

BOARD OF SANITARY DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025, 4:00 P.M. 1100 E. EIGHTH STREET

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 P.M. by President Don Babcock.

Commissioners present were Don Babcock, Andrew Sperling, Tim Werner, Tance Falls and Tina Mahone.

Staff present at the meeting were:

Christopher Yagelski, Business & Facilities Manager

Rhonda Anderson, Superintendent of Water Reclamation

Rachel McCline, Administrative Assistant/Secretary for the Board of Sanitary District Commissioners

Al Walus, Operations & Inspections Manager

Wendy Vachet, Director of Public Works

Joshua Barnett, Inspection & Safety Foreman

Christopher Carter, Refuse Superintendent

Jermaine Woodard, Refuse

Jewell Harris, Legal Counsel

Also present at the meeting were:

Jenny Miller, Christopher B. Burke Engineering

Dan Cutshaw, MS Consultants, Inc.

Scott Meland, Michigan City Resident

Tom Nagle, Robinson Engineering

John Kremke, Schneider Geomatics

Don Przybylinski, Michigan City Common Council

Mr. Babcock welcomed Ms. Mahone as the Sanitary District' newest Board Member.

Minutes

Mr. Sperling made a motion to approve the February 26, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Babcock certified that an executive session was held before this meeting and that there was nothing discussed outside of the information posted in the advertisement for the session.

Public Comment

None

Financial Report

As of March 24, 2025:

Sanitary District Operating Fund: \$1,594,357.06

Sanitary District Tax Levy Fund: \$2,450,629.46

Mr. Yagelski presented the Board with an amendment for the Salary Resolution for the Year 2025 of the Sanitary District of Michigan City regarding the position of Administrative Assistant. Mr. Yagelski explained that the salary for this position will range from \$17.00 per hour to \$26.61 per hour and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling made such a motion – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Harris Law Firm PC

No Board action

MS Consultants, Inc.

Mr. Cutshaw provided the Board with a progress report and presentation regarding the rehabilitation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Mr. Cutshaw submitted a drafted Engineer's Opinion of Probable Project Costs & Condition Matrix.

Mr. Cutshaw advised that the Sanitary District has a deadline of March 31, 2025, to apply for consideration to receive a State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan for the proposed rehabilitation of the WWTP. Mr. Cutshaw noted that Baker Tilly received the Engineer's Opinion of Probable Project Costs & Condition Matrix and continues to work on the Sanitary District's new rate study. Mr. Cutshaw estimated the total cost of rehabilitation in the amount of \$101,300,000.00.

Mr. Walus provided the Board with a presentation regarding areas in Michigan City that are currently on combined sewers (sanitary/stormwater sewers). It was noted that the proposed separation to the combined sewers will be included in the rehabilitation cost mentioned by Mr. Cutshaw.

Ms. Vachet recommended that a long-term maintenance plan for the proposed rehabilitation be considered during the preliminary stages of the project.

Mr. Sperling made a motion to approve the submission of the letter for application regarding the SRF funds – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Yagelski provided the Board with Invoice No. 61-04G30-00-5 from MS Consultants, Inc. in the amount of \$55,000.00 and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner made such a motion – seconded by Mr. Sperling. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Schneider Geomatics

Mr. Kremke provided the Board with a project status report for the Lake Avenue/U.S. Highway 12 Lift Station Project.

Mr. Yagelski submitted Invoice No. 195692 from Schneider Geomatics in the amount of \$9,246.25 and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling made such a motion – seconded by Ms. Mahone. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Kremke provided the Board with a project status report for the Michigan City Annexed Area Sewer Extension Project (MCASE). Mr. Kremke reported that a Change Order for this project is underway, and the projected substantial completion date remains at the end of October 2025.

Mr. Yagelski submitted Invoice No. 195691 from Schneider Geomatics in the amount of \$9,940.00 and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling made such a motion – seconded by Mr. Falls. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Kremke presented a Drainage Improvements Conceptual Plan to the Board regarding the Birch Tree Farms Drainage Study. Mr. Babcock advised that the Sanitary District's goal is to support development with a balance in terms of which City of Michigan City departments will absorb the cost and risk of the proposed study.

