

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2023
www.hammondsd.com

The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 4:05 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 4:05 p.m. He stated that the Board held an Executive Session prior to the meeting at 3:45 p.m. to discuss personnel and litigation matters in accordance with Indiana Codes.

Commissioners Present: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Commissioners Absent: N/A

District Personnel: Marty Wielgos, District Manager
Matthew Muta, Deputy District Manager
Rachel Montes, Business Manager
Joe Allegretti, Attorney
Jeff Massey, HSD
Dan Zander, HSD
Jack Smith, Sewer Department
Jonathan Albers, HSD
Robert Szczudlo, HSD
Sharon Szany, HSD

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

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Dimopoulos stated that the first order of business is the Election of Officers for 2023.

Dye **moved** to nominate Sam Dimopoulos as President of the Board and Miller **seconded**.

There were no other nominations for President.

Dye **moved** and Miller **seconded** to elect Sam Dimopoulos as President of the Hammond Sanitary District Board for 2023.

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

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Rubio **moved** to nominate Michael Dye as Vice-President of the Board in 2023 and Miller **seconded**.

There were no other nominations for Vice-President.

Rubio **moved** and Miller **seconded** to elect Michael Dye as Vice-President of the Hammond Sanitary District Board for 2023.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

Rubio **moved** and Dye **seconded** to nominate Rachel Montes as Board Secretary and Kaleigh Boyle as Assistant Board Secretary of the Hammond Sanitary District Board for 2023.

There were no other nominations for Board Secretary and Assistant Board Secretary.

Dye **moved** and Miller **seconded** to elect Rachel Montes as Board Secretary and Kaleigh Boyle as Assistant Board Secretary of the Hammond Sanitary District Board for 2023.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

President Dimopoulos stated the next order of consideration was for the December 13, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes.

Miller **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve the December 13, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of the December 13, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Chief Executive Officer Marty Wielgos says that everything seems to be moving nicely to start the new year. Marty states that he likes the warm weather, however the bugs at the plant do not, with the weather being fifty degrees one day and freezing, cold weather the next.

Marty says they talked briefly about the Kennedy Avenue project, as that line is starting to leak again. The CEO states that the District had bought all of the lining for the pipe about 2 years ago,

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prior to COVID, so they were able to beat the inflation of the cost. He continues to say that they were hoping to be able to go another year or so without having to address this issue, but he is being told that is no longer going to be able to happen as it's starting to leak more than it has been in the past. Marty Wielgos states that this passes partly underneath the railroad lining off Kennedy Avenue and that's where it's leaking. CEO Marty Wielgos states that they are going to move forward with this, even though Business Manager, Rachel Montes, wishes they could have held off a little longer since this is going to be a big-ticket number. He continues on saying the job is currently out for bids, but he says the good thing is that the District had already bought the liner, as that was a big cost and were able to beat the inflation from COVID.

CEO Marty Wielgos states that other than that, the District has 3-4 vacancies for operators and a couple other throughout the plant. Marty says he indicated to the Mayor before the end of last year that he likes holding off on getting new employees until after the new year because many people are on vacation at the end of the year, which makes it difficult to train new employees. The CEO continues stating that he and Jeff Massey interviewed a candidate at the end of last week, and that the District needs to push for more female operators. He states that the District had one, but she has retired a couple years ago and that he likes a diverse group of people. Marty says they have come across a candidate who, if she likes it, would be a good operator. He says he told Jeff to move forward with the hiring process with her this morning, as they both thought she interviewed well. Marty says that her background comes from something completely different, but that he called her and told her what his thoughts were, where she then accepted the interview. Marty continues to say that she was a very intelligent young lady, from Hammond, and was highly recommended by some people he knows. Marty says she has high hopes for her to join, and that he and Jeff Massey have another female candidate they are looking to interview that also comes highly recommended. The CEO states that he will keep the Board informed of these.

CEO Marty Wielgos says that he has nothing else and will answer any questions the Board has.

Commissioner Michael Hawkins asks about any problems foreseen with the force main that is underneath the railroad on Kennedy Avenue. Marty turns the question to be answered by Jeff Massey and Dan Zander.

