

BOARD OF SANITARY DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 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 4:02 P.M. by President Don Babcock.

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

Staff present at the meeting were:

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

Also present at the meeting were:

Don Przybylinski, M.C. Common Council
John Kremke, Schneider Geomatics
Liz Slatteny, St. Andrews Village

Minutes

Mr. Sperling moved to approve the July 22, 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

Councilman Przybylinski recommended a status update on the needed stormwater inlet repairs at Dewolfe Street and Franklin Street. Councilman Przybylinski also recommended storm sewer repairs at the northwest corner of Gardena Street and Tilden Avenue. It was also mentioned that the cleaning of Michigan Boulevard near Johnson Road is the Street Departments responsibility.

Ms. Slatteny at 5 St. Andrews Drive addressed the Board with concerns about storm water plans at St. Andrews Village.

Financial Report

As of July 31, 2026:

Refuse Fund: \$2,341,036.22

Storm Water Fund: \$907,285.64

Operating Fund: \$1,017,361.73

Improvement Fund: \$520,276.62

Vehicle Replacement Fund: \$267,677.07

Equipment Replacement Fund: \$16,683.54

Grant Fund: \$112,359.29

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. Babcock recommended a breakdown of appropriations in the cash balance reports going forward. Mrs. Anderson understood.

Mr. Sperling moved to approve the Cash Balance and the Budget Performance Reports as presented – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Sperling moved to approve the Revenue and Tax Levy Claims for Payment as presented – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

New Business

Mrs. Anderson explained that the Controller's office resumed the responsibilities of the previous Sanitary District Financial Manager three (3) years ago. Mrs. Anderson advised that the Sanitary District would like to hire a part-time Financial Manager to relieve the Controller's office. Mrs. Anderson submitted a Job Description, updated Organizational Chart and revised Salary Resolution. Mrs. Anderson then recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling moved to approve the part-time Financial Manager position/Job Description, updated Organizational Chart and revised Salary Resolution as presented – seconded by

Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Ms. Vachet advised that the Sanitary District would like to enter a two (2) year contract with Schneider Geospatial for Geographic Information Systems Data Export and Hosting in the amount of \$5,640.00. Ms. Vachet explained that this agreement will help tie addresses to the Sanitary Districts existing systems such as Cloudpermit. It was noted that the Unity Foundation has considered assisting with cost reimbursement for the mentioned expense. Ms. Vachet then recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling moved to approve the agreement with Schneider Geospatial as presented – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Ms. Vachet advised that the Sanitary District would like to utilize Cloudpermit Module to be more in sync with the City of Michigan City. Ms. Vachet submitted an agreement with Cloudpermit for a Public Works Software Module. Ms. Vachet stated that the total cost for the Public Works Permit is \$14,000.00 for one (1) year. It was noted that the Unity Foundation has considered assisting with cost reimbursement for the mentioned expense. Ms. Vachet then recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner moved to approve the Cloudpermit Public Works Module as presented – seconded by Mr. Sperling. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Walus advised that the Sanitary District uses four (4) different key pieces of equipment: 1. S.L. Rat Device, 2. Pole Camera, 3. Remote Control Camera, 4. Push Camera

Mr. Walus reported that the Sanitary District needs to replace its Push Camera. Mr. Walus submitted a sales proposal from Best Equipment for a Push Camera in the amount of \$15,613.13 and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling moved to approve the purchase of Best Equipment's Push Camera *Sourcewell, Envirosight: #120721-EVS* as presented – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Walus reported that Storm Water Management BMPs Maintenance Agreement will be brought before the Board at upcoming meetings.

Old Business

Mr. Kremke reported that the Michigan City Annexed Sewer Extension (MCASE) Project is complete and under budget. Mr. Kremke submitted a final reconciliation Change Order No. 4. The amount of this change order results in a decrease in contract price of \$20,955.19. The aggregate sum of Change Orders No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4 results in a contract price of decrease of \$26,833.40.

Mr. Babcock entertained a motion to approve Change Order No. 4 as presented.

Mr. Werner moved to Approved Change Order No. 4 – seconded by Mr. Sperling. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Walus advised that H&G Underground Utilities, LLC would like to request a change order for incorporating Phase I of the Birch Tree Farms Drainage Project into the U.S. Highway 12 and Lake Avenue Lift Station Project. Conversation ensued.

