

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2024
www.hammondsd.com

The Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana held a regular meeting at 4:09 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Administration Building located at 5143 Columbia Avenue, Hammond, Indiana.

Vice-President Dye called the meeting to order at 4:09 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: Dye, Hawkins, Miller

Commissioners Present via Zoom: N/A

Commissioners Absent: Dimopoulos, Rubio

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
Kaleigh Boyle, HSD
Jessie Amezcua, HSD

Others Present: Mike Hickey, MJHY, LLC
Natalie Cook, Donohue
Jonathan Peterson, Munster Town Council

Others Present via Zoom: Councilman Alfonso Salinas III, Hammond City Council

Vice-President Dye stated that the first order of business is the consideration of the January 9, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.

Hawkins **moved** and Miller **seconded** to approve the January 9, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller
Nays: None
Motion **carried** 3-0.

MINUTES
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DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

District Manager, Milan Kruszynski, stated that the last two weeks have been educational, insightful and challenging. He has a great staff that has helped him get through the last two weeks- very helpful with sitting down and explaining starting with operations, maintenance, sewer collections, future projects, daily activities, financials, employee responsibilities. He said he is not saving him for last, but always having Joe Allegretti at his side to toss things off of. He would also like to thank the Commissioners for their support. He appreciates that as well. He has been asking a lot of questions and he has been given a lot of different answers. As he said, financially, this place is challenging and it is big and it costs a lot of money to operate. Not only for the plant, but for the whole District which also includes Munster as well as the communities that give us their waste as well. He is just wrapping himself around that. In all fairness to the Board, Commissioners, as he had mentioned two weeks ago, he is doing both jobs- here and at the Port Authority until they can get everything straightened out. He will be here as often as he can and as much as he possibly can. They have his word on that. Staff updates him every day. They had a staff meeting before this meeting and went over a line of items all the way from IT, HR, Sewer Maintenance, Deputy District Manager Matt Muta gave his report, Rachel with finances and Jeff with operations. Mike Hickey and Attorney Allegretti gave their reports as well. They have tried to cover all the bases as often as they can.

Commissioner Hawkins asked Milan how long he thinks the transition will last.

Milan responded that he is not sure. He wants to be honest.

Commissioner Hawkins commented that the Mayor has to appoint somebody first.

Milan answered yes and explained that is going to take, in all honesty, a little bit of time to incorporate that person as well. He knows when he went from Code Enforcement to Port Authority, it was six months. He is hoping it will not take that long, but he is here to do whatever it takes and do both jobs to the best of his ability.

Vice-President Dye said that the good thing is that Milan has a good staff. They are experts at what they do.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Vice-President Dye stated that there is a Personnel Report before the Board.

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

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 3-0.

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2024
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FINANCIAL REPORT- December 2023

Miller **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of the Financial Report for December 2023.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 3-0.

Business Manager, Rachel Montes, stated that she did have a comment on the financial report. There was a correction that was made to the Sewer Budget Comparison for the month of August and it is reflected in the report.

RESOLUTIONS

The Board considered Resolution No. 1-2024: RE: A Resolution by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners of the Sanitary District of Hammond, Lake County, Indiana Fixing Salaries and Wage Rates for the Hammond Sanitary District for the Year 2024.

Miller **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve Resolution No. 1-2024.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 3-0.

Vice-President Dye stated that on item number 7, he would like to say that they did have a corrected version of that report. He asked Rachel to correct him if he is wrong, but he believes the only change was the date.

Rachel responded that on the Bank Reconciliation report, it reflects 1/9/24 and it should have read 1/23/24.

Vice-President Dye thanked her and said he would like that noted for the board meeting minutes.

The Board considered the Bank Reconciliation Document dated December 31, 2023.

Miller **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** for the approval of the Bank Reconciliation Document dated December 31, 2023.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 3-0.

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2024
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The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 01-23-24.

Dye **moved** and Miller **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 01-23-24.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 3-0.

Vice-President Dye called for Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

Vice-President Dye called for New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Vice-President Dye called for Reports from Commissioners

Commissioner Hawkins said that he did wonder how the plant did in the cold weather.

Jeff Massey answered that it is doing alright. The bugs are not as happy with the cold water as they are with warm water, but they are doing alright. It is a little challenging, but again they are doing alright.

Commissioner Hawkins asked that when it is real cold like that, how does the bugs efficiency go down.

Jeff replied that it goes down quite a bit. It does not want to settle, they get lethargic, but they are okay.

Commissioner Hawkins stated that at the last meeting, he cannot remember if it was Jeff or Dan that mentioned something about a safety problem that they were going to have to resolve.

Vice-President Dye said that Matt had brought that to their attention.

Matt explained that the maintenance issue in the plant has been fixed already and there is a follow-up for the individual who was hurt tomorrow. They will have a better understanding of his long-term prognosis tomorrow.

Commissioner Hawkins questioned what the individual's injury was.

Matt answered that he fell into the primary channel and hurt his knee. He has been out since that happened. It happened about two weeks ago. They will know about his future prognosis tomorrow.

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
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Commissioner Hawkins said that something he just thought of, in having an injury like that (he hurt his knee) and he leaves the plant that day to see a doctor, he asked if the District gets a follow-up or a status update during this two-week period.

Matt responded yes, they do. They have had several.

Commissioner Hawkins questioned if they are from the doctor.

Matt answered that in this case, it is CHS Occupational Health.

Vice-President Dye clarified that they contract CHS Occupational Health for things like this.

Vice-President Dye called for Public Expression

There was no public expression.

Commissioner Hawkins stated that there was something he was going to mention during his report, but he didn't because he forgot. They have somebody from the public in the audience today. His name is John Peterson. He is a local attorney and the recently elected 5th Ward Councilor of the Town of Munster.

Vice-President Dye called for a motion to adjourn the meeting

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

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

MINUTES
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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