

**BOARD OF SANITARY DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026, 4:00 P.M. 1100 E. EIGHTH STREET**

Michigan City Board of Sanitary District Commissioners

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 4:00 P.M. by Vice President Andrew Sperling.

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

Staff present at the meeting were:

Rhonda Anderson, Superintendent of Water Reclamation  
Al Walus, District Engineer  
Rachel McCline, Administrative Assistant  
Christopher Yagelski, Business & Facilities Manager  
Nicholas Edwards, Plant Operations Manager  
Wendy Vachet, Director of Public Works  
Jewell Harris, Legal Counsel

Also present for the meeting were:

Margaret Burroughs, Bowen Engineering Corp.  
Joshua McGee Continental Electric  
Guy DiMartino, LaPorte County Redevelopment Commission  
Scott Meland, Michigan City Resident  
Alonzo, Garcia, Schneider Geomatics  
Michael Bergerson, Attorney at Law, Lakeshore Sewer

Attorney Harris advised that there was an Executive Session scheduled prior to this meeting that was canceled.

**Opening Bids**

**Transformer Replacement**

Continental Electric – Gary, Indiana  
New Transformer A.) \$406,200.00  
Remanufactured Transformer B.) \$388,500.00

Bowen Electric – Indianapolis, Indiana  
New Transformer A.) \$311,268.00  
Remanufactured Transformer B.) \$301,268.00

Marquiss Electric – Michigan City, Indiana  
New Transformer A.) \$205,352.00  
Remanufactured Transformer B.) \$179,000.00

Attorney Harris advised that Sanitary District officials will review the bids and make a recommendation to the Board at the next regular meeting.

### **Minutes**

Mr. Werner moved to approve January 28, 2026, Executive Session Minutes as presented – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Mrs. Mahone moved to approve January 28, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

### **Public Comment**

Attorney Bergerson addressed the Board regarding five (5) residents on Lakeshore Drive who would like to connect to the Sanitary District's sanitary sewer. Attorney Bergerson requested more discussion to determine the Sanitary District's jurisdiction in terms of sanitary sewer connection.

Regarding Attorney Bergerson's comment, Attorney Harris advised that he is working with Ms. Vachet from a comprehensive perspective.

Scott Meland addressed the Board regarding the resolution on the matter between the Sanitary District and the Town of Long Beach.

Regarding Mr. Meland's comment, Attorney Harris advised that the Sanitary District and the Town of Long Beach are near conclusion with a proposed settlement agreement.

### **Financial Report**

Mr. Yagelski read the cash balances from the regular meeting of January 28, 2026. Mr. Yagelski advised that the Controller's office is continually working on the annual report and reconciling January 2026.

Mr. Werner moved to approve the cash balances and Tax Levy Claims as presented – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

**New Business/Board Action**

Mr. Walus advised that the Sanitary District is interested in creating two (2) new positions. It was noted that the current title, Operations & Inspections Manager position be changed to Sanitary & Stormwater Engineer. The second proposed position is an Engineering Intern. It was noted that ARPA funds are available to fund a certain number of hours for the proposed Engineering Intern position. Mr. Walus mentioned that the three (3) staff members that were stationed at City Hall have been relocated to the Sanitary District Administration Building and will report to the Water Reclamation Superintendent. Mr. Walus provided the Board with job descriptions for the new positions in addition to an updated Organizational chart and recommended Board approval of the same.

Mr. Werner moved to approve the job descriptions as presented – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Werner moved to approve the organizational chart as presented – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Walus submitted an updated Salary Resolution to reflect the new positions and recommended approval of the same.

Mrs. Mahone moved to approve the Salary Resolution as presented – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Ms. Vachet advised that the Sanitary District is seeking additional services from Krohn & Associates. Ms. Vachet submitted an addendum to the Municipal Advisory Services Agreement and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner moved to approve the addendum to the Municipal Advisory Services Agreement with Krohn & Associates as presented – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Ms. Vachet advised that Dentons continues to provide additional oversight for the Sanitary District regarding the establishment of system development charges. Ms. Vachet submitted a 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the Dentons Engagement Letter to extend services and recommended approval of the same.

