

Board Minutes for the Board of Sanitary Commissioners Meeting of May 29, 2024

THE BOARD OF SANITARY COMMISSIONERS conducted a regularly scheduled meeting.

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

Department managers and staff present; Rick Conrad, District Administrator; Joe Rhetts, Legal Counsel; Chuck Jones; BWQ Director; Jason Donati, Sanitation Superintendent; Thom Noble, Director of Engineering; Tim Stover, IT Administrator; John Anderson, District Engineer; Deana Cox, Financial 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 May 15, 2024. 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 \$344,259.70. Mr. Leach stated a claim on page four of twelve in the amount of \$14,500.00 for mow number three of the levee. He stated a claim on page six of twelve in the amount of \$31,151.00 for new valves at the McCulloch Lift Station. Mr. Leach stated a claim on page seven of twelve for remediation work, plot testing, and underground testing to Specialty Earth Science in the amount of \$17,059.87 for work at the Water Pollution Control Facility. Mr. Overton moved to approve the consideration of claims. Mr. Leach provided second. Motion passed (4-0).

District Administrator Update – Mr. Conrad acknowledged Jason Donati and the Sanitation and Recycling Department for completion of the neighborhood cleanups. He stated the most recent ones were at the Old West End, Morningside, East Central and Thomas Park. Mr. Conrad stated that there are no future cleanups planned at this time, but they are always looking for new sites. He stated that Hoyt Avenue remains closed, and Northview has lane restrictions but is open. Mr. Conrad stated that the work on Elsie is due to be finished next week, the roads are open with some restrictions. He stated that the Street Department should be paving that next and the landscaping work is scheduled for repair. Mr. Conrad thanked Engineering and the Bureau of Water Quality for cleaning the canal. He stated as a reminder that the credit card fees will be passed on to the user starting July 1, 2024. Mr. Conrad stated that Randy Justice will be retiring from MSD on Friday. He stated that Randy has been with the district for ten years but has been around the city and the district a lot longer than that. Mr. Conrad stated that Randy has been a jack of all trades to keep things running at City Hall and will be missed. Mr. Brand stated for clarification that the Street Department would pave Elsie. Mr. Leach confirmed that is correct. Mr. Brand stated that Aultshire still needs paved. Mr. Leach stated that we are waiting on the contractor for that.

Department Head Update – Jason Ingram, Water Pollution Control Facility Superintendent. Mr. Ingram stated that in 2023 the Water Pollution Control facility treated six billion gallons of wastewater. He stated in 2023 there was 8600 tons of bio solids that went to the landfill. Mr. Ingram stated that in the fall of 2023 the permit application was filled out and sent for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. He stated that this permit is renewed every five years, and the new permit was received on January 16th, 2024. Mr. Ingram stated that there are no changes to the permit and the new permit is valid through July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2029. He stated that new CSO warning signs were made and placed at the CSO outfalls along the White River. Mr. Ingram stated that CSO stands for combined sewer overflow. He stated that it is recommended after a rain event that individuals stay out of the river

until 72 hours has passed. He stated that bid packets have been sent out for aluminum sulfate. Mr. Ingram stated that aluminum sulfate is used to remove phosphorus from wastewater per the NPDES permit. He stated that notification for bids will be placed in The Star Press on June 19th and June 26th, 2024. Mr. Ingram stated that bid packets will be opened and read at the Muncie Sanitary District board meeting on July 24th, 2024. He stated that the McCulloch Park Lift Station pump upgrade project is set to begin in the middle of July. Mr. Ingram stated that Bowen Engineering will begin rehab on the splitter box on June 3rd at the wastewater plant. He stated that the function of this structure is where the return activated sludge and the primary effluent meet before going to the aerators. Mr. Ingram stated that the rehab consists of new gates, gear boxes, and actuators. He stated that all parts for the splitter box were paid out of the WPCF's budget last year. Mr. Ingram stated that the Water Pollution Control Facility is fully staffed at this moment. Mr. Overton stated that few people in Muncie understand how large the operation is. He thanked Mr. Ingram for all he does. Mr. Leach asked for clarification if the plant is better this year than it was last year. Mr. Ingram stated that it is continuing to grow. Mr. Brand asked if the plant needed any additional resources. Mr. Ingram stated there is always room for improvement.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

