

MINUTES  
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING  
JULY 13, 2021  
[www.hammondsd.com](http://www.hammondsd.com)

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, Garay, Hawkins, Miller

Commissioners Absent: Dye

District Personnel Present: Marty Wielgos, Chief Executive Officer  
Joseph Allegretti, HSD Attorney  
Jeffrey Massey, HSD  
Matthew Muta, Deputy District Manager  
Robert Szczudlo, HSD  
Dan Zander, HSD  
Jack Smith, Sewer Department  
Rebecca McKinley, GIS Department  
Kaleigh Boyle, HSD

Others Present: Mike Hickey, MJHY, LLC  
Natalie Cook, Donohue  
Samantha Bluemer, McKinstry, LLC

President Dimopoulos stated that the first order of business is the consideration of the June 29, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

Hawkins **moved** and Miller **seconded** to approve the June 29, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

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

**Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Chief Executive Officer, Marty Wielgos, stated that as they talked briefly about in the Executive session, some of the supplies that they use on a regular basis (specifically chlorine), Mr. Massey received a call from their supplier who they are in a contract with basically telling them that they can multiply that rate by four times. He wanted to get some thought and have Attorney Allegretti take a look and see how they may want to do some type of surcharge specifically to their customer communities and industrial users so that the blow of that increase cost- a now known cost that is

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not in their budget any place and being a little halfway through the year- is going to be felt hard. He would just like to talk about it, to be prepared for it and go over some possibilities of correcting that problem moving forward. What he thinks is if they did some sort of surcharge, it would be temporary until the prices came back down when the economy shifts whatever way it is going to shift. They told Jeff today that it may be six months or up to two years. He just does not want to see all of the positive movement that they have had specifically on the financial side of the District be eaten away by costs that they have no control over because of the pandemic. The District already gets surcharges from some of their vendors, so he does not think it is unreasonable to take a look and have an open discussion about what should be done or if they should do anything at all. Other than that, he does not have anything.

President Dimopoulos responded that he thinks they should look into that. There is no reason why the Sanitary District should take the brunt of that price increase. It should be part of the customer or however they are going to schedule it.

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

The Board did receive a Personnel Report today. President Dimopoulos asked for a motion to approve.

Garay **moved** and Miller **seconded** for the approval of the Personnel Report.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Garay, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

**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.

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**CONSULTANT REPORTS**

**MJHY, LLC**

Mike Hickey stated that the Board should have a copy of his status report, so he would be happy to take any questions on that. The Long-Term Control Plan update, he is working with Donohue to update the Long-Term Control Plan based on the comments they received from the EPA, but they are still waiting on one piece of information from a customer City before they are able to finish it, but they are making progress.

Commissioner Hawkins commented that he noticed under the State Water Infrastructure Fund (SWIF) section about funding for grant projects.

Mike Hickey replied that he is actually going to submit that today after the meeting. Marty signed it. There are two projects. One is the 24-inch force main that has a couple breaks from Kennedy Avenue toward Indianapolis Boulevard. That is one of the projects. The second one is a Storm Water project down on 175<sup>th</sup> and Columbia. You know where the District took the houses out and the idea was to put some storm water detention there, so that is the second project. They are keeping their fingers crossed and will know by August 6<sup>th</sup>, so they are going to know pretty quick.

Commissioner Hawkins asked how one identifies the grants and such. The reason he is asking is because he has been thinking about this off and on for a period of time. There is so much money out there (Federal and State money), so he was just wondering how one identifies all the money that is out there.

Mike Hickey replied that the way it started with this SWIF is that he got an email from Jeff Massey saying there was some money available and he wanted to look into it. Luckily, they had a couple shelf item projects. You know that 175<sup>th</sup> and Columbia, they funded the demolition of the buildings and all that, but they did not have enough money to do the pond and then when this grant money became available, that was kind of a shelf item and then, of course, the 24-inch force main just happened. Once again, HSD was just collecting the information, so they readily had it.

Commissioner Hawkins added that another reason he asked is because he saw in the paper the other day that the City of Gary received some federal funds.

Attorney Allegretti said that was a photo-op for the new Congressman.

