

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JULY 29, 2025
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The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 4:01 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 4:01 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, Miller, Rubio

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

Others Present: N/A

Others Present via Zoom: Natalie Cook, Donohue

President Dimopoulos stated that the meeting today will be conducted with an amended agenda.

President Dimopoulos stated the first order of business is the consideration of the July 15, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve the July 15, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

District Manager, Milan Kruszynski, stated that he would like to start off by saying they had a staff meeting before and he will be reporting on that.

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Bob from IT let them know that he had a company by the name of Spyglass to do some investigative work to see if we could save any additional dollars with our telephone services. They said that we are doing very well, and we do not qualify for any additional savings. He thanked Bob and told him good job on staying current with that. Bob also says that we are going to be looking to purchase 18 cellular modems. They have to be purchased so that we can get some of our stations off of the copper line, so that is going to be happening. Bob said we may save \$9,000, but it is still going to cost us some money to go over to the modems, so it will end up being a wash. We are going to be moving ahead with that though because AT&T would begin charging us a lot more money beginning in 2026.

Vice-President Dye asked if we are buying these through the phone company or an outside party.

Bob answered outside. We will be purchasing them through CDW.

President Dimopoulos verified that is a more reliable system than the hard-line system.

Bob replied oh yeah. It is under the state buying program and then we will be moving to Verizon.

Milan said that Jack in the Sewer Department reports that they have cleaned 10.80 miles so far in the month of July. He also had a phone conversation with City Engineer, Dean Button. Dean asked if the contractor (Milestone) who is doing the work on the Columbia Avenue project can borrow 25 sewer covers. We are going to loan them 25 sewer covers and then Milestone will get us back our replacement covers. We are trying to make sure we get this project done on Columbia Avenue done and over with as soon as possible to ease up traffic in that area.

Vice-President Dye wanted to confirm that because the sewer covers are on back order for them and we have the stock is why this is being done. He joked we are getting back two for one.

President Dimopoulos commented that he did notice that we have some pretty big openings around manholes, catch basins in the center of Columbia. He asked if that has anything to do with our lines or just the surface.

Jack answered they are replacing all the manhole covers while completing the surface work. There are no structural issues.

Milan stated that Matt in Safety informed them that tomorrow will be Cintas Uniform Day. The folks working will be getting remeasured. Cintas is providing some incentives for them- breakfast, giveaways that Cintas is providing. Incentives to get folks looking a little decent again. It has been a number of years since they have received new uniforms, so it is time to have that happen. He told Matt they appreciate that.

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Milan explained that Rachel in Finance is working diligently with Tyler. She and Kaleigh are doing all that. Every now and then they will include Bob from IT. It is moving along. It is not the fastest pace, but we are going to get this done and taken care of.

Jeff in Operations lets us know that the plant is operating well. Nipsco is requesting clearance for the Sohl Avenue pump station. They need to take some electricity down, but they are not going to grant that in the next couple of days because of the impending weather. We are going to get some rain starting tomorrow late afternoon/evening and a lot of the day on Thursday. They will have to come back at another time and take the station down and do some of their repairs. We had 1.93 inches of rain since the last board meeting including 1.01 inches in less than an hour this past Sunday (7/27) in the vicinity around the plant. Operations staff did an outstanding job during these events- there were no basement backups. Jack and Jeff both checked everything and there were no basement backups, so they are happy to report that. IDEM conducted a recognizance inspection on July 15th- no issues were found, and they received a satisfactory rating. Jeff also submitted the 2nd quarter Pretreatment report, and the June monthly operations reports to IDEM. We are catching up on the biosolids- both going to the landfill which has been talked about at previous meetings with a higher cost to us, but we also now have Wheeling Brothers coming and taking some for land application as well. We are back to saving some dollars. The CSO basin across Columbia Avenue is now empty and will be cleaned out as soon as the floor dries. We have been working with our Hammond Police Department- both Sewer and Operations- to help them with their sewer service at the gun range. They are having some issues out that way, so we are collaborating and trying to help them out with that.

Lastly, Maintenance reports that they have been bush hogging, cutting tall grass and weeds, spraying the lagoon area and the basin area. They are pumping down the drying beds and cleaning them out. The dewatering belt press #3 needs a new alignment and tension, so that is going to be taken care of. Robertsdale station- the #1 sanitary east rake crashed and is now being repaired. The backup is running and taking care of that. Also, at Robertsdale on #1 and #2, the knife valves and check valves need to be changed out on the storm side. As they were doing that process, they had to install a balloon plug in the effluent pipe to block off the blank water from coming back in and into the station. They also did some airline replacements at Primary that feeds the diffusers in the channel. Our maintenance guys are replacing a 6-inch gas line and fittings in the Power building.

That concludes the District Manager's report.

PERSONNEL REPORT

The Board did receive a Personnel Report today.

Human Resources Director, Sharon Szany, said that they do have two openings right now, so if they know of anybody. They are both in the Finance Department. One is the payroll clerk who

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we are losing a lot sooner than thought because he is going over to City Hall and then we need an accounts payable clerk. She is retiring.

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

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

President Dimopoulos said he will spread the word. He asked if we are looking for Hammond residents.

Sharon and Milan both responded yes, please.

RESOLUTIONS

The Board considered Resolution No. 11-2025: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Authorizing Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with Teamsters Local Union No. 142

Dye **moved** and Miller **seconded** for the approval of Resolution No. 11-2025.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

The Board considered the Bank Reconciliation Document dated June 30, 2025.

Dye **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of the Bank Reconciliation Document dated June 30, 2025.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 07-29-25.

Rubio **moved** and Miller **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 07-29-25.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

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Vice-President Dye pointed out that Natalie Cook from Donohue is online for meeting. He asked if she is just in the audience today.

Natalie explained normally for the second board meeting of the month, they do not have a report so they do not have a status report from her, but she can report on what they have been working on if they would want that.

Natalie explained that Donohue has been working with Max Kelln and Mike Hickey on the PCCMP on the letter to IDEM and the EPA regarding the disinfection of the CSO basin. They just got a draft of that letter over to Jeff and Milan today. Donohue has also been working on reviewing the sizing of the screens for the Southside pump station bar screen replacement project. That is all she has.

President Dimopoulos called for Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

President Dimopoulos called for New Business

Vice-President Dye said that he would like to bring up a memorandum that was given to them. It is an ACH transfer back to the Hammond Water Works Department for several ACH transfers that they did during the month of July by mistake. The total amount is \$143,590.18.

Dye **moved** and Miller **seconded** for approval to transfer \$143,590.18 back to the Hammond Water Works Department for wire transfers we received from them in error.

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0.

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

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

Ayes: Dimopoulos, Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 5-0. 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