Mr. Kremke submitted the mentioned Change Order No. 3 for the Phase I Birch Tree Farms Drainage Improvements in the amount of \$392,091.48. The scope of the work for Change Order No. 3 is pursuant to Sanitary District request to perform drainage repairs to the storm water system infrastructure in the Birch Tree Farms neighborhood.

Mr. Babcock entertained a motion to approve Change Order No. 3 as presented.

Mr. Werner moved to approve Change Order No. 3 in the amount of \$392,091.48 – seconded by Mr. Sperling. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

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 & Fee Increase Ordinance, Ms. Vachet thanked all individuals involved in bringing it to fruition. It was noted that the Michigan City Common Council passed the ordinance unanimously on August 18, 2026. Ms. Vachet advised that the next steps are to implement the rates and fees in the billing system. It was mentioned that all the information presented to the Council has been uploaded on the Sanitary District's website.

Regarding Data Integration, Ms. Vachet advised that the Sanitary District is working closely with the Information Technology department to ensure that each system is linked to each other.

Ms. Vachet reported that *The Moore* project is located at Moore Road and U.S. Highway 12. It was noted that the project is currently in Phase I. Ms. Slatteny asked if the Storm Water plan was contingent on the Phase I portion of the project. Ms. Vachet advised that coordination happens at the same time through the Planning Commission process. Conversation ensued.

Regarding the severe storm that occurred on August 11, 2026, Mrs. Anderson advised that the Wastewater Treatment Plant's power was not interrupted. It was noted that thirteen (13) of forty-five (45) Lift Stations did lose power that was restored by August 18, 2026.

Mrs. Anderson reported that there was measurable rain on nine (9) days in July totaling 3.92 inches. It was noted that the Sanitary District had almost as much rain in June and July of 2026 than the whole year in 2025. Mrs. Anderson thanked staff members for being proactive during the heavy rain events. Mr. Babcock recommended that any proactive efforts by staff be shared on the Sanitary District's website.

Mr. Walus provided the Board with an updated Engineering Schedule. Mr. Walus expressed the importance of completing the rate and fee increase to issue the Bond Anticipation Notice. Mr. Walus advised that more Sewer Model Plan updates will be provided to the Board after Labor Day.

Regarding the Lafayette-Barker Outfall project, Mr. Walus advised that the 30% Plans are projected to be complete by the end of 2026. It was noted that the Sanitary District has an opportunity to submit for a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant. Mr. Walus explained that the Grant outline must be submitted by Friday August 28, 2026.

Regarding the Trail Creek Water Shed Management Plan, Mr. Walus advised that the 319 Watershed Management Grant application is due on Tuesday September 1, 2026.

Mr. Walus reported that the Indiana Illinois Sea Grant will be hosting a conference at the Blue Chip Casino in Michigan City this year regarding the state of Lake Michigan.

Ms. Vachet advised that the Refuse Department will give regular updates to the Board going forward.

Councilman Przybylinski recommended that stickers be purchased to place on mailboxes for residents who continue to put yard waste out in plastic/paper bags. It was noted that yard waste should go in Thirty-two (32) gallon cans. It was also recommended that the Refuse Ordinance be updated for 2027.

Mr. Babcock recommended that Councilman Przybylinski's concerns regarding the mentioned stormwater inlets be addressed at the next Regular Meeting.

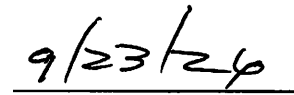
Mrs. Anderson advised that Sanitary District officials will be attending the 2026 Indiana Water Environment Association (IWEA) Conference in Indianapolis from August 26th through the 28th. It was noted that the Sanitary District's Sewer Line Rapid Assessment Tool (SL-RAT) and the vehicle that transports it will be on display in the exhibition hall. It was noted that Mr. Walus will provide a presentation on SL-RAT at the conference.

Mr. Sperling moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 P.M. – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 3 – 0 in favor.

Next Board of Sanitary District Commissioners Regular Meeting – September 23, 2026, at 1100 E. Eighth Street, Michigan City, IN 46360 at 4:00 P.M. Local Time.



Don Babcock, President



Date