BOARD OF SANITARY DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 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 4:01 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:
Rhonda Anderson, Superintendent of Water Reclamation
Rachel McCline, Administrative Services Manager
Christopher Carter, Superintendent of Refuse
Wendy Vachet, Director of Public Works
Dita Guha, Legal Counsel

Also present for the meeting were:
Buzz Krohn, Krohn & Associates – HYBRID
Dan Cutshaw, CDS Engineering – HYBRID
Michael Wilkerson, M.C. Resident
Don Przybylinski, M.C. Common Council
Alonzo Garcia, Schneider Geomatics
Tom Nagle, Robinson Engineering
John Wojcik, Farina Wojcik
Christopher Willowby, Town of Long Beach

Minutes

Mr. Werner moved to approve the May 27, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented – seconded by Mr. Falls. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Public Comment

Councilman Przybylinski thanked Collection Systems Foreman, Jim Micheals for addressing and correcting a storm sewer issue on Franklin Street. Councilman Przybylinski reported that the median on Michigan Boulevard from Johnson Road heading east towards Warnke Road needs to be cleaned and maintained.

Councilman Przybylinski reported illegal dumping at the recycling center located at 1801 Kentucky Street. It was noted that a meeting is being held with the Director of LaPorte County Solid Waste District at the site on June 26, 2026, at 2:00 P.M.

Mr. Wilkerson addressed the Board requesting an explanation as to why the Southgate Storm Water Improvement Project was listed as a current project on the City's website. It was noted that District Engineer, Al Walus, will follow up with the status of the project mentioned.

Financial Report

As of May 30, 2026:
Refuse Fund: $1,094,321.48
Storm Water Fund: $633,634.08
Operating Fund: $1,211,638.63
Improvement Fund: $790,276.62
Vehicle Replacement Fund: $267,677.07
Equipment Replacement Fund: $529,396.70
Grant Fund: -$469,162.82
SRF Debt Fund: $588,870.77
SRF Bond and Interest Fund: $153,098.98
Special Fund: $10,686.01
Karwick Remediation Fund: $149,650.51
Levy Excess Fund: $8,522.14

Mrs. Anderson submitted the Claims Docket for June 24, 2026, in the amount of $572,499.81. Mrs. Anderson submitted two (2) invoices that didn't make it on the Claims Docket form Thieneman Construction for emergency repairs in the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Invoice No. 2515-019-112 for a Blower Gasket repair in the amount of $5,492.00 and Invoice No. 2515-019-111 for repairs to Aeration Tank 5 & 6 in the amount of $12,778.00.

Mrs. Anderson recommended Board approval of the Claims Docket with the additional invoices in the amount of $590,769.81.

Mr. Sperling moved to approve the Claims Docket with additional invoices from Thieneman Construction as presented – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Babcock noted for the record that Mrs. Mahone arrived for the meeting.

New Business

Mrs. Anderson advised that due to unanticipated repairs in the treatment plant, expenses to enhance Information Technology (I.T.) software, among other unbudgeted expenses, it is necessary to transfer funds from the Sewer Works Improvement Fund to the Sewer Operating Fund Specifically:

Account	Reason for Transfer	Amount
6201.302.431.050 Professional Services	SCADA Services	$10,000
6201.302.436.020 Repairs and Maintenance	Plant Repairs	$150,000
6201.303.431.050 Professional Services	I.T. Enhancements and other professional services	$75,000
6201.306.431.050 Professional Services	Lift Station SCADA Expenses	$35,000
	Total	$270,000

Mrs. Anderson then recommended Board approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling moved to approve the Fund Transfer Request as submitted – second by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Mrs. Anderson advised that 1 of the 4 influent pumps is out of service. It was noted that the Sanitary District would be at risk of not being able to meet system treatment demands if a second influent pump failed. Bid proposals were received from Pro Pump Inc., and HydroAire, Inc., and thoroughly reviewed. It was noted that Lakefront Manufacturing declined to submit a bid.

Mrs. Anderson recommended that the Board accept the proposal from Pro-Pump, Inc. to refurbish Influent Pump #4 as the lowest responsive bid for a lump sum cost of $94,403.00.

Mr. Sperling moved to accept the proposal from Pro-Pump, Inc. as submitted – seconded by Mr. Falls. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Ms. Vachet advised that the Board approved the 750 KVA Transformer Replacement Project and SCADA Server Operating Systems Licenses with Server Hardware.

Ms. Vachet reported that the Sanitary District would like to seek formal appropriation of funds for the mentioned project/licenses/hardware because they are not in the 2026 budget.

Mr. Sperling moved to approve the appropriation of funds in the amount of $309,000.00 as recommended – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Ms. Vachet advised that the Sanitary District and Consultants have drafted a Resolution for Final Rate & Fee. It was noted that a Special Meeting, followed by a Public Hearing will take place on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 5:00 P.M. in the Chambers of the Michigan City Common Council located in City Hall at 100 E. Michigan Boulevard, Michigan City, Indiana 46360.

