

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2022
www.hammondsd.com

The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 4:11 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Administration Building located at 5143 Columbia Avenue, Hammond, Indiana.

Vice-President Dye called the meeting to order at 4:11 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: Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Commissioners Absent: Dimopoulos

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
Tom Ramker, HSD

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

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-President Dye stated that the first order of business was the consideration of the 2023 Board Meeting Dates.

Hawkins **moved** and Miller **seconded** to approve the 2023 Board Meeting Dates.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0. A copy of the 2023 Board Meeting Dates is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Vice-President Dye stated the next order of consideration was for the November 15, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes.

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Miller **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve the November 15, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0. A copy of the November 15, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Vice-President Dye stated the next order of business was consideration for the November 30, 2022, Special Board Meeting Minutes.

Miller **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve the November 30, 2022, Special Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0. A copy of the November 30, 2022, Special Board Meeting Minutes are attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Chief Executive Officer Marty Wielgos says he is happy to report the plant is running well and is always happy to give that report. He says that he hopes is dark enough outside on everyone's way out to allow the Christmas lights to be seen. Marty says that each year the District tries to enhance the lights just a little bit because he thinks it works well with the neighborhood, and since we have all the beautiful evergreens, especially on the western-front side, that it is really nice to see all the lighting. Marty says last year they put the big tree on top of Headworks, and it looked very nice. The CEO followed up saying that he challenges the District to do something new that "wows" him and that Jeff Massey and Dan Zander are working on doing that.

CEO Marty Wielgos transitions and states that the District has a handful of opportunities for positions that are available throughout the plant. Marty says they've never wanted to hire anyone in the 4th Quarter because usually a lot of the staff are taking vacations and a variety of other things. He adds that it's also not the best time to train new people, so he likes to wait until the 1st Quarter to hire new people and after the first of January the District will be posting these positions and hiring for them.

Marty states that he is happy to report that Sharon Szany, who has been Mayor McDermott's Executive Secretary and Office Manager ever since Marty hired her 2005 after the Mayor first got elected in 2004. CEO Marty Wielgos continues saying that roughly 3 years ago he had a conversation with the Mayor about Sharon Szany ever leaving the Mayor's Office, and that he would want her to come work for him, if that ever happened. He says that he subsequently had the position put into the salary ordinance 2-3 years ago because she does a fabulous job and can do a variety of duties, that includes accounting. Marty says that Business Manager, Rachel

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Montes, and the staff downstairs are technically almost overburdened with everything we have to do. Marty says he thought the timing was right so he had the conversation with Mayor McDermott last weekend and told him he'd like to move forward with this opportunity. Marty continues saying that he thought he was going to get a "dead-set no" but instead got a "dead-set yes." He says he thinks Commissioner Owana Miller was shocked, to which she responded that she was during the retreat on Friday. Marty says that Sharon Szany is going to come to the District under the position in the salary ordinance as Human Relations. Marty continues saying that the way he designed this with the Mayor over the last week and a half is that Sharon will be doing Human Relations for the Sanitary District, Port Authority, and the Water Department. Marty states that if you think about it, none of the entities have a Human Relations person and that the biggest thing the District gets bombarded with and drug down with is FMLA, and that Business Manager Rachel Montes is the one that mainly gets dragged down with it. Marty describes how it take a lot of time and that there is a lot of paperwork, and that it ultimately has to be policed. The CEO says we really don't have anyone at the Sanitary District that abuses FMLA, other than maybe one or two people from time to time. Marty says that it someone has to constantly go to the different seminars because the rules with FMLA are constantly changing and that he doesn't have time to send Rachel to seminars just on FMLA since she has her hands full with everything else going on.

Marty begins to conclude that Sharon Szany's salary is going to be divided by three, with the District paying her directly, and then invoicing the amounts owed to Port Authority and the Water Department quarterly for them to pay their fair share. CEO Marty Wielgos says he thinks this is a big win, that he has a lot of respect for Sharon, and that he's worked with Sharon for a long time, stating that he met her under Mayor Thomas McDermott Sr. Marty says she is very good at what she does and that she follows the rules. He adds that she will be a big asset at the Sanitary District and a big asset to Rachel.

Marty says other than that, everything is going well. The CEO tells the Board that there will be some projects beginning after the 1st of January as he mentioned in the executive session. Marty says that he, Jeff Massey, and other staff members are working on other ways to generate revenue without having to increase rates. He states there are only so many times he can go to the Hammond City Council, the Sanitary District's Board, the Munster Town Council to ask for a rate increase, and that he understands that. Marty says because of this, the District must be diligent about other ways and that he thinks they have found some other ways to do this. Marty Wielgos concludes by saying he will be happy to share these projects with the Board once the projects start coming together next year.

Marty asks the Board if they have any questions for him and Commissioner Owana Miller asks if Sharon Szany will be starting after the new year, to which the CEO confirms that she will.

PERSONNEL REPORT

There was no Personnel Report.

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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

CONSULTANT REPORTS

Mike Hickey, from MJHY says that the Board should have a copy of his status report and that the only thing he has to report on that is what he said last Board Meeting regarding Item 5, which is the Consent Decree Status Report. He says he's happy to take any questions.

There are no questions for Mike Hickey.

RESOLUTIONS

The Board considered Resolution No. 33-2022: 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 4th Quarter of 2022, From the Operation and Maintenance Fund (606) to the Replacement Fund (460).

Rubio **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 33-2022.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0. A copy of Resolution 33-2022 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The Board considered Resolution No. 34-2022: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana, Fixing Salaries and Wage Rates for the Hammond Sanitary District for the Year 2023.

Miller **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 34-2022.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0. A copy of Resolution 34-2022 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The Board considered the Bank Reconciliation Document Dated November 30, 2022.

Miller **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve the Bank Reconciliation Document Dated November 30, 2022.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

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

Rubio **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 12-13-22.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0. A copy of the Claims Approval Docket 12-13-22 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Vice-President Dye called for Old Business

There is no Old Business.

Vice-President Dye called for New Business

There is no New Business.

Vice-President Dye called for Reports from Commissioners

There were no reports from Commissioners.

Vice-President Dye called for Public Expression

There was no public expression.

Vice-President Dye called for a motion to adjourn the meeting

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

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 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