Board Minutes for the Board of Sanitary Commissioners Meeting of February 8, 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; Drew Hall, Legal Counsel; Jason Donati, Stormwater Educator; Harvey Wright, Sewer Maintenance Superintendent; Thom Noble, Engineering Director; Phil Reagon, Sanitation Superintendent; Melanie Lanich, Health Insurance; John Anderson, District Engineer; Timm Stover, IT Administrator; and Maggie Bales, Executive Office Manager.

Public present: Maura Hoff; and Joe Rhetts

**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 25, 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 \$1,503,110.76. Mr. Leach stated a claim for the pay app number 20 for the 2021 MSD Bond projects, mostly for stormwater projects. The claim is for \$220,349 paid to Bowen Engineering for work done in Indian Village, Greenway Depot, Lynn Mar, etc. Mr. Leach stated a claim for HWC for work on the CSO Basin 7 part of the long term control plan. He stated a claim for United Consulting that helps manage our bond projects for \$50,912.73. Mr. Leach stated a claim for Hoyt Avenue that is a drainage project being done by HWC Engineering and will be paid out of ARP funds. The claim is for \$1,847. Mr. Brand stated there are some claims for road salt and explained that the Sanitary District participates in that, so we have a river friendly option. He stated the credit card transaction fees that have previously been mentioned will be looked into by Mr. Wolfe in hopes of finding a better option. Mr. Overton moved to approve the consideration of claims. Mr. Leach provided second. Motion passed (5-0).

District Administrator Update – John Barlow. Mr. Barlow stated to follow up in the Christmas Eve fire prevention line break that caused some water damage out at the Sanitation facility. He stated that Bowen Engineering is being very responsive to MSD on the response to damages. Mr. Barlow stated that it was not their fault but they are being responsive and helping us recoup damage cost for the damages. He stated that we are having a kickoff meeting with the Drum Addition Drainage project, he appreciates the patience those in Drum Addition are having during the process. Mr. Barlow stated each department has an AED and most are outdated. He stated that with the advice from MFD we are going to replace the old ones with new ones. Mr. Barlow stated that they are the same brand and potentially the same model that the fire department has recommended. He stated that the fire department will be able to interact in the event that one would need to be used. Mr. Barlow stated that a couple people per department will be responsible for checking the AED, maintaining them, and using them if needed. He stated we will purchase those directly and will receive some value for the old ones.

Recycling Update – Jason Donati. Mr. Donati stated that the signup for the new recycling toters were opened at the Muncie on the Move event this morning. He stated it was a big success, people were excited about the new initiative. Mr. Donati stated as a reminder that we are moving away from the Blue Bag recycling program to the new 96 gallon blue recycling toter, as an opt in program. He stated that with the first phase and with the grant funds we will receive from the state, we are starting with 7,000 blue recycling toters. Mr. Donati stated the signup is now live on our website. He stated to sign up go to munciesanitary.org/departments/recycling or go to munciesanitary.org and go to recycling it will take you

to the page to sign up. Mr. Donati stated the sign up takes about a minute where there is a pledge for those to understand what goes in the blue toter, that those understand they are not getting a toter tomorrow, and the permission to communicate updates. He stated the hope is to start this in spring. Mr. Donati stated that he is pleased to announce that Mayor Ridenour was one of the first ones to sign up and others signed up as well. Mr. Wolfe stated that the email program works well and signed up. Mr. Overton stated he appreciates Jason's efforts and looks forward to seeing good results. Mr. Leach stated that he heard that Jason's presentation went well and that the mayor was pleased to be one of the first ones to sign up. He stated that he encourages those who do recycle to sign up and for those who do not recycle to please not sign up. Mr. Leach stated that we want this program to be successful and keep our waste streams as clearly delineated as possible. He stated some think the Blue Bags are free trash bags and same with the blue toter. Mr. Leach stated the impetuous of this move is to clean up our waste stream and do more recycling than we do now. Mr. Smith stated that he attended the meeting and thought Jason did a phenomenal job on the presentation. He stated that he signed up. Mr. Brand stated that this is an opt in program and no one will be forced to participate. Mr. Donati stated correct. Mr. Brand stated those who recycle should continue to use the Blue Bags until the blue toters are active. Mr. Donati stated that is correct. He stated that when people sign up, we are asking for a phone number and an email with permission to communicate through those with updates. Mr. Donati stated in the meantime we are still collecting the Blue Bags like we have for the last 24 years. Mr. Donati asked for those to give feedback to be clear and transparent.

## **Old Business:**

1. Request for Proposals for Legal Services – David Smith. Mr. Smith stated last summer we put out a request for proposals for legal services, received several packets from local firms, reviewed the packets, and came to a split vote. He stated at this time we are going to revisit those and hopefully come up with something in the near future. Mr. Leach stated we are not resoliciting, we are re-reviewing the RFP's we got previously. He stated that there have been some changes at some of the firms so we will touch base with those firms. Mr. Leach stated there is no timeline.

New Business: None.

## **Additional Board Topics:**

- 1. Mr. Leach stated a shoutout to Tim for driving the bus on the implementation of Cartegraph. He stated we are getting away from an Excel spreadsheet, Cartegraph is a good system and takes some buy in. Mr. Leach stated that he thinks it will be a good system and he appreciates the hard work that goes into it. He stated it is something that we will all have to work through.
- 2. Mr. Wolfe stated his appreciation to Jason Ingram and John Barlow for helping with the tour of the Water Pollution Control Facility. He stated he learned a lot and appreciated the patience and questions. Mr. Wolfe stated that he also had the opportunity to work with Deana and her team on some more complex billing issues that affects some of the public. He appreciates all the help from everyone as he and Tim are onboarding.
- 3. Mr. Overton stated he had the opportunity to tour with Phill at Sanitation. He stated that he appreciates the length of time Phil has been with this wonderful group of employees and was impressed with how much he knows. Mr. Overton stated he appreciates the time and that he learned a lot. He stated he is impressed with the operation of the Muncie Sanitary District; it has good employees, people who are working hard, they have a long term vision. Mr. Overton stated in government sometimes that is hard to find. He stated to plan something that will benefit 10 to 20 years down the road is very helpful. Mr. Overton stated he appreciates Phil and his colleagues.

**4.** Mr. Leach stated that everyone at the District does a great job. He stated that not everyone is perfect, we make mistakes, we fail, and we learn from them.

## **Public Comments: None.**

**Adjourn:** Mr. Brand stated our next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. in the City Hall Auditorium. Mr. Brand stated she would accept a motion to adjourn. Mr. Leach made a motion to adjourn the meeting for February 8, 2023. Mr. Smith 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 S. Wolf Michael Wolfe, Secretary

David Smith, Board Member