

MINUTES  
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
MARCH 26, 2024  
[www.hammondsd.com](http://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, Miller, Rubio

Commissioners Present via Zoom: Hawkins

Commissioners Absent: Dye

District Personnel Present: Milan Kruszynski, District Manager  
Matthew Muta, Deputy District Manager  
Rachel Montes, Business Manager  
Joseph Allegretti, HSD Attorney  
Jeffrey Massey, HSD  
Dan Zander, HSD  
Sharon Szany, HSD  
Bob Szczudlo, HSD  
Jack Smith, Sewer Department  
Carol McCormack, HSD  
Jessie Amezcua, HSD

Others Present: Natalie Cook, Donohue

Others Present via Zoom: Mike Hickey, MJHY LLC

The Board will take roll call votes for all items since Commissioner Hawkins is attending and voting via Zoom.

President Dimopoulos stated that the first order of business is the consideration of the March 12, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.

Miller **moved** and Rubio **seconded** to approve the March 12, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

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**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT**

District Manager, Milan Kruszynski, said that he feels like he talks to them about rain every two weeks. Today, they had rain- about 4/10 of an inch and they did have to go to the basin for a little while. He asked Jeff Massey if it is back empty now.

Jeff answered yes, it is.

Milan replied that is good news. He explained they did have to send some stuff to the basin earlier, but now they are back to operating as normal. They will be moving forward with the Kennedy Avenue force main project. They had an extensive meeting this morning (pre-con meeting) with the contractors, consultants, and those engineers that are going to observe the project. They will have a better handle in the next week or two to know exactly when they will be starting. With the help of Dean Button, our City Engineer, they are going to the Board of Public Works and Safety to get streets closed. Eventually, Kennedy Avenue will be closed at the pump station and Michigan Avenue will also need to be closed probably in both directions from Buckeye Pipeline to Kennedy Avenue. He is not exactly sure how long it will take, but there will be an extensive timeline given that might end sometime in June. It is going to take a while to get this all done, but there are a lot of hands-on deck from operations and maintenance to sewer to financial to make sure this is going to get done the right way.

Milan continued that the Sewer Department has reported that they cleaned about 12 miles of sewers so far this year. Jack will have all of his vacator trucks operational by the end of the month. They just got one back that needs to be cleaned up to get ready for service on Monday. In HR, Sharon is going to talk to them about the Personnel Report. IT is working with the electricians on the pump stations and new PCs at Kennedy and Robertsdale. In finance, as they can see, they are going to be presenting an expenditure plan today which was also taken care of in Storm Water. They continue to work on the budgets. Also, Rachel and the team downstairs continue to work on fixed assets. Matt has been helping them with Cintas and their clothing and they just had a meeting this morning with them going over that project and making sure that everyone has the right clothes. Matt will be on vacation next week. Milan told him to have a good time. Attorney Allegretti is working diligently on document destruction. There is limited space to store materials, so some of this stuff really needs to get destroyed. Jeff's suggestion was to throw it in the digester. He asked Mr. Hickey to give the Board a quick breakdown.

Mike Hickey stated that he is working with Karl Cender and Donohue to generate the information needed to update the Long-Term Control Plan and the Financial Capability Analysis (FCA).

Milan thanked Mike Hickey for that. He said he had two more things. Friday is a scheduled day off for the District and Happy Easter to everyone.

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President Dimopoulos commented that since they have heard Mike Hickey's report that he would like to just plug in Consultants now. He asked Natalie from Donohue if she had anything to report today.

Natalie responded that she did not have anything specific to report on today.

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

The Board did receive a Personnel Report today.

Sharon explained that they have two new hires. One will be starting on Monday and the other the following week in Operations. They also dropped one of their FMLAs, so now they are down to six.

Commissioner Miller said that is good.

