

BOARD OF SANITARY DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2026, 5:00 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 5:02 P.M. by President Don Babcock.

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

Staff present at the meeting were:

Rhonda Anderson, Superintendent of Water Reclamation
Rachel McCline, Administrative Services Manager
Al Walus, District Engineer
Leon Jones, Sanitary & Stormwater Engineer
Oscar Suarez, Engineer Intern
Christopher Yagelski, Business Manager
Wendy Vachet, Director of Public Works
Jewell Harris, Legal Counsel

Also present for the meeting were:

Drew White, ALCO TV
Melisha Henderson, Human Resources
Shante Ivey, Human Resources
Darrell Garbacik, Central Services
Zachary Tobin, Michigan City Engineering
Tracie Tillman, Michigan City Common Council
Mayor Angie Nelson Deutch, City of Michigan City Mayor
Connie Cartegena, Michigan City Police Department
Vivian Ott, Michigan City Resident
William A. Newton, Michigan City Community Action Group
Scott Meland, Michigan City Resident
Dave Biela, 3044 Ohio St., Michigan City
John Wojcik, 109 Beverly Ct., Michigan City
Paul Przybylinski, 1716 Washington St., Michigan City
Pat Mathny, 821 Earl Rd., Michigan City
Cheryl Sheperd, 1124 S. Roeske Ave., Trail Creek
Blake Schoiber, 1312 Elston St., Michigan City

Mrs. Henderson advised that the City of Michigan City created a handbook committee with members from multiple City departments. Mrs. Henderson reported the following handbook changes; Sanitary District (moved – Heavy Equipment Operator, Belt Press Operator, and Mechanic to Non-Department of Transportation (DOT) safety sensitive drug and alcohol (testing). Construction and Storm Crew, Collection Maintenance/Video Operator, and Collections Maintenance/Sewer Technicians were added to DOT safety sensitive testing. Mrs. Henderson advised that all employees are required to have testing after any type of accident. It was noted that the Port Authority has their own policies regarding testing.

It was noted that Employees who are promoted or transferred within the city will not be required to complete a new ninety (90)-day probationary period. Instead, employees will participate in a (90)-day evaluation period in their new position.

Regarding identification badges, employees are required to have them in their possession. It was noted that wearing them can become a safety hazard for some employees.

Regarding personal appearance the following was removed from the policy; Body Piercing jewelry of the nose, eyebrow, tongue, or body parts (other than the earlobe) visible to the public may be worn while working. All tattoos must be small or always covered and may not be offensive in nature.

Regarding Employment Termination, the following was added to the policy;

- Be actively employed by the City of Michigan City at the time of retirement
- Have completed a minimum of ten (10) years of vested service with the City of Michigan City
- Be vested in the applicable retirement plan administered by the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS)
- Meet the age and service requirements for an unreduced or reduced retirement benefit as established by INPRS

It was noted that employees who are bound by the rule of eighty-five (85) may receive all their banked sick benefits. The rule of 85 applies to employees whose age and years of civil service with the City of Michigan City add up to 85. Employees who don't meet the rule of 85 requirements will receive up to 10 days of sick leave.

Employees who separate from employment before meeting the above requirements, or who defer retirement after separating from City employment, shall not be considered retirees for purposes of City-sponsored retiree benefits unless otherwise provided by law or approved by the City of Michigan City.

It was noted that a grid breaking down the sick leave days for part time staff was added. The number of days part time staff may receive for bereavement was added. A policy to define mandatory callbacks/call-ins for all city employees was added.

Michigan City Board of Public Works approved the new Employee Handbook on July 6, 2026. Mrs. Henderson then recommended approval from the Board of Sanitary District Commissioners to accept the new Employee Handbook as presented.

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

Mrs. Anderson advised that the Sanitary District of Michigan City has four (4) effluent pumps through which wastewater is pumped from the filter building to the chlorine contact tanks. Effluent pump No. 4 needs repaired and without it, the ability to treat water at peak capacity during a heavy rain event is compromised. Bid proposals were solicited and received from Pro Pump Inc. for this emergency repair in the amount of \$50,720.00. Mrs. Anderson then recommended approval of the same.

