

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
OCTOBER 29, 2024
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The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 4:00 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 4:00 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 Present via Zoom: N/A

Commissioners Absent: Dye

District Personnel Present: Milan Kruszynski, District Manager
Matthew Muta, Deputy District Manager
Joseph Allegretti, HSD Attorney
Jeffrey Massey, HSD
Sharon Szany, HSD
Robert Szczudlo, HSD
Kaleigh Boyle, HSD
Jessie Amezcua, HSD

Others Present: Alfonso Salinas III, Hammond City Council

Others Present via Zoom: Natalie Cook, Donohue

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Dimopoulos stated that the first order of business is the consideration of the October 15, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.

Miller **moved** and Rubio **seconded** to approve the October 15, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

District Manager, Milan Kruszynski, stated that he would like to point out that yesterday he, Rachel and Kaleigh attended the Hammond Common Council meeting- actually we attended the last two meetings. Two weeks ago, it was the first and second reading and last night was the final reading and passage of the 2025 Sewer Maintenance fund and the Special Sanitary Debt fund

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budgets. He would like to thank the City Council for helping us along that way and providing the approvals so that we can get those rolling when Rachel gets back.

Moving on to Kennedy Avenue and Michigan Avenue force main repairs, Milan said that the latest summary is that the liner passed the pressure test last week over on Michigan, so that was all hooked back up and they are utilizing the new liner and new piping as we speak. Blue Tank will begin demobilization today. Range Line, another subcontractor for the pipe, was out today and they are removing a lot of their line stops and some of their equipment that they had out there. Murphy's contacted INDOT for coordination regarding road restoration and are awaiting a response. Fingers crossed, but it is looking like the paving and painting will be completed either Thursday or Friday and compaction testing will be coordinated so that can happen. When that all happens, US 20 will be open for traffic and he cannot wait for that to happen. It has been way too long.

Next report is from Maintenance. The two areas that maintenance staff are working on is tertiary screws- the drain valve is taken care of. They are continuing to mow and do cleaning because it is still summer outside. The primary tank needs some handrail work that is being done. Digester #7 is being repaired. They are also evaluating the need for replacing the rakes at Sal-Munster, Southside and Sohl Avenue.

Milan said there is no Sewer Maintenance report today- Jack is on vacation. Sharon has included a personnel report for the Board to take a look at. Mike Hickey reported to Milan that the quarterly consent decree report that is due 11/8 will be done at the end of next week and will be bringing it to the District for signatures and will pass it on to the EPA and the DOJ.

Jeff from Operations reported that the plant is running with low flow and when that happens, there is sometimes some issues with the plant and neighborhood and some odors. This afternoon, the Water Department sent out a crew to open up the hydrants and push the solids along to the wastewater treatment plant. Staff is still hoping for some rain later this week and the beginning of next week. They are calling for rain on Wednesday, Thursday of this week and Sunday, Monday, Tuesday of next week. That will help us.

IT said that they uploaded Lucidity to the desktop for Sewer Department, so they can continue to do their maintenance work and add to their information they put in. The Chloring Building is going to get some additional security controls with some access controls put in place. Bob is in the process of helping us save about \$200 per SCADA device totaling in the neighborhood of \$8,000. This will all take place in the first few months of 2025, so there will be some savings there. We appreciate Bob and thank him.

Matt from Safety reported the on-site forklift training by a company that came in took place. 15 of our staff here got trained and certified. He is going to be scheduling defibrillator training as well in the next month. There is a report from finance for the Board to look at.

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The last two things he wanted to mention that are coming up is this Saturday is the Veteran's Day parade along 173rd Street and that starts at 10 am. Lastly, Happy Election Day. Enjoy.

President Dimopoulos thanked Milan for his report. There were no questions or comments.

President Dimopoulos said that since Milan did mention Mike Hickey and Natalie Cook from Donohue is on the line, he would like to go to her now for any updates on what Donohue has going on.

Natalie Cook stated that the Board does not have a status report from them today, but she can talk about a couple things that they have been working on lately. Last week, they had a meeting with Jeff and Milan to review the draft preliminary engineering report for the CMDF project, so they are planning to get that draft wrapped up by the end of this calendar year. They are also working with Mike Hickey to prepare the next quarterly consent decree report and they will get that over to the District next week to review. Lastly, they received and reviewed questions from Commonwealth who is working with Highland on their force main and she got some responses back to Jeff today.

PERSONNEL REPORT

There was a personnel report distributed to the Board today.

Miller **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of the Personnel Report.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Hawkins **moved** and Rubio **seconded** for the approval of the Financial Report for October 2024.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

The Board considered the Bank Reconciliation Document dated September 30, 2024.

Miller **moved** and Rubio **seconded** for the approval of the Bank Reconciliation Document dated September 30, 2024.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

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The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 10-29-24.

Hawkins **moved** and Rubio **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 10-29-24.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

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

The City of Hammond's 2nd District Councilman, Alfonso Salinas III said that he has a few comments. He wanted to start off with some of the handful of complaints that he has received from the neighborhood residents mostly regarding the odors inside of their homes. He spoke with Milan briefly at the last two council meetings that they attended in regards to the budget, but the phone calls continue to come in. It is a lot of the same residents that complained regarding the basin odors as well. It is not a basin odor, but now an internal sewage odor inside their homes. Being the representative of the area, he is curious as to what has been tried here at the District or if there is a plan moving forward. Of course, we can all agree that none of us want any odors inside of our homes, so he is hopeful that there is a plan. The last time he was here (back in May) there was a Febreze odor control method that was mentioned and he was curious if the District did or did not try that, did it not work, or is that something that is being utilized now. He would like to know where the District is at with that. It is difficult to explain to some of the residents what is going on when there are no updates or information given. The 311 app continues to list a lot of these complaints as well. The attempts of flushing hydrants was given to control some of the odors inside of these homes, but he is curious what else can be done. He is the type of person who believes if you are not trying, you are dying, so he would like to know that someone is at least trying and there are attempts being made to rectify the issue and minimize the issue. That is his first comment.

Secondly, he wanted to comment on the Michigan Street project near Kennedy which the District Manager alluded to that soon be reopened. He was just curious again because of the lack of information. Back in May, it was estimated to be a 60-day project and is currently standing at over 150 days. He is curious as to why the increase and such a delay. Again, residents and neighbors want to know where we currently stand. He did take some notes down on the

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information that was given today in regards to that. He knows that on the social media site, some of the updates have been given, but there have been no updates with new information or why these delays have occurred or where the project currently stands. There is a lack of information to the public is why he is here today.

President Dimopoulos thanked Councilman Salinas for his comments. He explained this is just the portion to say comments. His suggestion would be to stay with Milan and schedule a meeting with him. He is the best resource to get him the latest information of what is going on at the District.

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 4:12 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