

Board Minutes for the Board of Sanitary Commissioners Meeting of November 1, 2023

THE BOARD OF SANITARY COMMISSIONERS conducted a regularly scheduled meeting.

Board members present; Stephen Brand, President; Adam Leach, Vice President; Tim Overton, Board Secretary; and David Smith, 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; Thom Noble, Director of Engineering; Tim Stover, IT Administrator; 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 October 18, 2023. Mr. Overton seconded the motion. The motion was passed (4-0).

Consideration of Claims: Mr. Brand entertained a motion to consider the register of claims totaling \$1,326,121.66. Mr. Leach stated a claim on page four of fifteen that there is a \$20,710.00 for ESRI, Inc. for the annual renewal for GIS. He stated that this is the mapping program for asset management and ties into Cartegraph. Mr. Leach stated a claim on page eight of fifteen for \$66,486.00 for six lift station upgrades with Frakes Engineering. He stated that this is for skate upgrades and some repairs. Mr. Brand moved to approve the consideration of claims. Mr. Smith provided second. Motion passed (4-0).

District Administrator Update – Mr. Barlow stated at a prior meeting the property owned by MSD at the corner of Godman and Nichols was brought to attention. He stated that this was regarding some maybe needed improvements where we had to look at what we could or could not do within the property lines with the railroad and city right-of-way. Mr. Barlow stated that the area has been seeded with grass seed and graded to hopefully make it more aesthetically pleasing and establish a line of demarcation between MSD, the city right-of-way, and the railroad. He stated that Thom Noble oversaw the project. Mr. Barlow stated that the dedication and ribbon cutting to the Cardinal Greenway Bridge was Friday with a very nice turnout. He stated the final walk through is scheduled for next week. Mr. Barlow stated that the Trunk or Treat had a tremendous turnout at the Sanitation facility. He stated there were awards for best costumes. Mr. Barlow stated a thank you to Phil Reagon's Sanitation crew and all others that helped with the event. He stated a thank you to the other departments that brought rolling stock and participated. Mr. Barlow stated that the first meeting for the possible upcoming solar project located on the old King Fords site, also known as Broderick's. He stated the city owns that parcel and we are looking to put solar field out there. Mr. Barlow stated that I&M is working alongside to determine what can be done between the utility and what MSD plans for. He stated this is tied into the entire levee cutoff project that will be determined when the Corps of Engineering returns plans. Mr. Barlow stated that the demolition of the outbuildings at the old Neil Tool and Die at 5120 Kilgore adjacent to the Engineering Department is taking place. He stated all utilities were abandoned and disconnected, anything useful has been pulled from the buildings. Mr. Barlow stated MSD owns the parcel all the way to the border of Elm Ridge Cemetery and at some point, in the future there will be discussions on if the area will be developed into additional offices or facilities.

Department Head Update – None.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

1. Resolution 2023-08 Amending Personnel Policies Handbook Regarding Criteria for Internal Hires. Mr. Brand stated that this resolution is a result of a resolution Mike Wolfe sponsored for awarding jobs. He stated that this caused some questions on where seniority falls in the job awarding process. Mr. Brand stated that the purpose of this handbook amendment is to put that criterion back in the handbook. He stated that this type of criteria has not been in the MSD handbook since 2008. Mr. Brand stated the addition is “the criteria for basing an award of the job for vacant job openings are qualifications, including skill and ability to perform the job, with any prior experience considered, as well as being an employee in good standing. If qualifications are equal, length of service will apply”. He stated that this puts back in what was taken out of the handbook in 2007 as it relates to the qualifications for awarding jobs. Mr. Brand entertained a motion to approve. Mr. Overton moved to approve. Mr. Leach provided second. Motion passed (4-0).

2. Nomination for Board Secretary. Mr. Brand asked for any nominations for the board secretary of the existing board members. Mr. Smith nominated Mr. Overton for the secretary position. Mr. Leach provided second. Motion passed (4-0).

Additional Board Topics:

1. Mr. Leach stated the team keeps doing a great job and keeps hosting good events for the public. He stated that this helps improve the lives of the people in Muncie.

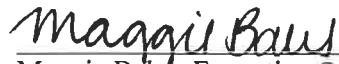
Public Comments:

1. Rick Yencer stated that we just found out last month about this solar project in the state board of accounts audit. He stated that personally he is glad to see the government investing in clean energy and of course MSD was a leader in this when they had a natural gas station created for people to use for their vehicles. Mr. Yencer stated the solar park has been controversial because the county government banned it until they came up with rules. He stated it is good to see that someone is progressive enough to be able to continue this clean energy issue. Mr. Yencer stated that as the new chairman of the Chamber Board of Commerce he hopes that Mr. Brand goes out and tries to promote and keep people thinking looking progressively at clean energy. He stated from the standpoint of what taxpayers or utility customers might pay; he hopes this is economical enough to pay for itself because he thinks that was an issue before. Mr. Yencer stated that this project, as details come out, he would encourage the board to let the taxpayers and utility customers know what is being done and what it costs.

Adjourn: Mr. Brand stated our next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 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. Brand seconded the motion. The motion was approved (4-0).

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Respectfully Submitted,



Maggie Bales, Executive Office Manager

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



Stephen Brand, President



Tim Overton, Secretary



Adam Leach, Vice President



David Smith, Board Member