

MINUTES  
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 15, 2022  
[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 4:04 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 4:04 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, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Commissioners Absent: N/A

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

Others Present: Michael 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 consideration of the October 25, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes.

Hawkins **moved** and Dye **seconded** to approve the October 25, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes.

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

**Chief Executive Officer's Report**

Chief Executive Officer, Marty Wielgos, stated that as they are preparing to get to the end of the year, as they normally do, they try not to fill vacant positions. Even though they have some retirees that definitely need to be replaced (some people in the Lab). Only because of the fact that most people are taking their vacation at the end of the year; it is a slow time and it is really not the best

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time to bring people on the train only because there is a lot of down time. Instead of having that burden on payroll, they always wait until January to fill those positions. The other thing he wanted to talk briefly about is that they have been doing a tremendous amount of work inside the Plant. A lot of their buildings are brick and mortar, so he made a decision to start having them cleaned, power washed. It is amazing the way these things look after being power washed. After they are being power washed, Dan is checking to see if they need to be tuckpointed again and make sure that if some of the power washing washed out some of the tuckpointing that they are addressing that immediately. The buildings across the Plant are looking really, really nice. In their packet as they do every year and it will be a part of the Personnel Report and was talked about in the Executive session, so he just wanted to point that out. Nothing that he needs to highlight or bring out in their open session. Other than that, the Plant is running well. He asked Attorney Allegretti if there is an update on where they are at with the customer communities.

Attorney Allegretti replied that he did receive an email from Max today that he has not been able to look at yet. They made a proposal to the Town of Griffith and are awaiting their response.

Marty asked what about Highland.

Attorney Allegretti answered they were in court last week on the issue of whether or not the judge was going to lodge the Griffith decree and Highland decree. The Judge heard HSD's objections basically, saying that it was premature. They reported that they are making significant progress with the Town of Griffith and that they are in the dispute resolution process with the Town of Highland. The Judge took the matter under advisement and said that he was going to do something to encourage the parties to move ahead, but that may be counterproductive. The legal team then did have a nice, long conversation with the Department of Justice (Ellen McGregor) and he thinks she was enlightened on the real situation and their relationship with Highland and the history which for tactical reasons they did not want to air the dirty laundry in front of the District Judge because that would be counterproductive, but he thinks they are in excellent position and he thinks the attitude of the Department of Justice is going to modify in their favor. The pressure is going to be on the Town of Highland and HSD have presented themselves as the good player in this dispute that are always willing to work favorably with their customers and it is actually Highland that said what they said. He thinks everybody gets it and they are making some progress. Also, once Griffith falls in line which they expect to happen quickly, Highland will be further isolated and they will have to come to terms.

Marty said and that is to also say they are on pace with Whiting.

Attorney Allegretti explained that the guts of the document is basically an addendum to the treatment contract and it will have equal application to their contractual relationship with the City of Whiting.

Marty stated that per the Board's instructions to him over several meetings in regards to the customer communities, specifically Highland. He was instructed by the Board to keep the line

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as far as what the cost-of-service said and to not waiver one iota from that. That is what he has done and that is what he has instructed the attorneys to do. He had a couple of the attorneys (not Joe) that suggested this has been going on some time and wouldn't it be better to just come to some agreement that was not based on the cost-of-service study numbers specifically for Highland so he can get this behind him and he said absolutely not. He does not care if they have to wait another year to get this resolved because right now, if the Board remembers, the District is billing them everything based on the cost-of-service study. Highland has been paying the old rate, so at least they are paying something without the hole getting deeper and deeper, but he can tell them that interest and late fees are being tacked on to that customer community because they are the only ones not paying the right fee. Whiting has paid and so has Griffith. That is also what he was telling the legal team. How in his right mind could he think about something different for Highland which is not based on cost-of-service study when in fact the other two customer communities are doing what they agreed to based on the cost-of-service study. It would make no sense. None whatsoever. He just wanted to give the Board a quick update on where they are with that because they have another year coming to an end and another year starting, but they are getting there. Slow, tedious and a little cumbersome, but they are slowly getting there. Other than that, he does not have anything else to report.

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

President Dimopoulos said they did receive a Personnel Report. He asked for a motion to approve.

Dye **moved** and Rubio **seconded** for the approval of the Personnel Report.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Business Manager, Rachel Montes, said she does not have anything to highlight, but would take any questions.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**Safety Report**

No questions or comments.

**Sewer Maintenance Report**

No questions or comments.

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**CONSULTANT REPORTS**

**MJHY, LLC**

Mike Hickey stated that the Board should have a copy of his status report. The only thing he has to report on is item 7 which is the Consent Decree Status Report. It was submitted on November 9<sup>th</sup> on time.

**DONOHUE**

Natalie Cook commented that the Board should have a status report from her as well and she does not have anything to highlight on it.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**The Board considered Resolution No. 30-2022: 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2022 from the Operation and Maintenance Fund (606) to the Replacement Fund (460)**

Dye **moved** and Miller **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 30-2022.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

**The Board considered Resolution No. 31-2022: RE: A Resolution Authorizing the Sanitary District of the City of Hammond, Indiana to Make Temporary Loans to Meet Current Running Expenses for the Use of the Debt Service Fund of the Issuer, in Anticipation of an Not in Excess of Current Taxes Levied in the Year 2022, and Collectable in the Year 2023; Authorizing the Issuance of Temporary Loan Tax Anticipation Warrants to Evidence Such Loans and the Sale of Such Warrants; and Appropriating and Pledging the Taxes to be Received in Such Fund to the Punctual Payment of Such Warrants Including the Interest Thereon.**

Rubio **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 31-2022.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

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**The Board considered Resolution No. 32-2022: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana for Engineering Assistance in the Preparation of a Post-Construction Compliance Monitoring Plan (PCCMP) Report.**

Dye **moved** and Miller **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 32-2022.

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

**The Board considered the Bank Reconciliation Document dated October 31, 2022.**

Hawkins **moved** and Miller **seconded** for the approval of the Bank Reconciliation Document dated October 31, 2022.

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

**The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 11-15-22.**

Dye **moved** and Rubio **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 11-15-22.

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

**President Dimopoulos called for Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

**President Dimopoulos called for New Business**

There was no new business to discuss.

**President Dimopoulos called for Reports from Commissioners**

There were no reports from Commissioners.

**President Dimopoulos called for Public Expression**

There was no Public Expression.

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

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

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

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Sam Dimopoulos, President

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Michael Dye, Vice-President

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Michael Hawkins, Sr., Member

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Owana Miller, Member

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Monica Rubio, Member

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rachel Montes, Secretary  
Kaleigh Boyle, Assistant Secretary

Board Minutes Prepared By: Kaleigh Boyle