BOARD OF SANITARY DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

WENESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 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 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
Wendy Vachet, Director of Public Works
Rachel McCline, Administrative Services Manager
Al Walus, District Engineer
Leon Jones, Sanitary & Stormwater Engineer
Christopher Carter, Superintendent of Refuse
Christopher Yagelski, Business Manager
Jewll Harris, Legal Counsel

Also present at the meeting were:
Don Pryzyblinski, M.C. Common Council
John Kremke, Schneider Geomatics
Michael Bergerson, Lakeshore Sewer, LLC Attorney
John Wojcik, Lakeshore Sewer, LLC

Minutes

Mr. Sperling moved to approve the August 24, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Public Comment

Attorney Bergerson addressed the Board regarding negotiations for the final sewer use agreement with the Sanitary District. Attorney Bergerson requested to be on the Sanitary District Board agenda for the October 28, 2026, regular meeting.

Attorney Harris advised that the Sanitary District is working on developing systems to make things more streamlined.

Councilman Przybylinski thanked Mr. Werner and Mr. Yagelski for addressing the storm sewer concerns that were mentioned at the previous meeting. Councilman Przybylinski reported an insert trash receptacle that is too large on Franklin Street near Brew Box coffee shop.

Ms. Vachet advised that the trash receptacles from the mentioned location and down to the library are being investigated to come up with a better solution.

Financial Report

As of August 31, 2026:
Refuse Fund: $2,141,123.94
Storm Water Fund: $931,782.26
Operating Fund: $1,360,466.85
Improvement Fund: $520,276.62
Vehicle Replacement Fund: $267,677.07
Equipment Replacement Fund: $16,683.54
Grant Fund: $105,045.34
SRF Debt Fund: $588,870.77
SRF Bond and Interest Fund: $271,462.61
Special Fund: $10,686.01
Karwick Remediation Fund: $149,850.69
Levy Excess Fund: $8,522.14

Ms. Vachet advised that Sanitary District officials are working to improve the budget performance report to include more details. Conversation ensued.

Mrs. Mahone moved to approve the cash balances and budget performance report as presented – seconded by Mr. Sperling. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Mrs. Anderson presented the Revenue and Tax Levy Claims in the amount of $501,875.72 and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Sperling moved to approve the Revenue and Tax Levy Claims as presented – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

New Business

Mr. Carter presented an updated Job Description for Refuse Driver. Mr. Carter explained that the updated version included the requirement of an Air Brake Endorsement.

Mr. Carter then recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner moved to approve the Refuse Driver Job Description as presented – seconded by Mr. Falls. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Mrs. Anderson presented the Board with an updated Salary Resolution. Mrs. Anderson explained that updates were made to the Refuse department which include ranges in the wages. Mr. Carter explained that drivers with experience will start at a different rate of pay verses a driver who just completed Certified Driver's License (CDL) school.

Mrs. Anderson then recommended approval of the same.

Mrs. Mahone moved to approve the updated Salary Resolution No. 1465-26_Update 3.0 as presented – 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 is planning for a fifteen (15) million-dollar Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) to support necessary capital improvement projects. Ms. Vachet presented an engagement agreement with Barnes & Thornburg for legal services and an engagement agreement with Krohn & Associates for municipal accounting services and recommended approval of the same.

Mr. Werner moved to authorize the engagement agreements as presented – seconded by Mrs. Mahone. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Walus advised that the Sanitary District completed a request for quotation process for a necessary stormwater drain repair at 1934 Lake Shore Drive.

Rieth-Riley Construction Co., INC. – LaPorte, Indiana – $86,538.55

Grimmer Construction, Inc. – Highland, Indiana – $129,145.00

Egolf Corporation – Portage, Indiana – $54,450.00

Woodruff & Sons, Inc. – Michigan City, Indiana – $40,627.88

Engineer's Estimate: Schneider Geomatics – Indianapolis, Indiana – $40,527.50

Mr. Walus recommended Board approval to award the project to lowest and responsive quoter, Woodruff & Sons, Inc.

Mr. Sperling moved to approve the quote from Woodruff & Sons, Inc. as presented – seconded by Mr. Werner. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Old Business

Regarding the U.S. Highway 12 Lift Station Project, Mr. Kremke advised that Amtrack permitting is still underway as the easement agreement is near finalization. Mr. Kremke noted that geotechnical boring will move the project forward. The Board thanked Mr. Kremke for his update.

