

## Minutes

### Board Meeting of November 6, 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; Harvey Wright, Sewer Maintenance Superintendent and Megan Huff, Administration Office Manager.

Public: Kim Ferguson, 1806 N Petty and Mary Stilts, 712 S Burlington.

**Consideration of Minutes:** Mr. Evans moved to approve the minutes as submitted for the October 23, 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 \$633,110.57. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. The motion was approved (3-0).

#### Old Business:

None.

#### New Business:

**1. Resolution 2019-17, Salary Amendment to 2019 Resolution. – Deana Cox, Financial Manager.**

Mrs. Cox this is Amendment to the 2019 Salary Resolution is to change Mechanics pay rates and to reinstate the Construction Crew. Mr. Smith said over the years we will do a survey of the surrounding areas, private and publically. He said it was found that our Mechanics were severely underpaid for their certifications so we extended the ranges of their pay to give the option of higher paid when certified. Mr. Smith said as far as the Construction Crew being reinstated internally will help with various internal department projects. This crew was assembled about two years ago, but was quickly stopped due to biting off more than we could chew. He said we have found a new way to go about using the sewer crew for projects more manageable. Mr. Evans moved to approve Resolution 2019-17, Salary Amendment to 2019 Resolution. Mr. Cline seconded the motion. The motion was approved (3-0).

**2. Emergency Project, 66SA-19 Lowes – Georgetown Blvd. – John Anderson, District Engineering.**

Mr. Anderson said last week our inspectors were called out to a backup in the sewer main. He said a boring company was putting in a communication line which caused the backup. He said the contractor amount was for the amount of \$4100. Mr. Evans asked if we would be turning this over to our attorney since it was the contractor who technically damaged our lines to try to get some of costs reimbursed. Mr. Smith said our policy on emergency projects is that the District Engineer notifies the District Administrator or the Board President prior to starting any work. Then we request it be discussed at the following Board meeting to keep the public informed and the projects on record. Mr. Evans moved to approve Emergency Project, 66SA-19. Mr. Cline seconded the motion. The motion was approved (3-0).

#### Public Comments:

Mary Stilts, 712 S Burlington Drive, asked why the MSD did not volunteer their backup generator to help power Gillespie Towers when their power went out. Mr. Smith said it has been used to help pull out logs from the river and at various downtown events. He said we are letting people know via a public outreach

that it can be used for emergency situations. Mr. Cline said unfortunately the type of generator that we own would not have been able to power a building of that capacity which is why it was not thought of to volunteer.

Kimberly Ferguson, 1806 N Petty, said the live video from the last meeting had over 10,000 views so the community is interested in what MSD is doing. She said she wanted to confirm that for the new Sanitation building project that \$225,000 is coming from CNG revenue, the other \$225,000 is coming from MSD's budget and there will be no increases in taxes or rates from that building. Mr. Cline said that is correct. Mrs. Ferguson said the sewer separation project is close to 200 million dollars which is funded through rate increases. Mr. Cline said that is correct. Mrs. Ferguson said in the last project she believes there were 14 levee reaches in the river discussed. She said she understands that one needs no improvements, one is being decommissioned, one is abandoned which leaves 11 that need some type of improvements or abandonments between now and 2025. She said she does not understand the cost estimate for that. Mr. Cline said we are basically going through one million dollar chunks from the Stormwater fund to repair or upgrade a levee reach which is not funded via increases. He said FEMA does to have us on a schedule to improve the levee like IDEM is in regards to the Long Term Control Plan. Mr. Smith said this has to be done or the levee will not be certified which leaves almost 800 homes and businesses that would need Federal flood insurance which has become quite expensive. Mrs. Ferguson said if we have another 100 year flood it could possibly reach those levees is that correct. Mr. Cline said yes it is possible and it must be assessed every year. Mrs. Ferguson asked if between now and 2021 there is quite a financial reckoning. She asked if the type of rates funding MSD could be explained. Mr. Cline said Sanitation is paid through taxes and Stormwater is paid as a user fee and the Sewage Bills also fund our sewers and their maintenance. She asked if anyone is exempt from the Stormwater rate. Mr. Smith answered no because it is not a tax, it is a user fee; it is based on your impervious surfaces. Mrs. Ferguson asked which rate the levees are paid from. Mr. Cline said the Stormwater rate which is paid by everyone. Mr. Smith said the levee was taken over by the MSD from the City of Muncie almost 15 years ago. Mrs. Ferguson asked how the levee was funded when the City took care of it. Mr. Smith said it would have been paid for via property taxes at that time. Mrs. Ferguson asked if the levee would pose a health risk if not certified. Mr. Smith said it is more of a safety concern.

There were no further comments.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Megan Huff, Administration Office Manager

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

  
William Smith, President

  
Joseph Evans, Secretary

  
Michael Cline, P.E., Vice President