

Board Minutes for the Board of Sanitary Commissioners Meeting of February 21, 2024

THE BOARD OF SANITARY COMMISSIONERS conducted a regularly scheduled meeting.

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

Department managers and staff present; John Barlow, District Administrator; Joe Rhetts, Legal Counsel; Deana Cox, Financial Manager; Rick Conrad; BWQ Director; John Anderson, District Engineer; Jason Donati, Sanitation Superintendent; Thom Noble, Director of Engineering; Tim Stover, IT Administrator; Harvey Wright, Sewer Maintenance Superintendent; Jason Ingram, WPCF Superintendent; Melanie Lanich, Insurance; Chuck Jones, BWQ Lab Manager; and Maggie Bales, Executive Office Manager.

Public present: None.

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 February 7, 2024. 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 \$1,942,626.59. Mr. Leach stated a claim on page one there is a \$50.00 claim for the payment of HSA account of a retiree. He stated a claim on page eight of thirteen for \$10,585.78 claim for a water pump for the pipe hunter. Mr. Leach stated a claim on page eleven of thirteen for stormwater bid work claims. He stated one for Aultshire drainage improvements \$279,659.10, this is the end on the drainage side. Mr. Leach stated a claim for \$370,679.00 for oncall stormwater projects. He stated a claim on page twelve of thirteen for \$58,697.35 to United Consulting for consulting fees. Mr. Leach stated a claim for \$484,156.80 for the Hoyt Avenue project. He stated a claim to HWC for requests for information work for \$1,760.00. Mr. Brand stated a claim on page nine or thirteen for the monthly credit card transaction fees of \$16,224.17 paid by MSD for those who pay with credit cards. He stated that MSD is migrating to a service that will make it, so MSD no longer pays those fees. Mr. Brand stated MSD will work with people for other options, but after a certain time MSD will no longer cover those fees. Mr. Overton moved to approve the consideration of claims. Mr. Leach provided second. Motion passed (5-0).

District Administrator Update – Mr. Barlow stated there was a meeting at the Sewer Maintenance department and a meeting at Engineering with Rick Conrad, Thom Noble, Harvey Wright, and himself where a merge of Sewer Maintenance and Engineering was the topic of discussion. He stated these departments work closely together and in concert with each other that it just makes sense from an efficiency standpoint and financial standpoint. Mr. Barlow stated that no jobs will be eliminated or merged. He stated that it is more organizational on paper. Mr. Barlow stated that at the next board meeting Mr. Conrad will present a salary resolution amendment which will reflect those changes. He stated pending that approval, the actual merger will take place on the following pay period, being the 18th of March.

Department Head Update – None.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

1. Partial Retainage Release Cardinal Greenway to Flatland Resources – Deana Cox. Mrs. Cox

asked the board to approve the release of partial retainage to Flatland Resources in the amount of \$72,296.11. Mr. Leach stated that this is the vast majority of the retainage on the project. He stated that there is \$2,000 being retained for ensuring the grass takes at the end of the project. Mr. Brand entertained a motion to approve the release of retainage. Mr. Smith moved to approve. Mr. Leach provided second. Motion passed (5-0).

2. Professional Service Contract with John Barlow, Professional Service Contract with Phil Reagon – Stephen Brand. Mr. Brand stated that both of these gentlemen have a wealth of knowledge, and it was his recommendation that a professional services contract be put together in order to pull them back into critical conversations as it relates to long-term control plan or purchasing of assets such as trash trucks. He stated that in negotiations with Mr. Barlow and Mr. Reagon it was determined that the annual salary was divided by 2,080 to create an hourly rate. Mr. Brand stated this will give the ability for Jason Donati to call on Mr. Reagon and Mr. Conrad to call on Mr. Barlow, both as needed. Mr. Overton stated that this is a great idea to retain the wisdom that both have. Mr. Brand made a motion to approve the professional services contract as presented. Mr. Overton provided second. Motion passed (5-0).

