

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
APRIL 25, 2023
www.hammondsd.com

The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 4:08 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 4:08 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
Joseph Allegretti, District Counsel
Matthew Muta, Deputy District Manager
Rachel Montes, Business Manager
Jeffrey Massey, HSD
Dan Zander, HSD
Sharon Szany, HSD
Robert Szczudlo, HSD
Jack Smith, Sewer Department
Kaleigh Boyle, HSD
Jessie Amezcua, HSD

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

President Dimopoulos stated that the first order of business is the consideration of the April 11, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.

Miller **moved** and Rubio **seconded** to approve the April 11, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.

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

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Chief Executive Officer, Marty Wielgos, stated that as they briefly discussed in the executive session, they are very close to total agreement with all three customer communities in principle. Now, they are just waiting to get the final documents signed. Griffith is the only one that they still have to have some dialogue with on capacity, but the other two (Whiting and Highland) have pretty much everything agreed to and documents being finalized. As he talked about at the last meeting,

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
APRIL 25, 2023
www.hammondsd.com

the Mayor is very happy with results. He can only say it has been a long nine and a half years of an upward climb because when they started, they knew they were going to have to go through the court system and they were going to have a lot of disgruntled folks. If they remember, they lost in the Indiana Supreme Court, but because they were doing the right thing and kept moving forward and not letting that stop them, it got them to where they are today. It is a big achievement and a big monkey off of his back. He knows Mr. Hawkins was at almost every one of those meetings with each of those communities over all of those years. There was a lot of time spent in negotiations and everything that has been involved. Anyway, he is very happy that they are almost there. He does not want to jinx it, but wants to thank the Board for being persistent and working with him to keep it alive and get to where they are today. That is all he has.

Commissioner Hawkins added that the lawyers, Marty, and staff went through some pretty deep stuff. At first, the customer communities did not even want to talk to HSD. They then went to the Supreme Court and lost and he had drove down there and seen it that day and thought they were stuck then, but they kept going little by little like the little train that kept going and now they got somewhere. This is going to be very good financially for the District. Congratulations, everyone.

President Dimopoulos commented that he thinks once everything is settled, they should put out something to the public letting them know how great of a job staff did to keep this thing going and how great it is for Hammond to get this thing in place with all the customer communities.

Attorney Allegretti said that there was a significant article in the newspaper about the Town of Griffith. They are doubling their sewer user charges and blamed it on you.

President Dimopoulos stated that it is great news. He is very happy they are finally going to be able to put it behind them.

PERSONNEL REPORT

There was no personnel report for this meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Business Manager, Rachel Montes, stated she had nothing to highlight, but would take any questions.

CONSULTANT REPORTS

MJHY

Mike Hickey stated that Hammond's quarterly consent decree status report is due May 9th, so they are working on that and they will submit that on time. That is all he has.

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
APRIL 25, 2023
www.hammondsd.com

Donohue

Natalie Cook explained they are finishing up the annual CSO report this week, so that will be ready to publish in a month. That is all she has.

Commissioner Hawkins stated that something he just thought of reading past minutes, Donohue is doing something on the double disc system.

Natalie asked if he means the disc filters. That came up originally as part of the Leopardo project evaluating if they could replace existing sand filters with tertiary disc filters instead. It did not end up fitting as part of that project and may get picked up in the future, but that was dropped with that project.

RESOLUTIONS

The Board considered Resolution No. 8-2023: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Determining Certain Equipment of the District to be Surplus and Providing for its Sale.

Dye **moved** and Rubio **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 8-2023.

Commissioner Hawkins said that he was reading this and something struck him discussing vehicles that have been left in the custody of an officer or employee of the District and have remained unclaimed for more than one year.

Attorney Allegretti answered that it is part of the language of the statute, so he throws it in. It is part of his template. If you park your car here and leave it for a year, they can sell it and keep the money.

Commissioner Hawkins questioned when they dispose of stuff, how they do it.

Marty replied they do it by auction. He does two things since they are vehicles that can also be scrapped. He has Jeff put a report together for him on what the scrap value may be, so that gives him a determination on when they do the auction whether or not that bid is worth for them to accept or if they are better just scrapping it. They have always done that in the past and it has worked really well for them.

Attorney Allegretti stated that the statute allows them to determine the cost of sale or disposal exceeds fair market value. Sometimes they put that in there, but they have not determined how they are going to do that yet based on what Marty just said.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
APRIL 25, 2023
www.hammondsd.com

The Board considered Resolution No. 9-2023: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Authorizing Execution of a Temporary Easement Agreement and the Release and Termination of Existing Easements Within Vacated Public Rights-Of-Way to Accommodate City's Tailor Row Project.

Miller **moved** and Rubio **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 9-2023.

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

The Board considered the Bank Reconciliation Document dated March 31, 2023.

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of the Bank Reconciliation Document dated March 31, 2023.

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

The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 04-25-23.

Miller **moved** and Rubio **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 04-25-23.

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

Natalie Cook wanted to clarify something from earlier. They work on two different disc filter projects. There is the on-site tertiary disc filter project and then also the off-site wet weather disc filter project that they are working on right now.

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
APRIL 25, 2023
www.hammondsd.com

Commissioner Hawkins responded that the one they are working on right now with wet weather would be for the facility on the Southside. He asked what they are doing.

Natalie replied that at this point they started work on a preliminary engineering report which is a requirement for any state funding from Indiana (SRF funding). The preliminary engineering report includes high level costs, an alternatives analysis that is done as part of the Long-Term Control Plan, but it needs to be submitted with the State of Indiana and IDEM needs to review as well. They need to prove that the site that has been selected is environmentally acceptable and there is no additional history of this site that needs to be taken into account (it is not a flood risk), so that is kind of the first step that needs to happen before they move into design of the disc filters.

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** 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
APRIL 25, 2023
www.hammondsd.com



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