Dan Zander responds saying with it being under the railroad they decided to buy the lining for it so they really won't have to deal with the railroad to dig underneath it and put a new line in. He continues to say they are going to use the line that exists already and will put the new lining through it. He states the only problem with this is that they are going to have to go up on the bridge to bypass pumping lines and come down that way to do this. He says they have a plan they hope to be able to execute. Commissioner Hawkins responds to this by saying he only asks because of his experience with the railroads, and that they are impossible stating that they own the country. Dan Zander agrees and says there is no arguing with the railroads. Commissioner Hawkins thanks Dan for his response.

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PERSONNEL REPORT

There was no Personnel Report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board considered the Finance Report from November 30, 2022.

Dye **moved** and Miller **seconded** to approve the November 30, 2022 Finance Report.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

President Dye asks if the Finance Report for December 31, 2022 is still in the works. Business Manager Rachel Montes states that it is still in the works as she is waiting on one more statement. Vice-President Michael Dye asks Attorney Allegretti if the Board needs to table item number 7, referring to this Finance Report. He responds that they can.

Dye **moved** and Rubio **seconded** to table the December 31, 2022 Finance Report.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

There was a Sewer Maintenance Report, to which no questions were asked.

CONSULTANT REPORTS

Mike Hickey (via Zoom Conference Call), from MJHY, says that the Board should have a copy of his status report and that there wasn't much to report with the holidays. He says he will take any questions that the Board may have.

There are no questions for Mike Hickey.

Natalie Cook from Donohue states that the Board has her report, and she has nothing to highlight but will take any questions.

There are no questions for Natalie Cook.

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RESOLUTIONS

The Board considered Resolution No. 1-2023: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana, For Planning, Design and Management Engineering Services.

Rubio **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 1-2023.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

The Board considered the Bank Reconciliation Document Dated December 31, 2022.

President Dimopoulos states that the Board does not have this at this meeting, but will have it to be considered at the next one.

Rubio **moved** and Dye **seconded** to table the Bank Reconciliation Document Dated December 31, 2022.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 12-13-22.

Rubio **moved** and Dye **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 01-10-23.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. A copy of the Claims Approval Docket 01-10-23 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

President Dimopoulos called for Old Business

Commissioner Hawkins asks for the status between Griffith and Highland regarding the cost-of-service study, etc. CEO Marty Wielgos responds saying this is a good question and ironically at the District's staff meeting earlier today they were discussing this same question. Marty says that the council has indicated to him that because of the holidays and attorneys taking vacation, they're just starting to get back into the mode. Marty states that his main question on this was where they were with Griffith, as he thought they were all getting close to signing contracts and agreeing. Marty states that Whiting has been paying their full share and that they did a true-up on some of their stuff prior to the engagement date, which added up to over \$100,000 and they sent the check immediately for this. Marty continues to say Whiting is paying everything based

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on the rate study. The CEO says Griffith is paying everything on the rate study, except they do not have a formal, signed agreement with them yet. Attorney Joe Allegretti says they have a draft. Marty then asks Attorney Allegretti to touch briefly on Highland to which he goes on to say Highland is a work in progress, that they've had lots of communication with them, the issues are narrowing, and that he expects to have something to report to the Board very quickly. Commissioner Hawkins comments that they were paying at the old rate to which CEO Marty Wielgos asks Jeff Massey what rate Highland is paying. Jeff and Attorney Allegretti both say they are billing them the new rate, but they are paying at the old/so-called interim rate. Attorney Allegretti continues by saying they are charging Highland the new rate, plus interest and that we will see how this works out.

Commissioner Hawkins says thank God we have a lawyer who doesn't go on vacation, to which Attorney Allegretti states his life is so boring. Everyone laughs at this.

President Dimopoulos called for New Business

There is no New Business.

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, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

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Sam Dimopoulos, President

Michael Dye, Vice-President

Owana J. Miller, Member

Monica Rubio, Member

Michael R. Hawkins Sr., Member

ATTEST: _____
Rachel Montes, Secretary
Kaleigh Boyle, Assistant Secretary

Board Minutes Prepared By: Jonathan Albers