## BOARD OF SANITARY DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

## WENDESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025, 4:00 P.M. 1100 E. EIGHTH STREET

Michigan City Board of Sanitary District Commissioners

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| Andrew Sperling | (Mayoral appointment 6/20/2024 – 6/21/2028) |
| Tina Mahone | (Mayoral appointment 7/1/2025 – 7/1/2029) |
| Don Babcock | (Mayoral appointment 4/23/2024 – 1/1/2027) |
| Tance Falls | (Mayoral appointment 11/8/2024 – 11/9/2028) |
| Timothy Werner | City Engineer – virtue of position |

The Meeting was called to order at 4:20 P.M. by President Don Babcock.

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

Staff present at the meeting were:
Rhonda Anderson, Superintendent of Water Reclamation
Al Walus, Operations & Inspections Manager
Rachel McCline, Administrative Assistant/Board Secretary
Christopher Yagelski, Business & Facilities Manager
Wendy Vachet, Director of Public Works
Jewell Harris, Legal Counsel

Also present for the meeting were:
Scott Meland, Michigan City Resident
John Kremke, Schneider Geomatics
Tom Nagle, Robinson Engineering
Jenny Miller, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd.
Ryan Laughlin, Haas & Associates, LLC
Don Przybylinski, Michigan City, Common Council

**Minutes**

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.

Mr. Sperling made a motion to approve the minutes for September 24, 2025, Executive Session and Regular Meeting as presented - seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

**Public Comment**

Councilman Przybylinski asked about the litigation status between the Sanitary District and the Town of Long Beach. Attorney Harris advised that a Summary Judgement was granted in favor of the Michigan City Sanitary District. Attorney Harris added that communication will be issued to the public and all parties involved in the matter detailing the next steps.

Mr. Meland addressed the Board to follow up on his comment at the last regular meeting regarding water meter size and usage. Mr. Meland asked if the fencing in front of the Hitchcock clean-fill facility is permanent. It was noted that the fencing is a safety hazard due to its proximity to the roadway.

**Financial Report**

Mr. Yagelski advised that the Controller's office continues to experience technical difficulties.

As of October 29, 2025:
Tax Fund: $2,674,903.27
Operating Fund: $2,519,046.46
Karwick Remediation Fund: $152,276.89

Mr. Yagelski provided the Board with the Revenue & Tax Levy Claims for payment 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 4 – 0 in favor.

**Harris Law Firm, PC**

Mrs. Anderson submitted an Invoice Summary from Harris Law Firm, PC in the total amount of $2,338.35 for legal services and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling made such a motion – seconded by Mr. Falls. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 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. Kremke advised that the Amtrak Railroad pipe crossing is ongoing.

Mrs. Anderson submitted Invoice No. 197767 from Schnider Geomatics in the amount of $12,142.50 and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling made such a motion – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mrs. Anderson submitted Invoice No. 3 from H&G Underground Utilities in the amount of $318,589.09 and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner made such a motion - seconded by Mr. Falls. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Kremke provided the Board with a Work Change Directive No. 3 for additional installation of Owner- supplied Information Technology (I.T.) conduit. Mr. Kremke provided the Board with a Work Change Directive No. 4 to adjust the invert of existing pipe at the sanitary manhole structure. Mrs. Anderson then recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner made such a motion – seconded by Mr. Falls. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 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 noted that the project is approximately 84% complete.

Mrs. Anderson submitted Invoice No. 197766 from Schneider Geomatics in the amount of $7,245.00 and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner made such a motion – seconded by Mr. Sperling. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mrs. Anderson submitted Invoice No. 3620457-7 from Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of $30,683.70 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 4 – 0 in favor.

**Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd.**

Ms. Miller submitted Invoice No. 40352 from Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd., (CBBEL) in the amount of $4,315.00 for On-call Wastewater Compliance Servies. Mrs. Anderson recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner made such a motion – seconded by Mr. Falls. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mrs. Anderson submitted Amendment No. 1 from CBBEL Not-to-Exceed $20,000.00 for on-call MS4 Wastewater Compliance Assistance and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling made such a motion - seconded by Mr. Falls. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Walus provided the Board with a Progress Report for On-call MS4 Compliance Services. Mrs. Anderson submitted Invoice No. 40302 from CBBEL in the amount of $16,058.41 for the services mentioned 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 4 – 0 in favor.

**<u>CDS Engineers, Inc.</u>**

Mrs. Anderson provided the Board with an update regarding the pilot study for the Primary Clarifiers. It was noted that one Cloth Filter Media pilot test has been completed in October 2025. A second Cloth Filter Media pilot test with a different vendor is scheduled for November 2025. A pilot with a Tube Settler product is pending.

Mrs. Anderson submitted Invoice No. 008-25-01_02 from CDS Engineer, Inc. in the amount of $8,686.50 and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling made such a motion – seconded by Mr. Falls. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

**<u>300 N. Lift Station Sewer System Project</u>**

Ms. Vachet advised that the City of Michigan City and LaPorte County officials have met to work through the technical details of the project. Mrs. Vachet stated that the project is moving forward in a positive and constructive manner. It was noted that an update will be provided at the next regular meeting.

**<u>Michigan City Sanitary District 2-Year Plan</u>**

Mr. Walus advised that the Sanitary District has made progress with respect to Priority No. 2.2 regarding the Collection System Assessment. It was noted that the Sanitary District is seeking consideration/Board action regarding a proposal from Robinson

Engineering Ltd. For Esplanade Sewer Assessment and Edgewood Backyard Assessment.

**Water Reclamation Superintendent Report**

Mrs. Anderson submitted a monthly report regarding the day-to-day operations of the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Mrs. Anderson advised that the Sanitary District is working with farmers to land apply the Biosolids.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Mr. Walus advised that there are priority areas in the Edgewood area (Task Order No. 25-01) regarding backyard sewers and Lake Shore Drive esplanade sewers (Task Order No. 25-02) that need assessed and corrected. Mr. Walus then recommended Board approval of the Task Orders as mentioned, each not-to-exceed $7,500.00.

Mr. Werner made such a motion – seconded by Mr. Sperling. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Walus submitted an Engineering Consulting Services Agreement with Robinson Engineering Ltd. for the mentioned tasks and recommended Board 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 4 – 0 in favor.

Within the Michigan City Sanitary District 2-Year Plan, Priority Item No. 5 addresses the need to evaluate the maintenance needs of open ditches within the corporate limits of Michigan City and prepare an overall maintenance plan. It was noted that Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd. (CBBEL) is the recognized leader in open-ditch drainage in Indiana.

Mr. Walus submitted an Engineering Consulting Services Agreement with Christopher B. Burke for the services mentioned in Priority Item No. 5 not-to-exceed $19,195.00 and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner made such a motion – seconded by Mr. Falls. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

It was noted that Sick Leave is a Sanitary District benefit and should not be used for any other reason than those indicated in Section 3.9 of the Policy and Procedures Manual.

Mrs. Anderson advised that an amended policy will be utilized as deterrent for excessive absenteeism. In addition, Mrs. Anderson submitted a Call-off Procedure and Attendance Control Policy and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling mad such a motion – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Werner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:18 P.M. – seconded by Mr. Sperling. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Next Board of Sanitary District Commissioners Regular Meeting – **November 19, 2025, at 1100 E. Eighth Street, Michigan City, IN 46360 at 4:00 P.M. Local Time.**

Don Babcock, President