

Board Minutes for the Board of Sanitary Commissioners Meeting of October 18, 2023

THE BOARD OF SANITARY COMMISSIONERS conducted a regularly scheduled meeting.

Board members present; Stephen Brand, President; Adam Leach, Vice President; Michael Wolfe, Board Secretary; David Smith, Board Member; and Tim Overton, Board Member.

Department managers and staff present; John Barlow, District Administrator; Joe Rhetts, Legal Counsel; Deana Cox, Financial Manager; Phil Reagon, Sanitation Superintendent; Rick Conrad; BWQ Director; John Anderson, District Engineer; Jason Ingram, WPCF Superintendent; Jason Donati, Sustainability Coordinator; Melanie Lanich, Insurance; Thom Noble, Director of Engineering; Tim Stover, IT Administrator; Harvey Wright, Sewer Maintenance Superintendent; and Maggie Bales, Executive Office Manager.

Public present: Rick Yencer; and Johnny Kirkland.

Consideration of Minutes: Mr. Brand entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Wolfe moved to approve the Board Meeting Minutes as submitted for the meeting of October 4, 2023. Mr. Overton seconded the motion. The motion was passed (5-0).

Consideration of Claims: Mr. Brand entertained a motion to consider the register of claims totaling \$2,292,428.49. Mr. Leach stated a claim on page two there is a \$16,145.00 for Best Equipment for Poly Dura cans that are the three-yard downtown hoppers. He stated a claim on page five of fourteen that there is a \$8,546.29 for a preventative maintenance agreement for aerators and blowers at the plant. Mr. Leach stated on page five there is a \$33,243.00 for skate upgrades to some lift stations related to the plant. Mr. Brand stated a claim on page eleven of fourteen to City Fence for work on Batavia and Arnold Hogan. He explained that this was a Michiana project from AEP and is being reimbursed to the Sanitary District. Mr. Brand stated a pay app for the Cardinal Greenway totaling \$99,182.89. He stated a pay app on page thirteen for \$371,977.00. Mr. Brand stated a 2021 Bond Project payment in the amount of \$59,394.80. He stated a claim for Storer Estates pay app number eleven \$143,045.52. Mr. Leach moved to approve the consideration of claims. Mr. Smith provided second. Motion passed (5-0).

District Administrator Update – Mr. Barlow stated there is a tentatively scheduled ribbon cutting for the Cardinal Greenway bridge on October 27th. He stated the project is substantially completed. Mr. Barlow stated that approval was received this week from IDEM for the second extension for the long-term control plan. He stated that as work was being done it was discovered that some hydraulic modeling information was not comforting. Mr. Barlow stated that there is an approved plan in place. He stated that the intention is to do something less than full separation. Mr. Barlow stated the extension is until March 15, 2024. He stated the plans for the cutoff levee have been submitted to the Corps of Engineers from our consultant, Christopher Burke. Mr. Barlow stated the bottom line is for the Corps of Engineers to review and approve the plans. He stated we do not expect a response until the spring. Mr. Barlow stated that pricing exercises will be looked at in about the next month for what that project might cost pending approval. He stated the Drum Addition drainage project is substantially completed. Mr. Barlow stated that there are early indications that it has been successful in some of the areas that had bad drainage issues. He stated that he saw a picture of the area from the most recent big rain and there seemed to be no pooling in the area. Mr. Barlow stated we will get continuous feedback. Mr. Barlow announced that Phil Reagon will be retiring December 21, 2023. He stated we will be looking at applications for candidates to be the successor to Phil. Mr. Wolfe stated his congratulatory remarks to Mr. Reagon. Mr. Overton his congratulatory remarks to Mr. Reagon. Mr. Smith stated his congratulatory remarks to Mr. Reagon. Mr. Brand asked how many years Mr. Reagon has been with MSD. Mr. Reagon stated over 36 years.

Department Head Update – None.

Old Business:

1. Employee Survey – Micheal Wolfe. Mr. Wolfe stated that the employee survey has been running since about September 18th and there are about 67 responses. He stated a thank you to all who participated. Mr. Wolfe stated that the feedback will be looked at and try to figure out how we can use it to help improve the culture. He appreciated the candid feedback. Mr. Wolfe stated that the survey will close on Friday, October 20th.

New Business:

1. Scope Addition Number 4 to Hoyt Avenue Improvement Project with Bowen Engineering – John Barlow. Mr. Barlow stated this is a scope addition for the Hoyt Avenue improvement project that is part of the ARP projects. He stated this is partially funded by the ARP funds and the remainder will be funded by Stormwater. Mr. Barlow stated that the scope runs from the intersection of Cowan, Hoyt, and Port to Memorial. He stated that this includes curbs and gutters, sidewalks with accessible ramps, stormwater infrastructure, and full road restoration. Mr. Barlow asked the board to consider and approve scope addition number four. Mr. Leach stated that the sidewalk will be a shared use path located on the west side of Hoyt from Cowan to Memorial. He stated that all right-of-way has been acquired and the engineering has been complete. Mr. Leach stated that this is a needed project in the aspect of road restoration and the replacement of stormwater in that section. Mr. Brand asked out of the \$4.5 million how much will apply to this. Mr. Barlow stated approximately \$1.8 to \$2 million. He stated that he must settle the scorecard on other ARP projects that are coming to completion to determine the amount. Mr. Brand asked if this would have true curb and gutter from Memorial to Cowan. Mr. Barlow stated that is correct. Mr. Brand stated that this is a \$4,512,158.00 improvement project of which approximately up to \$2 million in ARP funds will go towards it. Mr. Brand entertained a motion to approve. Mr. Leach moved to approve. Mr. Wolfe provided second. Motion passed (5-0).

