

BOARD OF SANITARY DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 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, and Tina Mahone. Tance Falls was absent.

Staff present at the meeting were:

Wendy Vachet, Director of Public Works
Rachel McCline, Administrative Services Manager
Al Walus, District Engineer
Andrew Matanic, I.T. Director
Leon Jones, Sanitary & Stormwater Engineer
Oscar Suarez, Engineering Intern
Christopher Yagelski, Business Manager
Jewell Harris, Legal Counsel

Also present at the meeting were:

Tom Nagel, Robinson Engineering
Brad Millis, V3 Companies
Don Przybylinski, M.C. Common Council
John Kremke, Schneider Geomatics
Zachary Tobin, City Engineering Intern
Joseph Nelson, M.C. Common Council

Minutes

Mr. Sperling moved to approve the June 24, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes and the July 9, 2026, Special Meeting minutes as presented – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Public Comment

None

Financial Report

As of June 30, 2026:

Refuse Fund: \$1,014,445.79
Storm Water Fund: \$594,482.03
Operating Fund: \$1,006,532.91
Improvement Fund: \$520,276.62
Vehicle Replacement Fund: \$267,677.07
Equipment Replacement Fund: \$58,912.39
Grand Fund: \$114,299.29
SRF Debt Fund: \$588,870.77
SRF Bond and Interest Fund: \$153,098.98
Special Fund: \$10,686.01
Karwick Remediation Fund: \$149,799.80
Levy Excess Fund: \$8,522.14

Mr. Yagelski submitted the Claims Docket for July 22, 2026, in the amount of \$339,714.84 and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling moved to approve the Claims Docket and Cash Balances as presented – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Matanic advised that the City of Michigan City requires assistance in providing secure access to their current Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to facilitate the upgrade to their new system. The architecture will be upgraded to a more secure and segmented network and controls to ensure the scope of access is least privileges which should provide for a seamless transition from the current network to the network which will support the new hardware and software investments.

Mr. Matanic recommended approval to allow the Sanitary District to enter an agreement with Stratify Security for SCADA Hardware and Licensing to include five (5) year maintenance in the amount of \$42,228.85. Ms. Vachet advised that the equipment would be paid for by the Equipment Fund.

Mr. Sperling moved to approve the agreement with Stratify Security, Procurement No. S-01504 as recommended – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Walus advised that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has operated and maintained a streamgage to capture flow data on Trail Creek for many decades, dating back to 1969. The data includes flow, depth and water temperature data. This data is useful to the Sanitary District as stormwater drainage is managed throughout Trail Creek. Per this agreement, the Sanitary District would fund \$16,500.00 for the USGS to operate and

maintain this streamgauge and the USGS would contribute an additional \$3,400.00 towards this effort, with the total cost of this effort to be \$19,900.00. Mr. Walus then recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling moved to approve the USGS and Sanitary joint-funding agreement 27NFJFA00000014 as recommended – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

As part of the City of Michigan City's negotiations with project Maize representatives last year, the Development Agreement with the City included \$100,000.00 for the engineering and construction of sanitary sewer diversion structure at the intersection of Springland Avenue and Roeske Avenue, along with the purchase of flow monitoring equipment to verify flow conditions at this location. To accurately develop a hydraulic flow model of the sanitary sewer network in the subject area, District staff need to obtain accurate sewer manhole elevation data. Mr. Walus then recommended approval to purchase a Trimble Model R980 Surveying Unit with a one-time Perpetual Software License, per Seiler Geospatial. Mr. Walus advised that the cost of the equipment, Design/Construction Engineering and Construction is in the amount of \$98,923.00

Mr. Sperling moved to approve the purchase of the Trimble R980 as recommended – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Ms. Vachet submitted a proposed Resolution by the Board of Commissioners of the Michigan City Sanitary District Authorizing Payment of Certain Claims Prior to Board Approval and for the use of Electronic Funds Transfer ("EFT") VIA the Automated Clearing House ("ACH") to Effectuate Payments.

Ms. Vachet noted that the Board will continue to see the information, adding that the Resolution preauthorizes payments to avoid late charges. Ms. Vachet then recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling moved to approve A Resolution by the Board of Commissioners of the Michigan City Sanitary District Authorizing Payment of Certain Claims Prior to Board Approval and for the use of Electronic Funds Transfer ("EFT") VIA the Automated Clearing House ("ACH") to Effectuate Payments as presented – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Regarding the Michigan City Annexed Area Sewer Extension Project (MCASE), Mr. Kremke advised that Substantial Completion has been established.

