

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2021
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The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 4:01 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 4:01 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, Miller

Commissioners Absent: N/A

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

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

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Dimopoulos stated that the first order of business is the consideration of the October 12, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

Hawkins **moved** and Dye **seconded** to approve the October 12, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins, Miller
Nays: None
Motion **carried** 5-0.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Chief Executive Officer, Marty Wielgos, stated that he is proud to report that over the last few days of heavy rain (starting on Sunday and lasting into Monday), the Plant operated extremely well under some difficult situations with the amount of rain we received. He asked Jeff Massey to correct him if he is wrong, but said he believes it was about 3.2 inches total.

Jeff said that it was over 3 ½ in the Plant and in the south part of the Town of Munster, 4 ½ inches.

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Marty explained that with all of that being said, zero basement backups which is something they do not hear as much as they like, but are starting to hear more often. That just tells them that Jeff is not only doing a great job running the Plant, he has some really good employees who are doing exactly what they need to do. Anytime they see rain coming, Jeff ups the number of employees in the Plant just to be on the safe side. They exercise generators just before the first raindrop falls because they want to make sure everything is ready to go. He is proud to report that everything worked well and there were no problems. Other than that, he has nothing unless there are questions from the Board.

Commissioner Dye questioned how in the past they had issues with the generators on the Munster side. He questioned if that has been handled.

Marty answered that he will ask Jeff and Dan, but he has not heard of anything so far, but he also doesn't think they have had loss of electricity out in that area.

Jeff explained that they have had a couple issues where some of the generators that when they go through some automatic checking, they have had couple issues with some over crank alarms and some issues like that, but Munster has been really good at taking care of the problem. Once they are notified of problem, they take care of it right away. They have not had any problems where they failed to start or anything like that. Just some simple maintenance issues- when a generator would start on its own and have a weird reading, but once the Town is notified, it is taken care of immediately.

Commissioner Hawkins wanted to add because he said he had some knowledge regarding this. Part of the improvement with this was getting people trained on this. They do a training with the manufacturer and have a computerized monitoring system where they can check this stuff from their phone, laptop or wherever which made a big difference.

PERSONNEL REPORT

There was no Personnel Report.

CONSULTANT REPORTS

MJHY, LLC

Mike Hickey stated that a few weeks back, EPA asked him when they can expect to receive the updated FCA portion (Financial Capability Analysis portion) of the Long-Term Control Plan and they responded that they needed information from both Highland and Griffith. They met with Highland on October 19th and they plan on meeting with Griffith in early November, so he let EPA know that. Once they meet with Griffith, they will be able to update and get that information back to the EPA.

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The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 10-26-21.

Miller **moved** and Garay **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 10-26-21.

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

There was not any new business to discuss.

President Dimopoulos called for Reports from Commissioners

Commissioner Hawkins commented that a couple weeks back, there was a break in a force main on Calumet Avenue in Munster about a block north of Red Lobster along the hospital parking lot. It was repaired very well and he just wanted to compliment the District and the construction crew. They restored the area, the soil, the walk has been poured and everything looks really great. He just wanted to thank them for that.

Marty stated that while they are on that same subject, he happened to drive down Calumet Avenue and as he crossed over the river on the left-hand side where the pumping station is, he noticed there were a lot of trees and trees growing within the chlorination area they used to use years ago, but things have changed and the Plant changed and that is no longer needed or being done at that site. He had a meeting with Jeff and Dan today and said that he wants that cleaned up immediately because it looks absolutely horrible and to make sure that is maintained. He just wanted to bring that up.

Commissioner Hawkins thanked Marty and said that he notices it all of the time. He said one time a while back and it probably was not feasible then, but his predecessor Dr. Unger had at one time mentioned that he thought about selling that property. He does not know if that is feasible or possible, but it may have worth because of the location of it right on Calumet Avenue. He just thought that he would throw that out.

Marty replied that when he was talking to both Jeff and Dan today about the use of that pumping station and actually it is a very large pumping station, it actually outdated itself so it is probably something that they will need to look at and that could be a possibility. His understanding is and he asked Jeff to correct him if he is wrong, but it hardly is ever used. He asked if that is correct.

Jeff answered that it does not run as a CSO- very rarely. In fact, during the big rain yesterday, it did not run at all. The dry weather pumps were able to keep up with everything, it never ran as a CSO. It all depends on—in a big, intense rain, it might run, but right now, it did not run.

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Commissioner Hawkins responded that is interesting.

Marty added that as the Commissioner knows, in that flood, that was the station that Dr. Unger was able to get fired back up to alleviate all of the flooding in that hospital corridor and as soon as that pump started, the water went down immediately.

Commissioner Hawkins stated that in his area, the water was almost up to the front door and as soon as it started, it dropped.

Marty responded that it is something they can look at. He is not sure if it is something they can ever eliminate because he saw that with his own eyes, but it is something to at least take into consideration.

President Dimopoulos called for Public Expression

Ken Schoon of the Munster Town Council asked Marty that when all of this rain did not stop Monday morning and kept on going, he assumed there would have had to of been some sewer overflows that goes into the river. He asked if that did not happen.

Marty answered that it is not raw sewage anymore. It basically goes into the basin and then from the basin, all of the solids settle into the bottom of the basin and as it goes from weir to weir, cell to cell, as it gets to the final point of going into the river, it is chlorinated. So, the only thing that is going into the river is what they are permitted to do- it is chlorinated, not completely treated, but without any solids added to it.

Councilman Schoon verified that there are no pollutants going into areas away from the Plant.

Marty replied that he would let Jeff answer that. He stated that the basin now captures 30 million which is a big difference than before.

Councilman Schoon said that is wonderful.

Jeff explained that there are CSO discharges and the Long-Term Control Plan is working to eliminate those, but this is not raw sewage. It is mixed with all of the rain water. It is just an overflow when the sanitary is mixed with the rain water and discharges.

President Dimopoulos called for a motion to adjourn the meeting

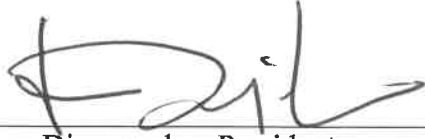
Dye **moved** and Miller **seconded** for adjournment.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Garay, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

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Sam Dimopoulos, President



Michael Dye, Vice-President



Michael Hawkins, Sr., Member



Owana Miller, Member



Heather Garay, Member

ATTEST:



Rachel Montes, Secretary

Kaleigh Boyle, Assistant Secretary

Board Minutes Prepared By: Kaleigh Boyle