3. Resolution 2024-02 Appreciation for John Barlow. Mr. Brand read the resolution verbatim, which can be found posted on munciesanitary.org. Mr. Clark congratulated Mr. Barlow and thanked Mr. Barlow for his commitments, service, and leadership to MSD, its employees, and our customers. He stated that professionally we are in an era where loyalty on both sides of the employee/employer that long term relationships are uncommon. Mr. Clark stated that for Mr. Barlow it is an unbelievable accomplishment to have started his career and finished it here. He stated that he is honored to be with MSD and to support the resolution. Mr. Overton stated he seconds that and appreciates all that Mr. Barlow has done. He stated that Mr. Barlow did a great job stepping in and overcoming many obstacles over the years. Mr. Overton stated that Mr. Barlow was an honest and hardworking individual who was trusted. He stated that the next District Administrator, 30 years from now, is probably already working out in the field with MSD. Mr. Leach stated that he has had the honor of calling Mr. Barlow a coworker, friend, and an employee where it is an interesting relationship at times. He stated that for those who know Mr. Barlow he is an interesting guy. Mr. Leach it is hard to say how far we have come since where we started, but Mr. Barlow's method of management and the way he has developed his department heads, has really set the district up for success. He stated that Mr. Barlow will be leaving a lasting legacy, and his legacy is with the people. Mr. Smith stated that on his first day in the office he met with Mr. Barlow where he pulled out an old picture from Muncie Northside High School of Mr. Smith. He stated that Mr. Barlow has always been a very honest and loyal person. Mr. Smith stated that Mr. Barlow faced major challenges when he took office as District Administrator, and he was the only person in mind that could turn it around the way that it is going now. Mr. Brand stated that he has been on the board for about four years now and when he first started, he spent time at each department and meeting department heads and employees. He stated that when he met Mr. Barlow there was no doubt that he was the guy for the job. Mr. Brand stated that the day he met Mr. Barlow he asked him to take the job. He stated that he was concerned and had questions about how the board would govern the District Administrator. Mr. Brand made a deal that he would hold up his end if Mr. Barlow held up his end, and he did that. He congratulated Mr. Barlow. Motion passed (5-0) with an ovation from the crowd. Mr. Barlow stated that the reward for the crowd. He asked the board to keep the promise to let Mr. Conrad lead this group and they will continue to thrive. Mr. Barlow stated a thank you to everyone who came and a thank you to the board.

Additional Board Topics: None.

Public Comments:

1. Troy Waters, Superintendent of Beech Grove Cemetery, stated a congratulations to Mr. Barlow. He stated that he knows that some of the board members have been out to the cemetery, and he is not sure

who has pictures of the flooding we get. Mr. Waters stated that we are getting into springtime when we will have our rainfall and there's been talk about a project to try to fix this. He would like to know if this is something that is going to happen or what. Mr. Watters stated that he has talked to Mr. Noble some and it was said that he had a surveyor start on the mapping and in the last conversation it was said that Harvey needs to get out there. He stated that Harvey has had his guys out there out on the line every time he has called. Mr. Waters stated that every time he calls Harvey, he has someone out there with what is needed. He stated that the jet rudder that is in the line that is backing up and flooding by the office gets in 160 feet and stops. Mr. Watters stated that all the maps show inlets and then it shows short lines showing the direction but nothing showing outfalls. Mr. Brand thanked Mr. Waters for bringing this up. He stated that he remembers the mention of maps and there were a number of inlets or stormwater grates that had been covered up over the years and Mr. Waters' team knew where those were. Mr. Waters stated that they should all be uncovered by now. Mr. Brand stated that he will follow up with Mr. Conrad on this. Mr. Brand stated that he respects what Mr. Waters' efforts in cleaning up and making it look spiffy, he appreciates his efforts. Mr. Waters thanked the entire Sanitary District for all their help.

2. Angie Pool, Cardinal Greenway CEO, stated that Mr. Barlow told her about his last week. She stated that her public comment is to thank Mr. Barlow for being so helpful to the Cardinal Greenway. Ms. Pool stated that Mr. Barlow is extra patient and kind to all her ideas. She stated what a great honor that they have bestowed upon Mr. Barlow, and she was happy to be a part of it.

3. Jason Donati, Sanitation Superintendent, stated a thank you to Mr. Barlow. He stated that Mr. Barlow has been a great leader and mentor. Mr. Donati stated he appreciates all that Mr. Barlow has done for the district. He stated that a lot of great things have been said today and it all described the positive force that Mr. Barlow provided for the district.


Adjourn: Mr. Brand stated our next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 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 February 21, 2024. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted,


Maggie Bales, Executive Office Manager

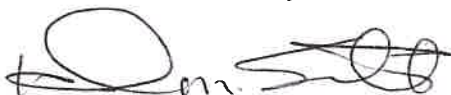
*Approved by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners
Muncie Sanitary District*


Stephen Brand, President


Adam Leach, Vice President


Aaron Clark, Board Member

Tim Overton, Secretary


David Smith, Board Member