

Board Minutes for the Board of Sanitary Commissioners Meeting of August 23, 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; and David Smith, Board Member. Excused absence: Tim Overton, Board Member

Department managers and staff present; Joe Rhetts, Legal Counsel; Deana Cox, Financial Manager; Thom Noble, Director of Engineering; Harvey Wright, Sewer Maintenance Superintendent; Phil Reagon, Sanitation Superintendent; 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 August 9, 2023. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion was passed (4-0).

Consideration of Claims: Mr. Brand entertained a motion to consider the register of claims totaling \$2,967,121.74. Mr. Leach stated a claim on three of fifteen shows a voided claim of \$44,900.54. He stated the published claims will have a different total than the one listed on the agenda, the total on the agenda is the correct amount. Mr. Leach stated a claim to Aspect 6 Creative for \$19,245.00 for truck and trailer wraps. He stated these are for the recycling program. Mr. Leach stated a claim on page four of fifteen there is a claim to Topcon Solutions Store for \$15,587.88 for GPS subscription. He stated a claim on page nine of fifteen for the ninth mow of the levee in the amount of \$14,500.00. Mr. Leach stated a claim on page twelve of fifteen to Flatland in the amount of \$433,692.89 for the Cardinal Greenway Bridge at McCulloch Park. He stated this is for removing a bridge that was threatening our infrastructure with scour. Mr. Leach stated a claim on the same page to Greeley and Hansen for the Northview Drainage improvements in the amount of 22,789.19. He stated on page fourteen of fifteen a claim for the 2019 Bond projects with United Consulting in the amount of 72,960.50. Mr. Leach stated a claim on the same page for pay app number one to E & B Paving in the amount of \$762,755.57 for the Riverside drainage and infrastructure improvements. He stated a claim to Flatland for pay app number two for Riverside Avenue street improvements in the amount of \$11,640.00. Mr. Smith moved to approve the consideration of claims. Mr. Leach provided second. Motion passed (4-0).

District Administrator Update – None.

Department Head Update – Thom Noble, Director of Engineering provided an update to the board. He gave an acknowledgment to all the employees in the Engineering Department. Mr. Noble stated he started in this position on January 3, 2023, coming from a different department. He stated the employees bought into the ideas and changes that he implemented. Mr. Noble stated the survey and design team has designed 500 feet of storm pipe to coincide with Bowen's project on Wheeling Avenue. He stated that 500 feet of 12-inch pipe was designed and constructed in house to help pick up more water before it got down to Amazing Joe's. Mr. Noble stated on 22nd and Hackley 250 feet of eight-inch sanitary sewer was designed and constructed in house. He stated there are four houses there with three tied into a four in line in the right-of-way. Mr. Noble stated the sanitary sewer was designed and constructed to provide all four houses with service. He stated on 6th and Franklin partially in with City View homes another 25 sanitary sewer project. Mr. Noble stated that they are waiting on the right of entry paperwork to begin this project. He stated on Luick Avenue between Burlington and 8th Street the design of a new sanitary separation project was completed. Mr. Nobel stated it is currently being priced out now. He stated in the 700 block of Tyrone a coordination with Adam Leach and the trial project on Riverside to remedy some flooding issues. Mr. Noble stated that they are designing a storm project for Catalina, the scope is undetermined at

