

MINUTES  
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
JULY 25, 2023  
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The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 4:06 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 4:06 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, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Commissioners Absent: Dye

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

Others Present: Mike Hickey, MJHY  
Natalie Cook, Donohue  
Ken Schoon, Munster Town Council  
Dennis Benoit, HRC  
Joshua Cole, HRC

The meeting started with a bid opening.

President Dimopoulos commented that they did receive one bid and asked what the project is.

Marty explained that it is the Kennedy Avenue project- relining of the force main.

President Dimopoulos stated that they did receive one bid. The bid came from Murphy Pipeline Contractors at 12235 New Berlin Road in Jacksonville, FL 32226. Again, this is from MPC. The bid is enclosed for the Kennedy Avenue pump station force main. They did include an addendum #1. The total fee (they have seven-line items) and the total fee is \$2,935, 010. That is for mobilization, 24-inch force main slip lining, 24-inch force main open cut replacement, 24-inch by 18-inch stainless steel line stop bypass connection, 24-inch line stop valve, 24-inch bend

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fittings, railroad permit fees and allowances. The railroad fees and allowances are bolded out at \$50,000 so he is assuming that is probably an estimate.

Marty replied that he is going to ask Dennis Benoit and his crew to respond to that since they know more.

Dennis Benoit from HRC said that is an allowance amount to cover incidentals, but that it is an estimate.

President Dimopoulos reiterated the total bid amount of \$2,935,010 is the bid. He went through documents to make sure they have all necessary documents which they did. He asked what else do they need to see out of this.

Dennis responded that there are other items that the District will be handling outside of that to complete the project such as traffic control, bypass pumping and connecting the bypass pumping at the pump station. There is roughly about \$700,000 of other stuff that needs to get done in addition to that and with contingencies, it could be another one million dollars overall.

President Dimopoulos said they are looking at the Kennedy Avenue project- a safe number being around 4 million dollars.

Dennis replied about \$3,750,000. He misspoke with the total there.

President Dimopoulos stated that they are going to take this under consideration and give it to the staff.

Marty added that they are going to take it under consideration. He thinks that when it comes to the other, he would like to see more detail because it is kind of like a little misleading when you see that and oh by the way there is another one million. It seems like a lot of money to do what was just described. The other items. He asked Dan being on the construction side if that number makes sense or does it not.

Dan Zander answered that it all adds up in a big hurry. You got six weeks of 24-hour dewatering on two different locations with crews on each site you have to man 24 hours a day, the bypass pumping so you will have the booster pumps and all that piping with another crew on that 24 hours a day watching that. It adds up and then you do have traffic control that has to be monitored so it is not being torn down every night and needing to be put back up. They can definitely get it more itemized.

Marty said that is not necessary because that makes more sense, but he does want to explain to the Board that this is only half. He asked Dan to explain from where to where is this.

Dan answered that this is going to be from Kennedy Avenue station up to the Buckeye building there, so it is about half of what the force main is.

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Commissioner Hawkins asked if the total would go up to Indianapolis Boulevard or further. Dan responded that it would go up to Indianapolis Boulevard for the whole thing.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if when this was bid out, it seems that it has come in over what was expected, he wonders if this could be due to the fact that in this environment that we have now with construction companies being very busy and rising costs and we only got one bid.

Dan stated that the process of how this one needs to be done limits how many contractors are available to do this because this is a specialized thing and this is kind of this company's baby. They do this and are pretty much the sole one to the United States who do this. This type with having to go underneath the tracks, it is very limited because they cannot even get to the pipe because they put the embankment of the bridge over it now and you are so deep in that area that you cannot do a manhole. It just does not work in this area- this is kind of the only way.

Commissioner Hawkins questioned if under the tracks there is a sleeve.

Dan answered that under this one—this will be inside of the existing pipe. They take the HDPE and kind of shrink and stretch it and pull it through and tension it and shrink it and then once it is in there it will fit to the pipe. It is a neat operation.

Jeff explained that the main difference from this one compared to normal is that this is a pressurized pipe. This being a pressurized pipe you are pulling an HDPE pipe through stretching it and then it is tension fitting back into place to hold the pressure of the pipe. That is what makes it unusual compared to a normal situation.

Commissioner Hawkins asked when bidding this project out, if the additional costs were expected or not.

Dennis said that those are anticipated.

Dan said that Murphy did not want to include that stuff because with them being out of town it is easier for us to find someone in town to take care of that part so they did not have to add more to their overhead and raise their bid dealing with the headaches involved with that stuff.

Marty asked what was the District's projected cost that we thought it would be.

Dennis answered 2.8 million including the incidentals.

Marty said so technically the million dollar increase came on their side. That is the question. It went up one million dollars. What they talked about in staff assuming this is where this was headed was to give this back to staff, have them recontact the company and see if they can sharpen their pencil any. He also told them he wants a plan B and the plan B would be to shorten

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that even more and see what that cost is. Here is the problem- it is underneath the tracks and unfortunately, where is it leaking- underneath the tracks. Every day, every month that goes by you never know what is going to happen. They are telling him after he heard today that it really starts to leak when the pump turns on which kind of makes sense. It is filling the pipe and of course it is pushing a lot through that pipe, but when the pumps are off it seems to be okay. He asked how often in a non-rain day does that pump run.

Jeff replied that they cycle off and on often, but it is just a matter of the pressure in the line. When it rains and you are running more pumps, there is more pressure.

Marty stated that is why he stated the question he did with the rains putting it a little more under what possibly could happen and when it is not raining, they are taking their chances that it is cycling, it comes up a little and goes back down and not coming over, but it is settling or puddling above ground. It is coming up a little and then going back down. He needs to see those two sets of numbers with them sharpening their pencil and shortening the project and see what that comes in at. If the numbers make sense even though probably not the wisest thing to do with mobilization and all those other costs, the million does not change. It may change in the length of time they are doing it if they are only doing half, but that is what he kind of looks at to see so he can present to the Board it still makes sense. Even if it is not the best way to do it, it is the only way they can do it based on their financial capability. That is what he is going to recommend to the Board- that they send it back to staff and he is going to instruct staff to reapproach the company and see the answer to those questions.

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

Hawkins **moved** and Rubio **seconded** to approve the July 11, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Chief Executive Officer, Marty Wielgos, stated that he thinks he covered the key things just a little while ago. The good thing is that Rachel was struggling being two people short downstairs. They have Jackie that the Board was introduced to a little bit ago today to take Brandon's spot and then the other gentleman that they both like is going to see the Mayor at the end of the month. They are excited about that. Other than that, everything else is running well.

### **PERSONNEL REPORT**

There was no Personnel Report.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

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Business Manager, Rachel Montes, had nothing to highlight, but will take any questions.

**CONSULTANT REPORTS**

**MJHY, LLC**

Mike Hickey stated that the permit application for the disinfection facility he has talked about the last couple board meetings did get submitted to IDEM on July 17<sup>th</sup>, so HSD got that out the door.

**DONOHUE**

Natalie Cook commented that there was no report from her today. She is just here to be a fly on the wall.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**The Board considered Resolution No. 21-2023: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of the City of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Authorizing Permanent Transfers of Money Between Certain Funds.**

Rubio **moved** and Miller **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 21-2023.

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

**The Board considered the Bank Reconciliation Document dated June 30, 2023.**

Miller **moved** and Rubio **seconded** for the approval of the Bank Reconciliation Document dated June 30, 2023.

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

**The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 07-25-23.**

Hawkins **moved** and Miller **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 07-25-23.

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

**President Dimopoulos called for Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

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**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.

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

Miller moved and Rubio seconded for adjournment.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 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