The Board thanked Mr. Kremke for his updates.

Surplus Video Equipment

Mr. Barnett advised that the Sanitary District has two (2) vehicles that need to be declared as surplus.

1. 1995 Chevrolet 1 ton video truck (white) with Subsite/RST Equipment
VIN: 1GBHG31K3SF126826, last used in 2012
2. 2014 Ford F550 CUES video truck with CUES equipment/DUC camera,
VIN: 1FDUF5GT2EEB09319, last used in October 2023
 - Envirosight Quick view pole camera, serial number: 0308QV08, last used in 2009
 - Cues/Pearpoint cube, serial number: BEC2020-11, last used in 2022

Based on preliminary discussion with a vendor that supplies this type of equipment, the salvaged value could be in the range of \$75,000.00 to \$85,000.00.

Mr. Werner made a motion to declare the mentioned vehicles and equipment as surplus – seconded by Ms. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

MCSAN Project Updates

Mr. Yagelski reported that there were power issues at the lift station located at U.S. Highway 421. Mr. Yagelski proposed that a permanent generator be installed at the lift station and split three (3) ways between LaPorte County Redevelopment, Love's Truck Stop and the Sanitary District of Michigan City. Mr. Yagelski added that the Sanitary District would contribute \$24,908.00 for its portion of the cost and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling made such a motion – seconded by Ms. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Yagelski reported that on Monday, February 24, 2025, the Sanitary District received a call regarding possible failure of the sanitary sewer manhole near 106 White Oak Drive. Investigation revealed settlement of the manhole and possible failure of a 10-inch clay sanitary sewer pipe. It was noted that emergency repairs were made at this location on February 28, 2025, by Woodruff & Sons, Inc. Mr. Walus noted that now that the asphalt plants are opening for the season, paving the site in the most cost-effective way will be the next step in completing the project.

Mr. Yagelski submitted Invoice No. 61893 in the amount of \$31,016.69 to Woodruff & Sons, Inc. for the mentioned emergency repairs and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling made such a motion – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Walus provided the Board with a sanitary sewer inspection update regarding the Sanitary District's traditional sewer inspection methods verses the innovative sewer inspection methods. Mr. Walus advised that the Sanitary District decided to implement a Sewer Line Rapid Assessment Tool also known as the SL-RAT. This technology relies upon the transmission and receipt of sound between adjacent manholes to determine the inspection state of the sewer segment.

The Board was provided with the Sanitary District's monthly staff reports for their review.

Mr. Werner asked if the restrooms at Striebel Pond are being maintained. Mr. Yagelski advised that the restrooms on the south side of the site are closed at this time due to the winter season. Mr. Yagelski added that all the restrooms will be open this spring.

Approve & Allow Revenue & Tax Levy Claims for Payment

Mr. Werner made a motion to approve and allow Revenue and Tax Levy claims for payment – seconded by Mr. Sperling. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Old Business

Mr. Yagelski advised that Linda G. Simmons has retired from the Sanitary District Board of Commissioners. The Board thanked Mrs. Simmons for her service.

Mr. Walus provided the Board with an update on the status of York Street sanitary and stormwater sewer management. Mr. Walus advised that the Board would continue to receive updates on this project, adding that the long-term goal is to separate the combined sewers in the area.

New Business

Mr. Yagelski provided the Board with an Emergency Interim Services Agreement for Biosolids Disposal between Michigan City Sanitary District and G.E. Marshall, Inc. and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Yagelski noted that the Sanitary District issued a request for quotes and only received one (1) quote.

Attorney Harris advised that the Board is declaring this matter as an emergency pursuant to Indiana Code 36-1-12-9(a).

Mr. Sperling made a motion to allow the Sanitary District to enter an agreement with G.E. Marshall, Inc. for the disposal of biosolids as presented – seconded by Ms. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Werner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:46 P.M. – seconded by Ms. Mahone. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Next Board of Sanitary District Commissioners Regular Meeting – **April 23, 2025, at 1100 E. Eighth Street, Michigan City, IN 46360 at 4:00 P.M. Local Time.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Babcock', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Don Babcock, President