

Board Minutes for the Board of Sanitary Commissioners Meeting of January 25, 2023

THE BOARD OF SANITARY COMMISSIONERS conducted a regularly scheduled meeting.

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

Department managers and staff present; John Barlow, District Administrator; Mark McKinney, Legal Counsel; Vincent Walker, Legal Counsel; Deana Cox, Financial Manager; Jason Donati, Stormwater Educator; Harvey Wright, Sewer Maintenance Superintendent; Thom Noble, Engineering Director; Phil Reagon, Sanitation Superintendent; Melanie Lanich, Health Insurance; and Maggie Bales, Executive Office Manager.

Public present: Rick Yencer.

Consideration of Minutes: Mr. Brand entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Leach moved to approve the Board Meeting Minutes as submitted for the meeting of January 11, 2023. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion was passed (5-0).

Consideration of Claims: Mr. Brand entertained a motion to consider the register of claims totaling \$1,016,015.26. Mr. Leach stated a claim for \$10,332.48 bill for water damage restoration at the Sanitation facility, due to a pipe burst that flooded the conference room. He stated the event occurred on Christmas Eve and that we appreciate Hays and Sons for the prompt response. Mr. Leach stated a claim for an emergency repair job put out by Engineering at 228 S College for \$32,000. He stated a claim for a stormwater project with Christopher Burke, the engineering fees are related to the levee near the Kitselman trailhead located off of Jackson. Mr. Leach stated this is ongoing work to maintain the levee system. He stated a claim for the Vicki Lane stormwater project in the amount of \$30,767.40. Mr. Leach stated a claim for the 20th and Mock pay app number one for \$285,893.25. He stated his appreciation for the detailed descriptions in the claims, gave the example of the claim listed for \$23 worth of tape. Mr. Smith moved to approve the consideration of claims. Mr. Leach provided second. Motion passed (5-0).

District Administrator Update – John Barlow. Mr. Barlow stated that the draft of request for proposals for the next contract for disposal of waste and recyclables is still in the works. He stated the draft will be available for review by the board prior to posting. Mr. Barlow stated that after review it will be advertised and then see who responds to the request for proposal. He stated that MSD and the Delaware Regional Waste Water District had another meeting, there will be another meeting Tuesday the 31st of January. Mr. Barlow explained that this is an ongoing negotiation with to come up with a new long term contract with them as a wholesale customer. Mr. Brand asked about the Hays and Sons claim, will MSD be going back to file a claim with insurance or go back to the construction. Mr. Barlow explained that insurance may not be a factor as it is below the deductible. He explained that the thought is to communicate with Bowen Engineering to get with the HVAC subcontractor to see if there was a malfunction that caused the pipe to burst. Mr. Barlow stated the hope is to find the root cause and then once known, see about reimbursement opportunities. Mr. Brand asked if a meeting has been set with Bowen. Mr. Barlow explained that he has communicated with Alec Goodall with Bowen and to communicate with the subcontractor. Mr. Brand asked what the proper way is to dispose of medications. Mr. Barlow stated there is a depository located at the Justice Center where they are disposed of properly. Mr. Donati stated that there is only the one location. He explained that quotes are being requested from a company to come and take the medicinal waste, to have an additional location. Mr. Brand asked for clarification on where to take the medicine to be disposed of. Mr. Barlow stated to the Justice Center. Mr. Donati stated it is inside on the first floor.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Additional Board Topics:

1. Mr. Leach stated his appreciation to the employees. He stated that he appreciates the work that the sewer maintenance crew does, they are working to get on a round schedule. Mr. Leach stated that regular maintenance means we have less emergency maintenance and helps with repairs. He stated the street sweeping is cyclical and routine. Mr. Leach stated his appreciation to Harvey and his crew and the work they do. He stated the call outs seem to be reduced due to the routine maintenance. Mr. Leach stated he appreciates the work everyone does.

2. Mr. Wolfe spoke via Zoom, there were some technical difficulties. Mr. Brand stated for clarification for Mr. Wolfe that his comments were to thank the department heads that he has visited and fully intends to visit the rest of the departments, and thanked everyone for welcoming him to the board and helping him understand the complexities of the Muncie Sanitary District.

3. Mr. Overton stated that he appreciates the onboarding process as well, and he looks forward to taking tours to meet each of the staff. He stated that he is very impressed with the operation.

Public Comments:

1. Rick Yencer, newsman author of Muncie, stated that he wanted to approach some governments about means and ways this year. He stated that a lot of home and business owners have told him that their property taxes have raised over the last two years. Mr. Yencer stated that even just a penny more on the tax rates can mean hundreds or more to any property owner. He stated that he appeared before the board last fall and mentioned that you got almost \$8 million American Rescue Plan monies. Mr. Yencer stated he never heard back what you are using that for, he hopes it is for infrastructure to separate the storm and sanitary sewers because given that the consent decree that was signed years ago, there is about \$150 million of work. He stated this tax district does not have that kind of cash any given year. Mr. Yencer stated that we are concerned that there will not be any more tax increases or utility increases in this coming year. He stated that there are still a lot of people that are in misery and suffering over trying to pay utilities and home costs. Mr. Yencer stated that he hopes the district is going to put a better word out on the new recycling program. He stated that a lot of us have supported recycling over the years, but it has gotten out of control with all the cardboard and everything else. Mr. Yencer stated that anything you can do to help down at the state house to ban some of this stuff like Styrofoam cups or other plastic that is very recyclable would be greatly appreciated. Mr. Brand thanked Mr. Yencer for his comments.

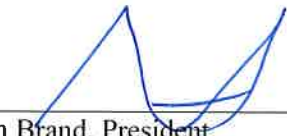
Adjourn: Mr. Brand stated our next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. in the City Hall Auditorium. Mr. Brand stated she would accept a motion to adjourn. Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting for January 25, 2023. Mr. Leach seconded the motion. The motion was approved (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

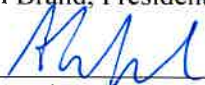


Maggie Bales, Executive Office Manager

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



Stephen Brand, President



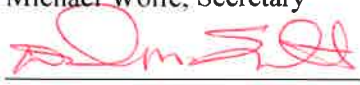
Adam Leach, Vice President



Tim Overton, Board Member



Michael Wolfe, Secretary



David Smith, Board Member