Additional Board Topics:

1. Mr. Wolfe stated that due to professional reasons he submitted his resignation last week from the board. He stated that this was a tough decision as he has enjoyed serving on the board and working with everyone. Mr. Wolfe stated that he appreciates the opportunity to be appointed by the mayor. He stated that he did not know exactly what he was getting into but has been working with the group of board members for a while now and has enjoyed getting into the ins and outs of the Muncie Sanitary District. Mr. Wolfe stated that it has been a great learning experience. He stated a thank you to all the department heads that he met and got to work with. Mr. Wolfe stated his appreciation to Tim Stover and getting to work with him on projects. He stated that he appreciates what Mr. Stover is doing to improve things in the district. Mr. Wolfe stated a special thanks to John Barlow who helped with the onboarding process and helped with understanding things. He wished the district and all the employees and board members the best.

2. Mr. Overton stated that it has been great to work with Mr. Wolfe. He stated that his expertise in all things tech is something the rest of the board does not have. Mr. Overton stated that he will be missed and has done a marvelous job and contributed a lot in a short amount of time.

3. Mr. Leach stated a thanks to Mr. Wolfe for all the things he has been able to accomplish in a short amount of time with the board. He stated that Mr. Wolfe will be missed. Mr. Leach acknowledged Sewer Maintenance for their efforts during the rains recently. He stated that inlets were overflowing, and Sewer Maintenance responded promptly to the matter.

4. Mr. Smith thanked Mr. Wolfe for his service and that it has been an honor to work with him. He wished Mr. Wolfe good luck in the future.

5. Mr. Brand stated that Mr. Wolfe's IT and financial acumen moved us forward and learned a lot from Mr. Wolfe. He appreciates Mr. Wolfe's ability to share knowledge and communicate with the rest of the board. Mr. Brand acknowledged Harvey Wright for the efforts on the Nichols and Godman issue. He stated that by the time it was brought to his attention, Harvey was ahead of it and the crew was working on it. Mr. Brand stated that the public appreciated it and has been nothing but complementary all the way around. He stated a good job to Harvey Wright and asked that he would please thank the crew for the excellent work.

6. Mr. Barlow thanked Mr. Wolfe for his service on board.

Public Comments:

1. Rick Yencer stated that it came to our attention the other day that the deadline's nearing on spending American Rescue Plan money. He stated that he recalls that the district got seven million a couple years ago for infrastructure, and he heard work last summer and today about spending that money. Mr. Yencer stated what he wants to know is how much is left and what is going to be done with the rest of it. He stated that it also came to our attention Monday at the City Council meeting that the city is using it to pay bonuses for public service or public police and fire. Mr. Yencer stated that he is wondering whether you are going to offer bonuses to your employees. He stated that he heard through news of a report that we are going to have a rundown of all the projects that you have been doing to drain a lot of these neighborhoods that never had a storm sewer, a sidewalk, or even curbs. Mr. Yencer stated that he needs some clarification on that bridge removal that he thinks over a million dollars to redo the Cardinal Greenway. He asked what the \$99,000 pay app was to them. Mr. Yencer asked if it was money given to them or is it money that they were going to kick back to help pay the expense of moving the trail from one bridge to another.

2. Johnny Kirkland thanked the board for allowing him the time to speak to the board. He stated that the issue he is here to address is that his property was out in Whitely and was four years ago under the old administration. Mr. Kirkland stated that he was trying to clear off the liens and everything that was on the property. He stated that during that period, the administration got in trouble with the law so about the time he got everything cleared up it was under a new administration. Mr. Kirkland stated that he is addressing the board with the same issue. He stated that they came to him saying that the Whitely community was in a flood zone. Mr. Kirkland stated that it was determined by the Obama administration that they had gone all over the world looking for flood zones. He stated that he was told that they had to sell the properties to the city and not to anyone else because it was considered a flood zone. Mr. Kirkland stated that everyone in the community came together to get the liens and things off the properties. He stated that he is here today because he has been working on this for almost seven years. Mr. Kirkland asked the board to do what they said they were going to do in the beginning and that is to purchase his property. Mr. Brand stated that the property address is 825 North Brady Street. Mr. Kirkland stated that is correct.

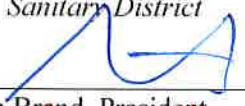
Adjourn: Mr. Brand stated our next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. in the City Hall Auditorium. Mr. Brand stated he would accept a motion to adjourn. Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting for October 18, 2023. Mr. Leach seconded the motion. The motion was approved (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

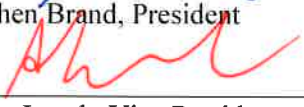


Maggie Bales, Executive Office Manager

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



Stephen Brand, President



Adam Leach, Vice President



Tim Overton, Board Member

Michael Wolfe, Secretary



David Smith, Board Member