this time. He stated on Elsie Avenue is being investigated to replace the existing sanitary to tie everyone on the south side to a brand new sanitary from Linden to Virginia. Mr. Noble stated design is underway for West Jackson Street on the south side. He stated there are complaints of sinkholes on the southside from the round-a-bout toward the east. Mr. Noble stated survey work is being done on Just a Mere, 14th Street, Burlington, and Beech Grove Cemetery. He stated Engineering has four inspectors and we are affiliated with Indiana 811. Mr. Noble stated we locate our own sewers and something we implemented to protect the district and the rate payers is that every morning they go through 811 locates and look for the keyword sewer repair or storm sewer repair. He stated that we have made it a point to do a site visit to see what is going on as a proactive approach. Mr. Noble stated in 2022 we had 77 permits on file for the whole year and as of today for 2023 we have 70 filed permits. He stated the Engineering department has been working on investigating sink holes and other on the extensive paving list for this year. Mr. Noble stated that includes State Road 32. He stated that they run three camera trucks daily. Mr. Noble stated that two new employees were hired for camera truck roles who are gaining a lot of real time experience out in the field. He stated Chad, Camera Manager, has been working on affidavits, assisting Bowen, and doing some MSD investigative work. Mr. Noble stated there are two construction crews now and were fully staffed in March of 2023. He stated the crews have previous experience, so it has been fast tracked more than anticipated. Mr. Noble stated they have surpassed the 150-job mark. He stated last year we completed 150 with one construction crew and have been able to complete larger jobs this year with two. Mr. Noble stated some added drainage has been completed by the in-house construction crews. He gave locations of Jackson and Manning, 8th Street and High, University in front of Greeks, and 8th and Jefferson. Mr. Noble stated some long-standing issues at 7th Street and 8th Street and Walnut, 8th and Macedonia, and Ivanhoe in Robinwood. He referenced some photos that were provided to the board. Mr. Noble stated that Dave Hisle and himself were able to attend the pumper show. He stated that we partnered with Source One Environmental out of Michigan who provide pipe patches and no dig solutions. Mr. Noble referenced the photos and explained they have been able to repair sinkholes and sewer lines with no dig solutions. He explained some challenges that Engineering is facing with space within the building they are at. Mr. Noble explained challenges that they are experiencing with the budget and some additional expenses due to the expansion. Mr. Wolfe stated his appreciation to Mr. Noble for what he and the team have been able to do by saving money and ramping up all the different jobs. Mr. Leach echoed Mr. Wolfe. He stated it has been a good change, change is hard, but he appreciated what Mr. Noble is going through and what Mr. Noble will go through. Mr. Smith stated his appreciation to Mr. Noble. Mr. Brand asked if Engineering is fully staffed. Mr. Noble stated we are fully staffed with one job posted in-house. He explained that Sewer Maintenance is getting a new Vac truck and Engineering will get the oldest Vac truck from Sewer Maintenance. Mr. Noble stated someone will need to fill that spot. Mr. Brand clarified that we would help fund their CDL if needed. Mr. Nobel stated that is correct. Mr. Brand stated there has been great success and he is proud of that. He asked when the third crew will be created. Mr. Noble stated that is anticipated to start discussion in October. Mr. Brand asked how safety is in the department. Mr. Noble stated safety is good, they do not go outside of their scope. He explained that safety is a priority and additional training, or equipment is available if needed. Mr. Brand stated to let them know if something is needed and to pass along his personal thank you to each of the people on Mr. Noble's team.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

1. Professional Service Contract with Greeley and Hansen Northview Phase 2 – Mr. Leach stated that MSD has a contract for \$67,500 with Greeley and Hansen. He stated that this is in relation to the continuation of Northview drainage improvements. Mr. Leach stated the master plan gave some options and this contract will get the projects started on Virginia Avenue. He stated Greeley and Hansen will be designing this. Mr. Brand entertained a motion to accept the professional service contract at \$67,500.00.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve. Mr. Smith provided second. Motion passed (4-0).

Additional Board Topics:

1. Mr. Leach stated his thank you to everyone in the district. He stated the recycling program roll out has been phenomenal and he is happy to see the yellow and blue toters out in the city.

Public Comments:

1. Rick Yencer stated a couple things come to mind. He stated the phenom of the blue toter system. Mr. Yencer stated that he talked to come neighbors and others that that is not quite the case. He stated that you handed out 4,500 toters and people are wondering when the rest will come out. Mr. Yencer stated that others stated the third-party contractor that was used to distribute the toters are not from around here. He stated they do not know streets and neighborhoods so why did you do that. Mr. Yencer stated that you want to spend more money next year. He stated that he wants to remind you for during the budget process that taxes have gone up in this community not totally by government or tax districts like you but from education too. Mr. Yencer stated that he would remind you that taxpayers probably would like some relief around here. He stated that they didn't get any local relief after all the federal money came in here the last year or two and he knows there's still federal money for infrastructure out here. Mr. Yencer is not sure how much of it has come to Muncie and Delaware County because the streets are still terrible in some of these neighborhoods, it is one that you are doing drainage over in Aultshire. He stated that we were out there last July and there were still potholes all over that neighborhood. Mr. Yencer stated that they had never seen any work done there lately. He stated that it is the same way with some of the streets in Indian Village. Mr. Yencer stated that he hopes when you are doing all the sewer work and drainage work that it is badly needed because the rains are coming. He stated that you need to back it up by getting streets fixed too.

Adjourn: Mr. Brand stated our next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. in the City Hall Auditorium. Mr. Brand stated he would accept a motion to adjourn. Mr. Leach made a motion to adjourn the meeting for August 23, 2023. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved (4-0).


Respectfully Submitted,



Maggie Bales, Executive Office Manager

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


Stephen Brand, President


Adam Leach, Vice President


Michael Wolfe, Secretary


David Smith, Board Member


Tim Overton, Board Member