

MINUTES
HAMMOND SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
APRIL 9, 2024
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.

Vice-President Dye 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: Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Commissioners Absent: Dimopoulos

District Personnel Present: Milan Kruszynski, 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

Others Present: Mike Hickey, MJHY
Natalie Cook, Donohue
David Nellans, Munster Town Council

Others Present via Zoom: N/A

The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Dimopoulos stated that the first order of business is the consideration of the March 26, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.

Miller **moved** and Hawkins **seconded** to approve the March 26, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 3-0.

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DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

District Manager, Milan Kruszynski, stated that he would like to report that the plant is operating near capacity to catch up from all of the rain last week. There was a little basin overflow into the river for a short period of time last Tuesday during the big shower activities in the afternoon. Since we are in April, Jeff let him know that chlorination has begun. This is normal warm weather addition to the discharge. Also, we are filling up with biosolids and trying to get those out to the farmers as quickly as we can. It has been wet, so that delays us a little bit. Farmers, hopefully, have not started to plant yet. Jeff also reported that the grit needs to be disposed of properly, so they are making those moves very quickly.

Commissioner Rubio came. Vice-President Dye stated that there are now 4 commissioners present for meeting.

In regards to Maintenance, Milan commented that this is regarding the Robertsdale pump station at Atchison and 115th Street. It is scheduled for some major exterior building brick work and maintenance around the building. A lot of the bricks are crumbling, so there needs to be a lot of tuckpointing done on the building itself. There is also going to be some work done on the pipe that goes out towards Lake Michigan. Multiple projects/upgrades/repairs all being done at the same time. Timeline for the repairs is that it started today and will be through June. Nothing small about this. Street Department is going to help them with some no parking signs also in the neighborhood because it is right smack dab in the neighborhood.

Milan explained the status of the Kennedy Avenue repair project. Murphy was issued their notice to proceed. Work should be beginning next week. Jeff reported in the staff meeting that paperwork and the bonding has gotten to INDOT. Now, it is matter of INDOT getting us the approval to move forward. Hoping. April 15th (next Monday), they will be able to start working on that project as well. He wanted to thank Commissioner Hawkins for helping the people who came from the District administrative offices with Attorney Allegretti to meet with the Munster Town officials. They had a good, open discussion for the entire meeting. He just wanted to thank him and also welcome Dave Nellans.

With finance, they are going to be getting a report to you next meeting. They have been very busy doing the capital assets review and final trial balances should be completed this week. Once that is all done, they will buckle up downstairs because the Tyler software conversion is going to begin and start happening. It is here. Bob from IT let them know that he is looking into a number of phone lines that are going to be eliminated. So, we are going to save money there and help them out. Sewer Maintenance, Jack is going to be doing some work in the next couple weeks on the 200 block of Ogden, 200 block of Webb Street and two main repairs on Cedar Avenue, so that is going to happen as well. Sharon is going to give her full report, but he is just going to highlight that she has been working on FMLA all week. She is also working on press releases for them on the Kennedy Avenue project as well as the Robertsdale pump station project. Mike Hickey is going to talk about the Financial Capability Assessment. A little but more from maintenance, on the week of April 11th all the river pump stations will be inspected by the Army

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Corp of Engineers, so they are getting everything cleaned up for that. They are also working on the #8 primary tank that needs to be rebuilt and the screw pumps need to be painted and freshened up within the next week with the motor and gear boxes. Finally, and hopefully Commissioner Miller is going to be happy with this. He is looking forward to getting on the agenda for the next meeting they will be going out to bid and he could use their help with this for the ongoing discussion and ongoing project for the backflow preventer program using federal dollars. They finally had a chance to firm things up with a couple of the plumbers out there because as they know it is a very complicated process especially when dealing with federal dollars and plumbers sometimes having a bit of reluctance to that. Jeff has assured him that in two weeks it will be on the agenda. He knows Councilman Tyler gave him a call yesterday evening after the council meeting to chat about that for a little bit.

Vice-President Dye asked if they are reluctant due to payment terms.

Milan answered no. It is actually going into the homes and getting radon test done and then when they do any work to the floor area, if there is tile down, they have to test for asbestos. Not necessarily with tile, but the subfloor underneath it usually contains asbestos. Tile breaks off in bigger pieces, so the stuff underneath will become dust. Everyone is a little leery and they all know that, so they are hoping to get a few of their local contractors on board. That concludes the District Manager's report.

Vice-President Dye asked if there were any basement backups with the last rainfall.

Jack replied zero.

PERSONNEL REPORT

The Board did receive a Personnel Report today.

Miller **moved** and Rubio **seconded** for the approval of the Personnel Report dated April 9, 2024.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Sewer Maintenance

No questions or comments.

Safety

No questions or comments.

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CONSULTANT REPORTS

MJHY, LLC

Mike Hickey stated that the Board should have a copy of his status report. He would be happy to take any questions. They are still working on the numbers with Donohue and Karl Cender, so they can update the Financial Capability Assessment.

DONOHUE

Natalie Cook stated the Board has a status report from her as well. There are two things she would like to highlight. First, the CSO public notification report was submitted at the end of last week, so that is a report that needs to be published on the HSD website to notify the public of any dry weather overflows that occurred during 2023, so that is ready to get posted. The other thing she attached with the status report is a list of their current projects- of all Donohue's current projects with the District. This is something Milan asked for during the meeting two weeks ago, so she wanted to get that together for all of them as well. There is also an update with where everything is as well, so if there are any questions about what they are working on, this will catch them up to speed.

Vice-President Dye commented that is a great idea. He said it is important for transparency.

Milan agreed and said he needed that.

The Board considered the Claims Approval Docket 04-09-24.

Hawkins **moved** and Rubio **seconded** for the approval of the Claims Approval Docket 04-09-24.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

Vice-President Dye called for Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

Vice-President Dye called for New Business

Vice-President Dye asked for a motion to approve the new employee handbook.

Miller **moved** and Rubio **seconded** for the approval of the new employee handbook.

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

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Vice-President Dye called for Reports from Commissioners

There were no reports from Commissioners.

Vice-President Dye called for Public Expression

Councilman Dave Nellans from the Town of Munster wanted to comment that he is really happy to be back here. He enjoys the meetings. They are very informative and it is something that is important, so he wishes the new members here the best and he will get a chance to meet them. Again, he appreciates it and they have a beautiful day. They survived the eclipse.

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

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

Ayes: Dye, Hawkins, Miller, Rubio

Nays: None

Motion **carried** 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 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