

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023
www.hammondsd.com

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.

Vice-President Dye 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: Dye, Hawkins, Miller

Commissioners Absent: Dimopoulos

Commissioners Present via Zoom: Rubio

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
Dan Zander, HSD
Bob Szczudlo, HSD
Jack Smith, Sewer Department
Carol McCormack, HSD
Jacqueline Vargas, HSD
David Kincaid, HSD
Jessie Amezcua, HSD

Others Present: Michael Hickey, MJHY
Natalie Cook, Donohue

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-President Dye explained that they do have one Commissioner present remotely (Rubio), so they will take roll call votes on all motions today.

Vice-President Dye stated that the first order of business is the consideration of the August 29, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.

Hawkins **moved** and Miller **seconded** to approve the August 29, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio
Nays: None

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Motion **carried** 4-0.

Vice-President Dye stated that the Board does have a Revised Agenda in front of them today adding two items under new business.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Chief Executive Officer, Marty Wielgos, stated that he does not have much to add today other than that everything seems to be running really well. They have a meeting at the end of this week or early next week with their counsel from Indianapolis to discuss the various payments and the ways they will receive those payments from the Town of Highland because as the Board knows there are about five or six buckets that they are going to be paying us into. It is some very large amounts of money that go back a couple of years actually and cover a true-up or two and a variety of other things as part of their settlement agreement with them. That is moving along very well actually. Highland has really stepped up to the plate to do what they said they would do. Internally, he talked to Rachel about monitoring where each of those accounts are and he wants regular updates, so he can submit those to the Board because as they can remember, part of their agreement with Highland some of those monies are for monies that they have owed in the past, so that will be recognized and the Board will see exactly what that number is and other monies are going to be a part of capital improvements that have been made and then part of the rate increase. He wants to be able to make it very clear to the Board members for each of the customer communities what those are because they have spent a whole lot of time getting to where they are today with them and he thinks it is important with that long fight that they had with them moving in a direction knowing where they had to go, so that all of the rates were fair and equal across the board for everybody that the Board now knows where those monies and what those monies are and what they are being used for as they come into the District. He thinks the Board needs to be updated on all of that as they get those. Other than that, they have some new hires that they are looking at. They are not a part of this meeting, but will be a part of the next meeting and of course during the executive session they talked about some different moves they are making downstairs which he is very excited about and happy to have Board approval on. He feels very good. Things are very good at the District. It is hard to believe it is already the middle of September when the year feels like it just started. Things are good. They have no issues or problems. He is very happy with the way that Jeff is running the Plant and their Superintendent of Maintenance is doing a great job. Just very good. They are at a good point he feels. Once again, you could not ask for anything better than that. He has talked to Attorney Allegretti and he will let him talk briefly about where they are with the Town of Griffith, but also about the railroad property they acquired several years ago. They unfortunately found that some of their neighbors on the north side of our property have encroached over the years onto the railroad property. They have identified them and fortunately it is not that many, just a couple or so, and they are in the process of having conversations with them on what is the best thing to do. In his opinion, he thinks they know what they paid for the property, they have figured out what it is and how much property they have encroached on and because they are our northerly neighbors and are businesses that have been here for years, that they actually accommodate them by selling

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them what they have encroached on for the fair market value plus an increase from what the District paid.

Vice-President Dye asked if they have done this exercise with one neighbor already.

Marty answered they did. That was for Hammond Machine. This is separate. In fact, he was not encroaching. The ones he is talking about actually encroached when it was still railroad property because they maybe needed more land and just moved over. It really is not a lot. One of the folks they are talking about have taken a large piece, but still nothing that can't be worked out in his mind. Instead of having a straight fence line, they will have a fence line that kind of zig zags and they are already going to have that now because of Hammond Machine. He does not think it is detrimental to the District for years to come for that being an impediment because of the fact that they are doing something now that may be would cause them some difficulty with expansion, but he just does not see it. He thinks working with them and showing the neighbor that we are going to be reasonable, but just want to recoup whatever it is they have encroached on because we paid for it. Other than that, he has nothing else.

Attorney Allegretti said that he has nothing to report since the last discussion, but he is trying to negotiate with the Town of Griffith's Council and attorneys trying to negotiate the same issue they discussed last time. They are resisting any kind of language in there and expect the smoke to clear. He is confident the issue should be put to bed by the next meeting.

Marty explained they are current with payments now and they did get caught up really quick after it was brought to their attention, so that is not an issue.

PERSONNEL REPORT

There was no Personnel Report.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Sewer Maintenance

No questions or comments.

Safety

No questions or comments.

CONSULTANT REPORTS

MJHY, LLC

Mike Hickey stated that about a month ago HSD submitted a construction permit application to IDEM for the disinfection facility across the street. IDEM had a number of questions, so he is working with Jeff, Donohue and HRC and they have answered all the questions and Jeff signed the response letter today and they are sending that back to them. He will keep the Board posted.

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DONOHUE

Natalie Cook commented that she had nothing specific to note.

The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 09-12-23.

Miller **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 09-12-23.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

Vice-President Dye called for Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

Vice-President Dye called for New Business

There are two items today under new business.

The Board considered Resolution No. 23-2023: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Amending Salaries and Wage Rates for the Hammond Sanitary District for the Year 2023.

Hawkins **moved** and Rubio **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 23-2023.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

Item b under new business is in regards to a 2021 invoice (PO #23-5292) for vendor Unifirst that was somehow missed by the vendor and resubmitted to us. They need a motion to approve this payment to Unifirst.

Hawkins **moved** and Miller **seconded** to approve payment to Unifirst for outstanding 2021 invoices.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

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.

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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 4:17 p.m.



Sam Dimopoulos, President



Michael Dye, Vice-President



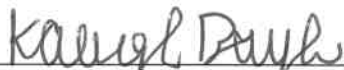
Michael Hawkins, Sr., Member



Owana Miller, Member



Monica Rubio, Member

ATTEST: 
Rachel Montes, Secretary
Kaleigh Boyle, Assistant Secretary

Board Minutes Prepared By: Kaleigh Boyle