Mr. Babcock recommended a column be added to include the current rates. Ms. Vachet understood.

Ms. Vachet submitted the Sanitary District of Michigan City's Bad Debt Policy and Resolution No. 2026-06 Approving a Policy Regarding the Writing Off of Uncollectible Debts. Ms. Vachet also included Exhibit A which states; *This Policy is drafted for the purpose of formalizing and standardizing the ability of the Sanitary District of Michigan City to expense, or "write off," "bad debt" as a financial loss for accounting purposes. The Sanitary District of Michigan City administration shall have the discretion, subject to Board approval, to expense or "write off" any account with a balance of less than $100.00 which meets the definition for "bad debt" set forth in this Policy.* Ms. Vachet then recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner moved to amend Resolution No. 2026-06 and Exhibit A to write off any account with a balance of less than $200.00 and approve – seconded by Mr. Sperling. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Ms. Vachet advised that the Sanitary District has had recent staffing changes. As a result, the Sanitary District created two (2) new positions with Job Descriptions; Administrative Services Manager and Assistant I.T. Director. Ms. Vachet included an updated Salary Resolution and Organizational Chart and recommended Board approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling moved to approve the mentioned Job Descriptions, Salary Resolution and Organizational Chart as presented. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Garcia provided the Board with an update on the Michigan City Annexed Area Sewer Project (MCASE). It was noted that Substantial Completion has been determined. Mr. Garcia added that Rieth-Riley Construction Company, Inc. contractor for the MCASE project, requested an inspection to determine final punch list items to be completed prior to project close out.

Regarding the Lake Avenue and Highway 12 Lift Station Sewer Relief Project, Mr. Garcia advised that Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has approved the permit for Boring under U.S. Highway 12.

Regarding the Birch Tree Farms Drainage Improvements Project, Mr. Garcia advised that the preparation of preliminary design drawings will take place once drainage calculations are complete.

Ms. Vachet advised that the Sanitary District continues to work with the Michigan City Department of Water Works to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Regarding the Sewer Model Plan, Ms. Vachet reported that the Sanitary District continues to move forward with data collection. Ms. Vachet noted that it is informative to have a Sewer Model to perform efficient capacity analysis.

On behalf of District Engineer Al Walus, Ms. Vachet provided the Board with a memorandum regarding Lafayette-Barker Combined Sewer Influence on Wastewater Flows. Of the additional 7.75% of increased flow to the Wastewater Treatment Plant in 2025, a portion of this wet weather flow is a result of the combined sewer in the Lafayette-Barker Study Area. The Sanitary District's Engineering Department is reviewing the 2003 DLZ Lafayette-Barker micro-basin computer model output to evaluate what portion of the 7.75% of increased flow is attributed to combined sewers in the Lafayette-Barker Study Area and will provide an update at the August 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

Ms. Vachet advised that the Sanitary District would like to memorialize and put a temporary hold on new sanitary sewer service areas outside Michigan City Municipal Limits. Ms. Vachet explained that the Sanitary District is working to improve business practices with other incorporated areas by entering into Community Agreements.

Ms. Vachet reported that the contract with V3 Companies for Monitoring and Maintenance has been updated per the request of the Board at the May 27, 2026, Regular Meeting. It was noted that representatives of V3 Companies will attend the next Regular Meeting to address status of the project.

Mrs. Anderson advised that months ago, the Sanitary District observed low aerator dissolved oxygen concentrations and immediately initiated steps to mitigate the issue including repairing leaks in the aerator air piping, utilizing backup blower, and cleaning aerator diffuser heads. Further investigations found a failed coupling in the blower discharge header which prevented adequate air volume to the aerators. It was noted that repairs are now complete and aerator dissolved oxygen and ammonia concentrations are back to normal. Multiple preventative maintenance measures have been added to the preventive maintenance program to prevent this from occurring.

Mr. Carter submitted Ordinance No. 4751 Section 50-510 Special Pick-Ups Rules and Fees. The Ordinance states that *Upon approval for Special Pick-up, and prior to pick-up scheduling, you must first pay the minimum mobilization fee of $25.00 and a minimum landfill disposal fee of $25.00. Upon receipt of these fees, your Special Pick-up will then be scheduled, and you will be given a date to place your items at the curb, and approximate pick-up window.* Conversation ensued.

Mr. Sperling moved to approve Ordinance No. 4751 Section 50-510 Special Pick-Ups Rules and Fees – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Werner briefly mentioned that the storm sewer system near the 800 block of North Karwick Road has failed. It was noted that the Sanitary District and Engineering Department need to work together to resolve the matter.

Mr. Werner moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 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 **Special Meeting/Public Hearing – July 9, 2026, at 100 E. Michigan Boulevard, Michigan City, IN 46360 at 5:00 P.M. Local Time.**

Next Board of Sanitary District Commissioners Regular Meeting – **July 22, 2026, at 1100 E. Eighth Street, Michigan City, IN 46360 at 4:00 P.M. Local Time.**

7/22/26

Don Babcock, President

Date