Ms. Vachet advised that the Sanitary District is looking at its property closely to identify any encroachments and to ensure that there are proper agreements in place with its neighbors. Conversation ensued.

Regarding the amended rate and fee increase implementation, Ms. Vachet advised that the Sanitary District is moving forward with the Water Department to enter the fees in the water billing system. It was noted that informative mailers will be inserted with next month's water bills regarding the amendments.

Mrs. Anderson advised that Sue Lehman retired from the Sanitary District's Laboratory department after 39 years of service. Ms. Lehman was complimented on her efforts to ensure that the Laboratory was well run and in compliance with Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).

Mrs. Anderson mentioned that staff members from the Operations and Engineering departments, including Ms. Vachet, attended the 2026 Indiana Water Environment Association (IWEA) Conference.

Mrs. Anderson reported that at the IWEA Conference, Mr. Walus presented a paper entitled "Nothing is Quicker than Sound: Acoustic-Based Sewer Inspections" describing the Sanitary District's experience of the SL-RAT and how valuable the tool has been for the Collection Department.

Mrs. Anderson advised that at the IWEA Conference, she was featured in a video entitled, "My Purpose Runs Deep" where she and three other wastewater professionals talked about how they started in the industry and advice for younger wastewater professionals, and other topics.

Mr. Walus provided the Board with an updated 2-Year Engineering Schedule.

It was noted that the rate and fee increase has been approved and in the process of implementation.

Mr. Walus reported that the Sanitary District can move forward with the Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) in the amount of $15 million dollars for Engineering and Phase 1 Construction.

Mr. Walus advised that the initial step is an approval of a Declaratory Resolution from the Sanitary District Board of Commissioners. The next step will be City Council establishing a Resolution that would approve the BAN followed by official ratification by the Sanitary District Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Walus noted that the Sanitary District is in the process of establishing winter management of the trails at Striebel Pond.

Mr. Walus advised that on September 22, 2026, the Finance Committee approved the Refuse and Storm Water Tax Levy budget for 2027. Conversation ensued.

Mr. Walus reported that the Sanitary District applied for a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant, requesting $500,000.00 to help offset the cost of the Lafayette-Barker Outfall.

Mr. Walus advised that Google is holding a community meeting to determine what potential projects Google would consider investing in to help maintain water quality. It was mentioned that a potential priority project would address Trail Creek water temperatures and how it affects Salmon. Mr. Walus noted that there is a $500.00 budget for the Save The Salmon Project. Mr. Walus reported a two (2) Tier plan to install multiple Caliper Shade Trees on the east bank of Trail Creek along a 0.26-mile-long area.

Mr. Walus advised that the Sanitary District also submitted an Urban Stormwater Park & Regional Stormwater Detention Basin proposal to Google for their consideration. Mr. Walus noted that the proposed Urban Stormwater Park will assist with completing the Lafayette-Barker Storm Sewer Project. Conversation ensued.

Mr. Walus reported that Christopher B. Burke Engineering has received a functional sewer model for Michigan City's sewer system. Mr. Walus noted that the sewer model will assist with gathering data for the development of Michigan City. Conversation ensued.

Mr. Carter advised that a couple of line items in the Refuse department are over budget due to unforeseen maintenance issues.

Mr. Carter reported that the Refuse department has Clean Indiana Grant funding to assist with the purchase of a new garbage truck.

Mr. Yagelski advised that the Sanitary District deems it essential to enact a written policy regarding the proper use and operation of a Grappler Truck. It was noted that operating a Grappler truck safely requires a combination of pre-operation checks, awareness of hazards, appropriate safety equipment, and proper handling techniques. Mr. Yagelski explained all the safety measures that must be followed regarding written policy and recommended approval from the Board.

Mr. Werner moved to approve the Grappler Truck Operation and Use policy as submitted – seconded by Mr. Sperling. There being no further question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Yagelski announced that there will be another Airport Drop Off program taking place at the Michigan City Municipal Airport. The program will run every Wednesday and Saturday from 8:00 A.M. until noon through the month of October 2026. It was noted that a Tire Amnesty will run at the same time and location.

Mr. Yagelski reported that the Refuse department will be utilizing stickers to be placed on cans to inform residents of any violations/issues regarding their trash pickup service.

Mr. Babcock adjourned the meeting at 5:24 P.M.

Next Board of Sanitary District Commissioner Regular Meeting – **October 28, 2026, at 1100 E. Eighth Street, Michigan City, IN 46360 at 4:00 P.M. Local Time.**

Don Babcock, President

10/20/26

Date