

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSISONERS MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2022
www.hammondsd.com

The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 4:03 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 4:03 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, Rubio

Commissioners Absent: Miller

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

Others Present: Mike Hickey, MJHY, LLC
Natalie Cook, Donohue

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Marty commented that Commissioner Miller indicated to him that she needed a procedure done, so she would be out for this meeting and possibly the next one as well.

President Dimopoulos stated that the first order of business is the Election of Officers for 2022.

Dye **moved** to nominate Sam Dimopoulos as President of the Board for 2022 and Rubio **seconded**.

Attorney Allegretti explained President Dimopoulos can move that nominations be closed and have election by acclimation which has been how they have done it.

There were no other nominations for President.

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Dye **moved** and Rubio **seconded** to elect Sam Dimopoulos as President of the Hammond Sanitary District Board for 2022.

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

Hawkins **moved** to nominate Michael Dye as Vice-President of the Board for 2022 and Rubio **seconded**.

There were no other nominations for Vice-President.

Hawkins **moved** and Rubio **seconded** to elect Michael Dye as Vice-President of the Hammond Sanitary District Board for 2022.

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

Dye **moved** to nominate Rachel Montes as Board Secretary and Kaleigh Boyle as Assistant Board Secretary of the Board for 2022 Rubio **seconded**.

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

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to elect Rachel Montes as Board Secretary and Kaleigh Boyle as Assistant Board Secretary of the Hammond Sanitary District Board for 2022.

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

President Dimopoulos stated that the next order of business is the consideration of the December 14, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

Hawkins **moved** and Dye **seconded** to approve the December 14, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

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

Chief Executive Officer's Report

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Chief Executive Officer, Marty Wielgos, stated they basically held off any hiring late 4th quarter because it is really not a good time to bring new people on- there are a lot of people taking vacation and it is just really not a good time for the training process. Now, that they are into the 1st quarter in January, Jeff has a couple openings- a couple that will be in the Lab, an operator and maybe a laborer position available, so they are going to be posting those. One of the people—what is unique about the Sanitary District just to refresh the Board. When he was a Board member, the Mayor actually asked him to bring that to the table for a vote and the Board graciously did. The Sanitary District in Hammond is the only unique entity that allows its employees to make a choice to either live in Hammond or the Town of Munster. No other entity in the City of Hammond allows that. Everybody else, if you work for any department in the City of Hammond, you have to live in the City of Hammond. The Hammond Sanitary District has that unique opportunity. He just wanted to refresh everybody on that. He told Commissioner Hawkins if he knows any folks that are looking for work—they have one lady, and he asked Jeff to correct him if he is wrong, who he had met several years ago who has—He asked Jeff to explain what ability and knowledge she has and he will pick up from there.

Jeff Massey explained that she worked in the Scientology lab at Community Hospital for a number of years and then she is also a Registered Mortician. She has a strong Chemistry background which is something they are looking for in the Lab.

Marty added and she now resides in the Town of Munster. She was afraid that if Jeff hired her, she would have to move and they told her no, she does not have to move at all.

Commissioner Hawkins said that if they have postings, he would ask that those be sent to either him or Dustin Anderson with an explanation, but if they are sent to him, he will do that, so they can post them in Munster.

Jeff said he will do that.

Marty commented that other than that, they talked a little about it at their last meeting and both executive sessions about some of their costs of supplies and most importantly chemicals have not only tripled, but may go even higher than that. They are on top of it and it is not a red flag yet because they still have it under control, but he will let them know if it becomes a burden. He let the Mayor know the same thing at their meeting yesterday. Other than that, he does not have anything else.

PERSONNEL REPORT

There was no Personnel Report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

President Dimopoulos said they did receive a Financial Report that was submitted today. He asked if he could get a motion to approve the Financial Report as presented.

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve the Financial Report.

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Safety Report

There were no questions or comments.

GIS Report

There were no questions or comments.

Sewer Maintenance Report

There were no questions or comments.

CONSULTANT REPORTS

MJHY, LLC

Mike Hickey stated that the Board should have a copy of his status report. He would be happy to take any questions on that.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if they have received the information that they needed from the Town of Griffith yet.

Mike replied no. They said mid-January, so it is not late yet. They will wait and get to the 15th before reaching out since they said initially middle of the month.

Donohue

Natalie Cook commented that she had nothing to add to the status report.

The Board considered the Bank Reconciliation Document dated December 31, 2021.

President Dimopoulos commented this was also not included in their original packet, but they did receive a copy of it now.

Rubio **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of the Bank Reconciliation Document dated December 31, 2021.

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

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The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 01-11-22.

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 01-11-22.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

50/50 Hammond Household Flood Protection Program 2021 Annual Report

Marty said he believes he indicated that they would have that at the next meeting for the Board.

Rachel was unaware and said Katie handles that.

Kaleigh commented that report was included in this packet for informational purposes.

Attorney Allegretti stated that a vote does not need to be taken for that. It is just for the record.

Marty commented that they can see the activity they have had is obviously greater than it has been any time he has been here, but even with all of the course of events that have happened the last several years, it is like pulling teeth trying to get people to take advantage of the program. They have it plastered all over the internet, he talks about when he goes out to speak, the Mayor talks about it all of the time. To him, this should be doubled or tripled based on what had taken place here two years ago especially in the City of Hammond. He just wanted to add that comment.

President Dimopoulos responded that he has seen it on the Hammond website as well, so the opportunity for these people to act on it is there. You can take a horse to water, but you cannot make them drink. It is available if they want to partake in it and that is all they can do.

Commissioner Hawkins stated that he noted in the board meeting minutes

President Dimopoulos called for Old Business

Commissioner Hawkins stated that he noted in the board meeting minutes from the last meeting and he remembers they talked about the situation with fraud and a check and he is wondering if there is any update on that.

