

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MAY 27, 2025
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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, Dye, Hawkins

Commissioners Present via Zoom: Rubio

Commissioners Absent: Miller

District Personnel Present: Milan Kruszynski, District Manager
Matthew Muta, Deputy District Manager
Rachel Montes, Business Manager
Joseph Allegretti, Attorney
Jack Smith, HSD
Sharon Szany, HSD
Kaleigh Boyle, HSD
Jessie Amezcua, HSD

Others Present: N/A

Others Present via Zoom: Mike Hickey, MJHY
Natalie Cook, Donohue
Terry Steagall, Highland Resident

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Dimopoulos explained they will be taking roll call votes on all items today since Commissioner Rubio is attending via Zoom.

President Dimopoulos stated the first order of business is the consideration of the May 13, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve the May 13, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0. Roll call votes taken.

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FINANCIAL REPORT

Rachel Montes said that she had nothing to highlight, but would take any questions.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

District Manager, Milan Kruszynski, stated that he would like to report starting with IT. As they all can see, Bob is not here- Jessie is holding down the fort.

President Dimopoulos asked if Bob is okay.

Milan answered yes. He is just on vacation this week.

Milan said next will be Sharon in Personnel. Within the last week they received an application for employment from the City, so they are going to be converting that into a Sanitary District application. There are a couple tweaks that need to happen, nothing major. She is working with Jeff and Matt looking at tracking the occurrences of people calling off and being off, as well as all the certifications and keeping track of those. She has a couple spreadsheets going on right now with that.

Jack in the Sewer Department would like you all to know the Sewer Department cleaned 11.9 miles as of 5/23/25, so that is for May. The water tank for the vacor truck- one had suffered a bit of an accident on a tree stump, so a new one needs to be ordered. We turned that into insurance to have that all take place. Jack is going to have a repair crew on standby because of Columbia Avenue and everything that is going to be going on there with the grinding and overlay. You never know what is going to happen when working on a very old sewer. He verified that with Jack.

Jack said it is brick and very old. He said in some spots, the sewer is actually zippered on the top.

Vice-President Dye questioned that when they clean the sewers and then paint it green and wanted to know what the green signifies.

Jack replied that it is an indication for them, and it has helped them in the past. After they clean them, they mark them. They have also had a couple scenarios where thieves have stolen their covers, and they were able to go into the scrap yards and identify their covers that are all painted green.

Vice-President Dye thanked him and said he was just curious about that.

Dan in Maintenance lets them know that in primary tank #9 the inspection is going to be done next week so that tank will then be put back into service. The Sohl Avenue rakes are going through a review process with an engineering firm in order to make sure the exact sizes they are going to order from the company are going to fit. The basin across the street is being cleaned whenever it gets dry. It was cleaned last week, so it has been cleaned out. That is in good shape.

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Our biosolids are going to need a home for the foreseeable future. We know taking that down to the farms, but right now they are in their wheat season, so they do not need any biosolids. The second thing is the farmers have said that they reached their maximum use and potential out of our biosolids. Now, Jeff is looking for either new farmland and/or looking to take that to a landfill. It would be a shame because it is useful and can be used as good cover, but it is about all Jeff could do at this point. There are a lot of staff helping him with this also.

Rachel reports in finance that she is working with the auditors now and as soon as she is done with that, she will be doing capital assets.

Matt in Safety informed them that they had to reschedule the training with the Hammond Fire Department due to the bad weather that was supposed to happen over a few days last week.

As the Board can see, Mr. Massey is not with us today. He is on a personal day. He wants everyone to know that the plant is operating well. There are no issues. He has completed numerous reports to be turned into the State. As he mentioned, he is working on permits for the biosolids. He is also going to be setting up some interviews to reinterview some folks that were interviewed in the past. We had an operator within the last six weeks that worked with us for a day and then decided he didn't want to be here. They are going to reinterview the ones they interviewed before and see if they have any successful candidates.

Happy Birthday to Vice-President Dye. He wanted to make that official as part of the record.

Lastly, everyone on the Board and staff of the District would like to send our condolences, thoughts and prayers to Owana (Commissioner Miller) on the passing of her mother.

That concludes the District Manager's Report.

PERSONNEL REPORT

President Dimopoulos stated the Board did receive a Personnel Report today.

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

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0. Roll call votes taken.

CONSULTANT REPORTS

MJHY

Mike Hickey said that he is working with Max Kelln and Donohue and trying to get the disinfection requirement removed from the CSO basin. So, they need to prepare a letter to IDEM

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requesting that. They are working on that letter and will get HSD a copy as soon as it is ready. That is all he has to report.

Donohue

Natalie Cook said that she does not have anything to add.

The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 05-27-25.

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 05-27-25.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0. Roll call votes taken.

President Dimopoulos called for Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

President Dimopoulos called for New Business

Commissioner Hawkins said that he is going to direct this to Milan and they will go from there. In reviewing two recent consultant reports for Mike Hickey, he noticed two separate meeting activities subject attended meeting with HSD legal and financial teams to discuss options for rate increase. He certainly understands if the conversations were related solely to specific litigation it should not be shared with Munster, but on the other hand conversations concerning an anticipated rate increases the HSD intends to implement, Munster should be included in those conversations. He wants to ask if the conversations are concerning rate increases that the HSD intends to implement.

President Dimopoulos said to Milan that he is going to take care of this. If there are any conversations that are appropriate for Munster to be in, they are going to be in those conversations. If it is not appropriate for Munster to be in them, Munster will not be in them. Take it for that. Okay. They will include Munster if it is appropriate. If it is not appropriate, Munster is not included. Done.

President Dimopoulos called for Reports from Commissioners

President Dimopoulos said that Milan stole his thunder. He was going to wish Vice-President Dye a happy birthday under this.

President Dimopoulos called for Public Expression

There was no public expression.

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President Dimopoulos called for a motion to adjourn the meeting

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for adjournment.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0. Roll call votes taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 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