1. Resolution 2024-08 Grant Application from Indiana Finance Authority – Chuck Jones. Mr. Jones stated that this resolution has to do with the Indiana Finance Authority Grant that we have applied for. He stated that this was presented to the board at a prior meeting, and it was requested that a resolution be approved to submit the application. Mr. Jones stated that this is for the mussel propagation building. Mr. Leach stated that we approved this once so it should not be a problem. Mr. Brand entertained a motion to approve resolution 2024-08 for a \$16,500 grant from the Indiana Finance Authority. Mr. Leach moved to approve. Mr. Brand provided second. Motion passed (4-0).

Mr. Jones announced that there will be a grand opening of the White River Education and Research Center and the Fresh Water Mussel Propagation Facility on June 11, 2024, for MSD employees from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. He stated that there will be a public opening from 5 to 7 pm on the same day. Mr. Jones stated with this facility we will have a chemistry section, a fisheries biology section, eighteen aquariums filled with fish from the White River, aquatic insect specimens, freshwater mussels, stormwater management for construction pollution prevention, rain barrel workshops, land use impacts, and water quality monitoring. He stated that this is in hopes for BWQ to share their work and promote environmental stewardship and educate the citizens of Muncie and Delaware County.

2. Approval of Contract with Kinder Morgan – Tim Overton. Mr. Overton stated that he will be speaking on David Smith's behalf. He stated that he appreciates Mr. Smith spearheading this and doing a good job at it. Mr. Overton stated that the contract being proposed is from Kinder Morgan and it would give us savings on gas. He stated that this is a three-year contract. Mr. Overton stated that Kinder Morgan did a study where it showed buying gas from CenterPoint versus from Kinder Morgan since January of 2020, there were only four months when we would not have savings with Kinder Morgan. He stated that there was a study done from January 2023 to December where it showed we would save \$5,580.53 being a total of 24% on our gas. Mr. Overton stated that Kinder Morgan can provide cheaper gas because they pay the futures markets, and they get gas from environmentally friendly ways like landfills which the government gives credits to them for getting gas that way. He stated that the goal is to save money on regular gas bills. Mr. Brand clarifies that this is for natural gas. Mr. Overton stated that is correct. Mr. Brand stated that if this is adopted are we authorizing Rick Conrad to execute the contract. Mr. Overton stated that is correct. Mr. Brand stated for clarification that legal has reviewed the contract. Mr. Overton stated that is correct. Mr. Overton made a motion to approve. Mr. Clark provided second. Motion passed (4-0).

Additional Board Topics:

1. Mr. Leach announced that the Touch A Truck event will be held on June 28th, 2024, from 10 am to 2 pm, the third annual. He stated that it will be in the 300 block of High Street across the street from City Hall. Mr. Leach stated that there will be food, candy, and swag from participating departments. He stated that the rain date is scheduled for July 12th.

2. Mr. Brand stated that we are currently in the process of conducting a rate study for rates. He stated that there is no final answer yet, but it is in process. Mr. Brand stated that rates have not been raised since the 2015-2016 timeframe.

Public Comments: None.

Adjourn: Mr. Brand stated our next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 12, 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 May 29, 2024. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. Motion passed (4-0).

Respectfully Submitted,




Maggie Bales, Executive Office Manager

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

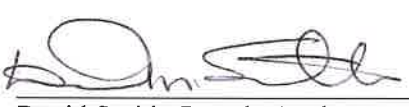


Stephen Brand, President

Tim Overton, Secretary



Adam Leach, Vice President



David Smith, Board Member



Aaron Clark, Board Member