It was noted that wet weather has slowed completion of some of the punch list items.

Ms. Vachet reported that the source of funds for the MCASE Project is \$1,500,000.00 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Regarding the Lake Avenue and U.S. Highway 12 Lift Station Sewer Relief Project, Mr. Kremke advised that the Lift Station Wet Well and vault installation is complete. The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) permit for jack/bore under U.S. Highway 12 has been received. Schneider Geomatics is working with H&G Construction to determine a date for site remobilization.

Ms. Vachet reported that the source of funds for the Lake Avenue and U.S. Highway 12 Lift Station Sewer Relief Project is \$4,600,000.00 of Indiana's Residential Housing Infrastructure Assistance Program (RIF) funds. Ms. Vachet noted that left over funds from this project will be used to fund the Birch Tree Farms Drainage Improvement Project.

Regarding the Birch Tree Farms Drainage Improvement Project, Mr. Walus provided the Board with a handout identifying surface water ponding concerns. It was noted that the excess funds from the RIF Grant will be used for stormwater improvements at this location. Conversation ensued.

Mr. Millis with V3 Companies provided the Board with an update on mitigating the invasive plant species and maintaining the native plant species at Striebel Pond.

Mr. Babcock recommended a quarterly update from V3 Companies regarding the mitigation and maintenance of Striebel Pond. Mr. Millis understood.

Mr. Walus noted that the work performed by V3 Companies is being funded by a prior Grant.

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

Regarding the rate and fee increase, Ms. Vachet reported that the Common Council had a 1st reading on the matter at their July 21, 2026, meeting. Councilman Przyblinski advised that a Workshop is scheduled for July 28, 2026, to discuss the rate and fee increase and answer any questions that the public may have regarding the matter. Conversation ensued.

Ms. Vachet proposed that the next Regular Board Meeting be moved from August 26, 2026, to August 19, 2026. The Board accepted Ms. Vachet's proposal.

Ms. Vachet advised that there was a measurable precipitation on fourteen (14) days in June, totaling 8.07 inches, 100% higher than average June precipitation. It was noted that despite the rainy June, there were no Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs).

As previously reported, there was a breach in the blower discharge header resulting in low dissolved oxygen concentrations in the aerators which caused effluent ammonia violations. The breach was repaired restoring sufficient dissolved air to the aerators and eliminating ammonia violations. Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) did a site visit and was satisfied with the Sanitary District's efforts to mitigate the problem. Multiple preventative maintenance (PM) tasks were added to the plant's PM program to prevent a reoccurrence.

Ms. Vachet provided the Board with a Cadmium Schedule of Compliance 9-Month Progress Report that was sent to IDEM Office of Water Quality. Conversation ensued.

Mr. Walus provided the Board with a Rate Adjustment/Engineering/Accountability Schedule. Mr. Walus explained that the rate increase will provide capability to issue Bond Anticipation Notes for engineering and Phase 1 Construction (High-Priority Collection System Sewer Rehabilitation, Repair and Septic Cluster Eliminations and Lift Station Repairs).

Mr. Walus provided the Board with an update on the Lafayette-Barker Outfall Project. It was noted that the soil conditions at this location have a low load bearing capacity along with wetlands, and environmental restrictions from past contamination. Mr. Walus advised that a proposed 36-inch concrete reinforced pipe could be installed and connected to the existing 78-inch storm sewer.

Mr. Walus advised that there are 10 acres of green space in downtown Michigan City that will need to have onsite stormwater detention. Mr. Walus proposed a regional detention basin at the Lafayette- Barker Outfall site to avoid multiple small ponds in areas of potential development. Conversation ensued.

Regarding the Trail Creek Watershed Management Plan, Mr. Walus advised that parcels are being studied to determine if they were assessed a legal drain fee. Conversation ensued. Mr. Walus advised that more information will come before the Board at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Sperling recommended an update from the Refuse Department at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Babcock called for public comment.

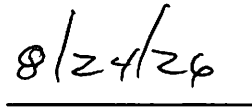
Councilman Przybylinski reported storm sewer covers that need repaired at the corner of DeWolfe Street & Franklin Street. It was noted that the Median on Michigan Boulevard between Johnson Road and Warnke Road still needs to be cleared of rocks and debris. Conversation ensued.

Mr. Sperling moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:24 P.M. – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 4 – 0 in favor.

Next Board of Sanitary District Commissioners Regular Meeting – **August 19, 2026, 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', written over a horizontal line.

Don Babcock, President

A handwritten date '8/24/26' in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Date