

MINUTES  
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
JUNE 24, 2025  
[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 4:00 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, Rubio (late)

Commissioners Present via Zoom: Miller

Commissioners Absent: N/A

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

District Personnel Present via Zoom: N/A

Others Present: Mike Hickey, MJHY  
Bob Valois, Munster Public Works  
Phillip Pierce, Munster Public Works

Others Present via Zoom: Natalie Cook, Donohue

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Dimopoulos explained they would be taking roll call votes on all actions today since Commissioner Miller is attending via Zoom.

President Dimopoulos stated the first order of business is the consideration of the June 10, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.

MINUTES  
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
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Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve the June 10, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

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

**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT**

District Manager, Milan Kruszynski, stated that he would like to report first on IT. He joked that Bob is not doing much of anything. He is actually pulling more data from and for Tyler as we go through that conversion. He is helping us get through that. He is also checking in on why some of the stations have not been communicating back here or to anybody else, so he is going through that process. He is very important, and we know that and appreciate everything that Bob does for us in IT.

Jack Smith from Sewer Department reported that they have cleaned 9.01 miles of sewers in June so far. The emergency repair at 5440 White Oak here in Hammond (there was a sanitary main collapse) has been completed. Grimmer Construction came in and helped complete the work. He appreciates that. Beginning June 27<sup>th</sup>, the Sewer Department will go in and clean all the sewers by the Pavillion and splash pad in anticipation of the Festival of the Lakes.

Next, Matt reported on Safety. He will be starting up the safety meetings again this Friday. Matt is now going to act as the host and the instructor of the safety meetings.

Rachel in Finance reports that they are working on capital assets and are going to be putting the utility billing on a bit of a hold with Tyler for a few days and then will get back to doing that. Starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, they will begin the pre-budget prepping that they need to do to get the budgets prepared for this fall.

In operations, Jeff, our plant superintendent, tells us that the plant is running well. The reports to the State have been completed. We have a new employee, and he is working out really well.

Maintenance reports that the CSO basin has been cleaned out. The biosolids are now going to a landfill that they talked about a few weeks ago- they have taken 30 loads so far. By mid-July they should be back to delivering the biosolids to the farms that is after the wheat season. #7 tertiary filter was malfunctioning. It has been replaced with an actuator that is going to assist in making that process work. Staff has been cleaning up around the plant.

Milan concluded that is the District Manager's report.

Vice-President Dye asked Bob from IT if the stations communicate through wi-fi.

Bob answered that we still have some stations that are using the telephone, so those are the ones we are having issues with. We have to get rid of them because AT&T is forcing us to do that, so

MINUTES  
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
JUNE 24, 2025  
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he is moving on that with the help of Austgen Electric and will transition all of those over to cellular.

Commissioner Dye commented that was part of his question. He said you can literally go up to some stations that are outside of the building and hear the dial-up tone like it is 1989 or something.

Bob said they are all cheap lines, but they are going away from copper.

Commissioner Hawkins stated it will be a lot more reliable. He also wanted to ask about the biosolids going to the landfill instead of the farms. He asked if that is quite expensive.

Milan answered it is about double the price of going to the farm.

Commissioner Hawkins asked if when it goes to the farm, the only cost is for the trucking.

Jeff replied no. He explained that they also pay a land application fee for the farmers to apply the biosolids. Right now, due to two reasons, one being it is late in the season, so they must wait for early crops to come off and the farmers we have been using for the last 20 plus years have come to the point that they need a little break from the phosphorus that we provide. Our biosolids are a really good fertilizer, but bioaccumulates unlike commercial fertilizers that run off each year ours does not, so they need a little bit of a break to catch it up. We have a new facility that hopefully as soon as their crops come off, we will be able to start sending to.

Commissioner Hawkins commented that anyone who cares about their lawn knows what milorganite is and they make big bucks from milorganite.

Milan stated that it costs money to dry the biosolids and it costs us a lot of money—he asked Jeff.

Jeff added that it is something they looked at for many years, but the cost of the equipment to dry the biosolids to 90% plus solids is immense and then the money to market it. The initial investment cost is just not suitable for us to do that.

Commissioner Hawkins said he is glad they have looked at that.

Milan stated that one more thing regarding biosolids. He said Jeff has also in the past taken the biosolids and dried them out enough to make them class A biosolids and have taken them to Lost Marsh golf course to be used on the golf course as well. Not all biosolids can go to the golf course. Most need to go to the landfill or the farms, but this specific kind that can be produced and not in great volumes can go up to the golf course and be spread out there.

MINUTES  
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
JUNE 24, 2025  
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President Dimopoulos wanted to make sure the record reflects that Commissioner Monica Rubio is in attendance now.

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

Dye **moved** and Rubio **seconded** to approve the Personnel Report.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. Roll call votes taken.

**CONSULTANT REPORTS**

**MJHY**

Mike Hickey said that he has been coordinating a meeting between HSD, EPA and IDEM relating to the disinfection of the CSO basin and that meeting is set for July 7<sup>th</sup> so he will let them know how that turns out at the next board meeting.

**Donohue**

Natalie Cook said that the only thing she wanted to say and she could not hear all of the conversation going on, but Donohue has done quite a few biosolids drying projects including a lot of work with the City of Milwaukee. It would be interesting to have a presentation on what the alternatives are. That is not something she would personally do, but they do have folks within Donohue who would be really helpful in laying out some options there.

President Dimopoulos thanked her and said they will leave that up to the District Manager and staff to see if that is something they would like to do.

**The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 06-24-25.**

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 06-24-25.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. 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 stated that he would like to take the opportunity to introduce a couple people from the public who are in the audience today. One is Robert Valois and the other one is Phillip Pierce. Phillip is the Water Waste Superintendent who is somewhat new in his position

MINUTES  
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
JUNE 24, 2025  
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and Mr. Valois is also somewhat new in his position is the Director of Public Works. He is very talented and knowledgeable about technology.

President Dimopoulos welcomed them and asked if they had any comments for today.

Robert Valois answered plenty of questions, but not for today.

**President Dimopoulos called for Reports from Commissioners**

Commissioner Miller wanted to take a minute to thank everyone for sending her the plant when her mother passed away. She wanted to thank them all very much from the bottom of her heart.

**President Dimopoulos called for Public Expression**

There was no public expression.

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

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

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. Roll call votes taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

MINUTES  
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT  
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JUNE 24, 2025  
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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