Mrs. Mahone moved to approve the Dentons Engagement Letter 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment as presented – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Yagelski presented the Highstreet Insurance Proposal for 2026.

**2026 Program Cost Summary**

Description	Travelers Expiring Annual Premium	Travelers Renewal Annual Premium
Package	\$325,257	\$335,590
Crime	\$1,700	\$1,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$326,957</b>	<b>\$337,290</b>

Change from Expiring	3.16%
----------------------	-------

Exposure Increase	2.26%
Rate Increase	0.90%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.16%</b>

Mr. Yagelski then recommended approval of the Highstreet Insurance Proposal for 2026.

Mrs. Mahone moved to approve the Highstreet Insurance Proposal for 2026 as presented – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Regarding the 300 North Lift Station Project, Mr. Walus advised that the conditions precedent to final transfer have been properly addressed and resolved.

Attorney Harris advised that it is in the best interest of Michigan City and LaPorte County residents that this sewer infrastructure be transferred to the Michigan City Sanitary District which is in the best position to manage it in accordance with the state and federal requirements. It was noted that the Michigan City Sanitary District authorizes its Director of Public Works and/or Water Reclamation Superintendent to execute the documents necessary to effectuate the legal transfer of said property.

Attorney Harris then recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner moved to approve the A Resolution to Accept the Transfer of Ownership of the 300 North Sanitary Sewer Infrastructure from LaPorte County to Michigan City Sanitary District as presented – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

**Old Business/Information Updates**

Mr. Walus advised that the Board would receive an updated 2-Year Plan upon the completion of a few open items.

In reference to the utilization of capital improvement funds, Mr. Walus shared a ranking score of the Sanitary District's Lift Stations. Mr. Walus advised that the ranking score was created by Christopher B. Burke Engineer, Jenny Miller, to determine and prioritize the needs of the Sanitary District's infrastructure.

Mr. Garcia reported that there are weather dependent delays for the Lake Avenue and Highway 12 Lift Station Sewer Relief project and the Michigan City Annexed Area Sewer Extension (MCASE) project.

Ms. Vachet announced Al Walus as the new District Engineer and Nick Edwards as the new Plant Operations Manager for the Sanitary District.

Mrs. Anderson advised that Will Rubino was promoted to Plant Operator II, which opened a Plant Operator I position. It was noted that an internal employee accepted the Operator I position and transferred from another department.

Mrs. Anderson reported that the equipment for the Plate Settler Pilot Unit was delivered and the trial is set to begin March 2, 2026.

Mrs. Anderson advised that in Mid-January, collection staff inspected one hundred and sixty-four (164) priority stormwater inlets in low lying areas prior to a predicted snowstorm. Collection staff removed leaves and used the Vac truck to clean ten (10) inlets as proactive measure to prevent street flooding when the snow melts. As part of long-term ditch maintenance planning the collection staff inspected seventeen (17) ditch culverts.

Mrs. Anderson reported that the Sanitary District's property insurance provider, Travelers, did an on-site visit to review the Sanitary District's operations, and discussed safety and risk management programs relating to property loss control, and observe conditions and verify management policies and procedures are effective in controlling hazards and providing protection relating to property loss control. Per their report, several positive risk control practices were observed, and they identified only one opportunity to further reduce

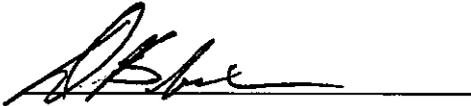
exposure to loss. Specifically, they recommended Post Accident Training to drivers involved in preventable accidents.

Mrs. Anderson also noted that there has been a 47% decrease in employees calling off since the Attendance Control Policy was implemented.

Mr. Walus reported that four (4) Sewer Technicians from the collection department attended a two (2) day wastewater trade show in Indianapolis on February 17, 2026. It was noted that the staff met after the show to discuss ideas that could be implemented at the Sanitary District. Mr. Walus noted that the ideas will potentially be presented at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Werner moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:52 P.M. – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Next Board of Sanitary District Commissioners Regular Meeting – March 25, 2026, at 1100 E. Eighth Street, Michigan City, IN 46360 at 4:00 P.M. Local Time.



Don Babcock, President



Date