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

Ms. Vachet presented a Proposed Resolution Establishing a Temporary Moratorium with Respect to Consideration of Applications for Sewer Connection Permits. Ms. Vachet explained that a temporary moratorium would give the Sanitary District some time to engage its internal processes and come back to the Board and talk about how to move forward with a different business model. Ms. Vachet then recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner moved to approve the proposed Resolution Establishing a Temporary Moratorium with Respect to Consideration of Applications for Sewer Connection Permits – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Ms. Vachet presented a Proposed Resolution Authorizing an Amended Schedule of Rates and Charges Collected by the City of Michigan City, Indiana, From the Owners of Property Served by the Michigan City Sanitary District and Other Matters Connected Therewith.

Attorney Harris recommended that the Resolution be read in its entirety for the record. Ms. Vachet understood.

Mr. Babcock then opened a Public Hearing on the matter.

Dave Biela, 3044 Ohio Street recommended that the Board provide a dollar value regarding the two-phase rate increase.

William A. Newton, 604 Black Oak Drive advised that he receives multiple calls from Trail Creek residents regarding the 14.5% increase in their monthly bill if the Resolution passes.

Councilman Bryant Dabney, 405 Thomas Street advised that the City Council held a Workshop regarding the mentioned proposal. Councilman Dabney advised that he is in support of the proposed Resolution, adding that this is what needs to be done for the betterment of Michigan City.

Vivian Ott, 105 Felton Street recommended a couple additional considerations as the proposed Resolution rolls out to the public. Ms. Ott advised that the Public should be informed of other funding sources that have been explored to mitigate costs that the residents must cover. Ms. Ott asked why a two-year implementation was selected versus a five-year or longer implementation. Ms. Ott asked what percentage of the needed funds will be covered by industry, new construction, etc. versus the residents themselves.

Cheryl Sheperd, 1124 S. Roeske Ave., Trail Creek asked the Board if there has been a recent increase in groundwater in her neighborhood. Ms. Sheperd asked if there were any know drainage issues in her neighborhood. Ms. Sheperd asked if there were any old dry wells or storm drains on her street, and who she should contact to determine the answer to her questions.

Scott Meland, 210 Kenwood Place advised that a rate increase is beyond needed at this time. Mr. Meland noted that it's been far too long since this level of planning has been undertaken to find out what the Sanitary District's needs are, to make comparisons with other communities. Mr. Meland asked if the Sanitary District will be seeking further rate increases when there are bonds to be paid for the proposed increases.

Paul Przybylinski, 1716 Washington Street reported that he does not support the proposed Resolution at this juncture in time. Mr. Przybylinski noted that in the prior years, there has been a lot of sewer separation work in the 2nd Ward that was paid for with Riverboat Funds. Mr. Przybylinski recommended that there should be dedicated funds for long-term projects.

Mayor Angie, 126 Lady Lane advised that there were no opportunities for additional financing. It was noted that the City of Michigan City received a low interest loan that was presented to assist with some additional infrastructure. Mayor Angie advised that the City of Michigan City is currently not eligible for certain funds. It was noted that the Redevelopment Commission and the City of Michigan City have been funding several of the items that have occurred over the last several years with the Sanitary District. Mayor Angie explained that City and Sanitary District officials need to evaluate rates every two (2) years going forward.

Hearing no further comments from the public, Mr. Babcock closed the Public Hearing on the matter. Conversation ensued among the Board and Sanitary District Staff officials in response to the public comments.

Ms. Vachet advised that 90% of the Sanitary District's customers are residential, meaning they pay the residential rate. It was noted that new developers, including commercial development, will pay their fair share. Attorney Harris reported that if the Sanitary District were to delay the revenue increase for five (5) years or more, The Sanitary District won't be able to be eligible for bonding to do the infrastructure improvements that are needed now to support the growth that is occurring.

Ms. Vachet then recommended Board approval for the Resolution as presented.

Mrs. Mahone moved to approve a Resolution Authorizing an Amended Schedule of Rates and Charges Collected by the City of Michigan City, Indiana, From the Owners of Property Served by the Michigan City Sanitary District and other Matters Connected Therewith – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Werner moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 P.M. - seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

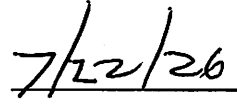
Next Board of Sanitary District Commissioners Regular Meeting – July 22, 2026, 1100 E. Eighth Street, Michigan City, IN 46360 at 4:00 P.M. Local Time.

Special Meeting
Board of Sanitary District Commissioners
July 9, 2026

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Babcock', written over a horizontal line.

Don Babcock, President

A handwritten date '7/22/26' in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Date