Miller **moved** and Rubio **seconded** for the approval of the Personnel Report dated March 26, 2024.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**The Board considered Resolution No. 5-2024: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana, Authorizing the Permanent Transfer of \$634,514 For the 1st Quarter Of 2024, From the Operation and Maintenance Fund (6201) To the Replacement Fund (6206).**

Rubio **moved** and Miller **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 5-2024.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

**The Board considered Resolution No. 6-2024: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Hammond Sanitary District, Lake County, Indiana, Adopting the 2024 Financial Expenditure Plan for the Pretreatment Fund (6209) in the Amount of \$646,534**

President Dimopoulos stated that Commissioner Hawkins cannot vote on the next two Resolutions via Zoom.

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Miller **moved** and Rubio **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 6-2024.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 3-0.

**The Board considered Resolution No. 7-2024: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Hammond Sanitary District, Lake County, Indiana, Adopting the 2024 Financial Expenditure Plan for the Operation and Maintenance Fund (6201) in the Amount of \$28,579,922**

Miller **moved** and Rubio **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 7-2024.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 3-0.

**The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 03-26-24.**

Commissioner Hawkins commented that he would like to initiate some discussion on this. He said that he is going to be discussing the Sewer Maintenance account (6208) in regards to PO #24-5102 which is the \$93,151 claim to the Town of Munster. He would like to request the details and supporting documentation for this claim including calculation methodology, applicable agreements and all other stuff that has to do with this claim presented. Since they do not have this information today and while he appreciates and supports the timely processing and payments of claims, he would like to make a motion that this one item (PO #24-5102) be tabled at this time.

Attorney Allegretti replied that he thinks their Business Manager should describe what the item is. He knows they have discussed this very briefly previously.

Rachel Montes explained that the claim the Commissioner is pointing out is the claim to forward property taxes-2022 taxes payable in 2023- in regards to miscellaneous taxes we have collected.

President Dimopoulos asked about the backup he was asking about.

Rachel answered that is all part of the claim.

Attorney Allegretti explained that historically they have divided certain tax revenue and it is not put in the general fund, but rather such as the Sewer Maintenance fund for maybe 25 years has been divided by the two municipalities. Not deposited, not used for operations, but rather in the case of the Sewer Maintenance fund it as divided based on the proportionate assessed valuations

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of the two municipalities and used for sewer maintenance for the two communities. Towards the end, it is no longer being divided because the fund does not collect—

Rachel clarified that it does.

Attorney Allegretti explained that based on assessed value, roughly 40% of the assessed value of the District is the Munster share. The agreement that money was divided also referred to other miscellaneous revenue. For reasons not clear or really known, that money was not divided in that same fashion. There have been ongoing discussions with the Town of Munster and he thinks some kind of acknowledgment even though they are still discussing, but a preliminary acknowledgment that this money going forward should be divided based upon that formula and the discussion of repayment of money not shared and not divided between the communities be the subject of some discussion. District Manager has suggested that starting now since the money is on hand and not deposited and a claim has been created on the claim docket and payable to Munster for this amount for the second half of 2023. Commissioner Hawkins can see exactly what backup documentation there is because they share all information with anybody- this is not confidential. That was all that was being attempted by this. It was not commentary on whether the money was rightfully or wrongfully withheld or a plan to not pay it or not to discuss the past payment of these items with the Town, but District Manager just saying for second half of 2023 a decision to make a payment starting in that time period and going forward. That was all that was intended- nothing sinister. That is all he has to say on the subject.

Hawkins **moved** and Miller **seconded** to remove PO #24-5102 from claim docket and include on next claim docket after requested documentation goes to Commissioner Hawkins.

Commissioner Hawkins added that there is a meeting with the Town of Munster on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was initially a meet and greet with Milan. He said he appreciates the efforts regarding this issue, but by asking for it to be tabled for now is a recommendation so they can have this meeting and discuss this and go from there. They certainly appreciate the efforts.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio  
Nays: None  
Motion **carried** 4-0. PO #24-5102 was tabled.

Miller **moved** and Rubio **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 03-26-24 without PO #24-5102.

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

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Michael Dye, Vice-President

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Michael Hawkins, Sr., Member

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Owana Miller, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica Rubio, Member

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Rachel Montes, Secretary

Kaleigh Boyle, Assistant Secretary

Board Minutes Prepared By: Kaleigh Boyle