

## **Minutes**

### **Board Meeting of October 23, 2019**

THE BOARD OF SANITARY COMMISSIONERS conducted a regularly scheduled meeting in the Auditorium on the first floor of City Hall in Muncie, Indiana.

Board members present were: William Smith, Michael Cline and Joseph Evans.

Department managers and staff present were: Mark McKinney, Legal Counsel; Deana Cox, Financial/Billing Manager; Phil Reagon, Sanitation Superintendent; John Anderson, District Engineer and Megan Huff, Administration Office Manager.

Public: Sam Wrisley, 1010 East Centennial and Kim Ferguson, 1806 N Petty.

**Consideration of Minutes:** Mr. Evans moved to approve the minutes as submitted for the October 9, 2019 meeting. Mr. Cline seconded the motion. The motion was approved (3-0).

**Consideration of Claims:** Mr. Cline moved to approve the Register of Claims for \$1782639.42. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. The motion was approved (3-0).

#### **Old Business:**

None.

#### **New Business:**

None.

#### **Public Comments:**

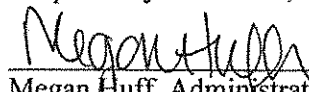
Sam Wrisley, 1010 East Centennial, said he is the minister of a church in Muncie. He said it was his heartbeat when starting his church there to help the community. Mr. Wrisley said over the last 16 years he and his family have invested literally millions of dollars on their current facility and helping the community around them. He said they have had a homeless house to help with substance abuse, a Zumba class weekly, food pantry/assistance as well as the Harvest Food bank among lots of other various school sports and community events. Mr. Wrisley would like to share his concerns about the new Sanitation building on MLK. He asked what affects the project will have on his church and their future community efforts. He asked if the recently built CNG Station "Greenline" has helped his church, Harvest Community, in its efforts and outreach projects. He asked what other future plans MSD has that may impact the church's efforts and its plans to continue bettering the community around them. He said his church is not going anywhere and is in it for the long haul and maybe that is why so many organizations want to use the facilities offered there. He asked if Harvest Community Church was your church, would you oppose the project around us and how would you handle the public hearing on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Wrisley said when the CNG Station was proposed the church was contacted about the plans, but shared nothing about the obvious connection between the two projects. He wants to know how his church can function and exist with these future plans to build the Sanitation building. He wants to know why no one has come to his church to share these plans to help prepare the church for what is coming. Mr. Wrisley said he is not upset with the Sanitary District, but he wants to be informed of what is to follow. He wants to know if he needs to start discussing with his church the possibility of halting all future continued development and consider relocation. Mr. Smith said that we are actually moving the trash trucks further away from their current location on Centennial Avenue. We do not plan on using Market Street which passes by your church so we did not think about contacting you. Mr. Cline said back in 2013 we did not

envision this happening to this extent and this was the 3<sup>rd</sup> location we were considering for our Sanitation building. Mr. Smith said the opposite side of MLK Blvd is empty and we will be adding value to the area we are building. Mr. Wrisley said right now the park is across from their building not Sanitation's trash trucks, but if MSD moves locations then the vehicles will be behind us bringing new trucks down Centennial is what we are concerned about. Mr. Smith said he would like to set up a meeting with Mr. Wrisley and show him the plans for our building and discuss his concerns with Engineers present to explain the routes for our vehicles. He said he feels this will help a lot to see what we are and are not going to do. Mr. Smith said we will definitely be making the site we are building on a lot nicer than it is looking right now.

Kimberley Ferguson, 1806 N Petty, asked if someone is on a public sewer, but a well for water how they are charged. Mr. Smith said it is a flat rate billing by how many people are in the house. Mrs. Ferguson asked if the bill should change per month. Mr. Cline said no, not unless you have called to add more people to your home. Mrs. Ferguson said she would like to discuss the sewer separation project in the most laymen terms possible. She said it is a 199 million dollar project that is based on if everything goes well, correct. Mr. Smith said the figure is based on construction, engineering, inflation over the 20 year period based in 2008. Mrs. Ferguson asked if this project is being funded by rate payers and that means rates will double between now and 2031. Mr. Smith said yes, at least double. Mrs. Ferguson said the project will take everything that we flush out of our house and separate that from rain water because right now it goes to one place. She said all that we flush will go to the plant and the rain water to the river once we are completely separated. Mr. Smith said yes, that is correct. Mr. Smith said currently we treat heavy rain events totaling around 30-40%. If we spend around 199 million dollar project we will have a less clean river due to the fertilizer, bird poop and asphalt will be flowing there directly. Mrs. Ferguson said we are doubling our fees, shutting off 85-100 homes which will probably double along with our rates and in the end we will have a dirtier river. Mr. Cline said you forgot one thing, it is mandated from IDEM. Mrs. Ferguson said yes, but it was agreed to by a previous Board to do a complete sewer separation. Mr. Smith said we are one of the few cities our size that has ever agreed to do a complete sewer separation. He said this Board is recommending that IDEM rescind that decision to give us more time for the complete sewer separation. Mrs. Ferguson asked if this would have to go back to court since it was a judicial review. Mr. Smith said that would be an option under economic conditions, but IDEM would have the ability to approve a partial sewer separation. Mrs. Ferguson said so once again we are going to spend 199 million dollars, double, possibly triple our rates, at least double the number of water shut offs and the E.coli will not be improved at all in the River with the hope that IDEM will okay the new plan. Mr. Cline said no one thought back in 2011 that there would be a negative impact to the River because there was no regulated discharge requirement in place for stormwater discharges into rivers at that time. He said he is fairly confident that if that Board knew what we know now they would not have passed the plan with IDEM. Mrs. Ferguson said to clarify stormwater is actually pretty dirty right. Mr. Cline said that is correct once it hits something yes. Mrs. Ferguson asked if from an Engineering standpoint this project is pretty complicated because you do not know what you are hitting underground which could increase the budget. Mr. Cline said yes that is correct.

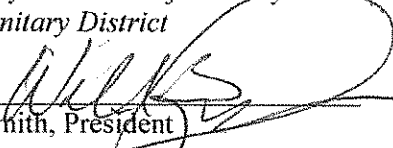
There were no further comments.

Respectfully Submitted,

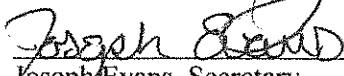
  
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Megan Huff, Administration Office Manager

*Approved by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners  
Muncie Sanitary District*

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William Smith, President

  
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Michael Cline, P.E., Vice President

  
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Joseph Evans, Secretary