Commissioner Hawkins replied he is sure he could take a photo with Marty if he gives him a million dollars.

Marty stated that he thinks to further answer the Commissioner's question, the Commissioner knows that Linden has been a project that they put on the shelf because of some new technology came around (cloth filters) and they said they can kind of move in this direction if they got the Feds to agree to it and the State of Indiana to buy into it which at that time they didn't. It took the

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District about two-three years to convince them that they can go that direction. When they finally got that nod, then, the Linden project- still a good project- kind of moved down a couple of phases as far as what he thought needed the most attention. Now, that this money became available, he said they maybe should take a look at it again. There is nothing to lose and if they can get several million dollars for both projects, why not. That is how they picked those two in particular because they both were shelf items and ready to go.

Attorney Allegretti added that the Rescue Act money which all the communities got- Hammond got around 45 millionish. That money has to be appropriated by the legislative body. He knows that Munster is getting a good amount of money, but he does not think Munster has gotten their money yet. The City has already been paid and the money is in the bank—

Marty clarified half of the money.

Attorney Allegretti agreed and said that it is already in the bank though, but Towns are having a little bit of a delay because the money is not coming directly from the Federal Government, but is going to be coming from the State and it may actually be through the County. Eligibility certainly includes wastewater and sewer improvements have to be appropriated by the legislative body and has to be part of a so-called plan, so some sewer improvements in the Town of Munster can occur and are eligible with this money. Hammond is kind of at the mercy of the Hammond Common Council and the Executive since these appropriations only occur at the recommendations of the Executive. He does not know what they are planning on and as the saying goes, he does not know if their plans include us. Time will tell.

Commissioner Hawkins replied that Marty is buddies with the Mayor, so surely the Mayor will keep the Hammond Sanitary District in mind and he knows he does read these minutes.

Marty said he does read the District's minutes. There is no doubt about it.

**Donohue**

President Dimopoulos asked if there was any update from Donohue.

Natalie Cook responded that the Board has a status report from them as well, so if there are any questions, she would be happy to answer them.

There were no questions or comments for Donohue.

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**RESOLUTIONS**

**The Board considered Resolution No. 25-2021: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the City of Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Authorizing the Permanent Transfer of \$150,000 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2021 from the Operation and Maintenance Fund (606) to the Replacement Fund (460).**

Miller **moved** and Garay **seconded** for the approval of Resolution No. 25-2021.

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

**The Board considered the Bank Reconciliation Document dated June 30, 2021.**

Hawkins **moved** and Miller **seconded** for the approval of the Bank Reconciliation Document dated June 30, 2021.

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

**The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 07-13-21.**

Hawkins **moved** and Miller **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 07-13-21.

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

**President Dimopoulos called for Old Business**

There was not any old business to discuss.

**President Dimopoulos called for New Business**

There was not any new business to discuss.

**President Dimopoulos called for Reports from Commissioners**

President Dimopoulos wanted to remind everyone that it is the Festival of the Lakes this week and he is looking forward to seeing everybody there. He is going tonight to see Old Dominion and they are a very good country western band in case Joe needs an extra ticket for tonight.

Marty joked that Attorney Allegretti is a big country western fan.

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Attorney Allegretti said he likes rock 'n' roll.

President Dimopoulos stated he can go see Sammy Hagar and the Circle on Saturday then.

**President Dimopoulos called for Public Expression**

There was no Public Expression.

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

Miller **moved** and Garay **seconded** for adjournment.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Garay, Hawkins, Miller

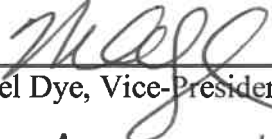
Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

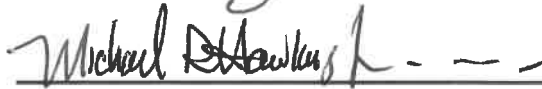
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Sam Dimopoulos, President



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Michael Dye, Vice-President



\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Hawkins, Sr., Member

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Owana Miller, Member



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Heather Garay, Member

ATTEST:



Rachel Montes, Secretary

Kaleigh Boyle, Assistant Secretary

Board Minutes Prepared By: Kaleigh Boyle