Rachel replied there is not. It takes a while. Their bank has to try and communicate with the bank that cashed it which in this case is Fifth Third. They said 9 times out of 10, the bank that cashed it won't send over information, so they have to take their time. They have to allot them time to respond, so she did say it was a lengthy process.

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Marty added that when he was told that and said that he asks Rachel probably once a week about this check because the District is not only out \$5000, but technically \$10,000 because they had to issue another \$5000. He has had communications personally with Rachel and the bank and he told them that he wishes the process would be a little quicker for a couple reasons. One, the District is a pretty big customer of the bank. That is number one. Two, it was at no fault on the District's end that this activity took place. None at all. Somebody got a hold of it in the mail or at the place it was being delivered. They do not know. Number three, is that he wants more pressure put on Fifth Third by their bank. The District filed a police report and it just seems—he would think, and he does not want to say things negatively because they love their bank, but he would think the bank would have some kind of insurance that covers this type of thing.

Commissioner Rubio asked what was the date of the fraudulent check.

Marty responded that they can get her that information. He does not think they have that.

Commissioner Rubio said she thought she had seen something in the Bank Reconciliation document.

Rachel replied that the stolen check—

Commissioner Rubio asked if this is something that has been going on for a long time.

Rachel answered no.

Kaleigh added she thought it was September.

Rachel said it is always going to just hang out on the bank rec because they haven't received the money back yet. She looked up information and said, yes, it is from 09/15/2021.

Marty commented again that he wanted to say they love their bank—

Commissioner Rubio commented that they see this all the time at the bank. During Covid, she will say that they have seen so many lock boxes get broken into and checks stolen, so clients pay through a lock box service, those checks were stolen and the checks were washed so it was a legitimate check with a good signature and check number, but it was made payable to somebody else and maybe the dollar amount was changed. It is a process. They normally say 90 days and they are insured, so they will get their money back. The other thing is if they have not heard back, they can give provisional credit to refund back those funds.

Rachel replied they thought so too, but she said no.

Marty said he would be happy with a provisional credit unless they find something that is totally out of whack and they say they have to take the \$5000 back because it is this, this or that.

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Commissioner Rubio stated that someone at her level or higher can push it and definitely make sure. She is going to look up the information so the District can get a provisional credit.

Marty answered that would be great. He thinks this is why Commissioner Hawkins, and he does not want to speak for him, but they have a lot of things to watch for and do so something like this will fall through the cracks because time has passed. It is \$5,000 and not \$100,000 so it falls off of the radar. He is not saying that it would, but he is one to address it immediately so that it does not happen. Like he said, he believes that First Midwest—Fifth Third should be held responsible right now because they are the ones who unfortunately got the bad check. It had to be a customer of theirs or something, but unfortunately that is where it stopped, so that is why they are pushing so hard because it has been to him a long time (September of last year) and—

Commissioner Rubio commented that she will definitely get it resolved before the next meeting.

Marty thanked her.

President Dimopoulos called for New Business

Marty stated that he thinks it would be an appropriate time to introduce the new Commissioner.

President Dimopoulos commented that Monica Rubio is their new Commissioner. Welcome. He said she can see how efficient they are here. He said they are so efficient here because of the great staff and personnel here that run the whole operation. Again, he welcomed her and asked if she had any questions. He explained that during the meeting, she can see that they are pretty informal, so if she has any questions, just ask.

Commissioner Rubio said that she is honored to be on the commission. She ahs worked with Marty for a very long time. She is a long-time Hammond resident, graduated from Hammond High and the Purdue Cal and has lived here. She has two daughters who are taking advantage of the College Bound program. One is a junior at IUN and one is a sophomore at Ball State. She is excited for all of the things and progress for Hammond. Growing up here, she would have never imagined in a million years that this is where Hammond would be at, but she is excited to be a part of the continued growth.

President Dimopoulos asked what her daughter is studying at Ball State.

Commissioner Rubio answered Business Management.

President Dimopoulos stated that he went to Ball State.

Commissioner Dye jokingly asked how many years ago.

Commissioner Rubio said that she is sure it probably looks the same.

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President Dimopoulos called for Reports from Commissioners

Commissioner Hawkins commented that he had a couple of things to say. He noticed today driving by the Calumet Avenue lift station that they cleaned up that area that was really overgrown and told Marty it looks really nice. He wanted to thank Marty, Jeff and Dan Zander. He also noticed they are doing a little work on the outside of the lift station at 45th and Calumet. The sign was falling down for a while now and are working on the inside. He saw the new doors today passing by blinding him in the sunlight and just wanted to thank them an awful lot. He appreciates it from himself and the Town.

Marty responded that they are going to have those letters put back up. He asked Dan if they are in the process. He said they are going to go back as they were without any changes at all. They are going to stay the exact same thing, but they all needed to be replaced. So, he told them to take them all down, so there were not letters here and there, but every project that they do now on these outlying stations, when doors need to be replaced, they are replacing them with stainless steel. One, they look a lot better and two, they will last a lot longer. Because of these stations being plucked and tucked in various neighborhoods, he thinks when they have the opportunity like this when they need repairs done, they do it to the top notch.

Commissioner Hawkins said it looks really nice.

President Dimopoulos called for Public Expression

There was not any public expression.

President Dimopoulos called for a motion to adjourn the meeting

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

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, 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



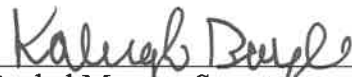
Michael Hawkins, Sr., Member



Owana Miller, Member



Monica Rubio, Member

ATTEST: 

Rachel Montes, Secretary
Kaleigh Boyle, Assistant Secretary

Board Minutes Prepared By: Kaleigh Boyle