked. All of the direction and path that they started on in the desires and wants that they wanted here for the long-term solution for everything coming from the South that was overburdening them and really expanding the capability of the Plant- just doing it a little differently worked. They are all that excited the fact that they got what they wanted. He just wanted to refresh the Board on that because that was a big win for the District and it is a win because they are taking all of the liquid part that would be coming from the South specifically from Highland and Griffith and putting it through the cloth filter right at the river. Putting what they take out right back into the river and the liquid part and bringing all of the solids here to the Plant. Look at all of that volume that they eliminated which really in heavy rainstorms hurts the South end of the City of Hammond because it is all coming through from Highland and Griffith and overburdening their system there. They are excited and very excited that one day they will be able to see that plan actually build.

President Dimopoulos commented that is great news and once again, thanked Mike Hickey for all of his hard work on that. He asked if there was anything else under new business today.

Commissioner Hawkins said that he thought he heard the District is involved in a cost-of-service study and he thinks it might be appropriate at this time or at an appropriate other venue (Executive session, etc.) to have an update for the Board on the cost-of-service study.

Marty responded that he totally agrees with him. He thinks that it should be done in Executive session because they are still at preliminary points within some of the information gathering, but he would be more than happy to at the next Executive session to give more detail as to where they are at that point.

Commissioner Hawkins thanked Marty.

There was nothing else to discuss under new business.

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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, Garay, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. 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