

Board Minutes for the Board of Sanitary Commissioners Meeting of April 16, 2025

THE BOARD OF SANITARY COMMISSIONERS conducted a regularly scheduled meeting.

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

Department managers and staff present; Rick Conrad, District Administrator; Joe Rhetts, Legal Counsel; Chuck Jones, Director of BWQ; John Anderson, District Engineer; Thom Noble, Director of Engineering; Richard Ivy, HR Director; Melanie Lanich, Insurance Administrator; Jason Donati, Sanitation Superintendent; Deana Cox, Financial Manager; and Maggie Bales, Executive Office Manager.

Public present: Rick Yencer.

Public Comments:

1. Mr. Yencer stated Rick Yencer, newsman and author. He stated he came here today to talk about, as you probably talked about a while back, about the changes in taxes and revenue for local government. Mr. Yencer stated he said this a couple times last week to other governments, that they need to live within their means and also stop the taxation and borrowing because the Senate bill that was signed by the governor yesterday will cost millions, about a billion to the local government. He stated he knows the sanitary district has a big job of cleaning up the river and picking up the trash, but they've incurred a lot of debt, and from what he heard from lawmakers the other day, that's the reason that they're going to cut back, because they're tired of the debt of schools and government. Mr. Yencer stated so, again, given that they've got the means, not only from taxes, but utilities and other programs that they've implemented over the last half-century, and he remembers, they, again, need to be careful, because they saw the crowd not too long ago that was upset over sewer rates and sewer rate increases. He stated so, again, good luck.

Consideration of March 19th, 2025, Board Minutes. Mr. Leach entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Clark moved to approve the Board Meeting Minutes as submitted for the meeting of April 2, 2025. Mr. Overton seconded the motion. The motion was passed (5-0).

Consideration of Claims: Mr. Leach entertained a motion to consider the register of claims totaling \$983,593.96. Mr. Leach stated is a claim of \$17,500.00 from My Tree Sons that performed about six hundred feet of clearing in relation to the levee system. He stated this is required by the Corps of Engineers to keep the toe of the levee clear within fifteen feet, so they provided that clearance. Mr. Leach stated this was done under an existing contract with My Tree Sons. Mr. Clark moved to approve the consideration of the claims. Mr. Leach provided a second. Motion passed (5-0).

District Administrator Update – Rick Conrad. Mr. Conrad stated first, he wanted to note that there are a couple of construction sites currently active that may affect traffic. He stated one of them is on Petty between Briar and Duane, and the other one is at Martin Luther King and Hines. Mr. Conrad stated that, as many are aware, the area recently experienced substantial rainfall. He stated about four inches of rain fell the weekend of April 2 and 7, and the river gauge rose from its normal level of four feet past the flood stage at nine feet, eventually peaking at twelve and a half feet. Mr. Conrad stated he wanted to acknowledge Thom Noble and the engineering department for doing a great job preparing for this. He stated they were available all weekend, day and night, to respond to any floods or backup calls. Mr. Conrad stated that overall, the area was pretty fortunate, as there were very few major instances of flooding that would have caused serious problems. He stated the only significant incident occurred at State Road 32 or East Jackson Street, which is now temporarily closed. Mr. Conrad stated there is a flood station and a pump there designed to remove water, but they could not keep up. He stated the engineering

team now needs additional pumps at the site, and water will be cleared in a relatively short period so the road can reopen. Mr. Conrad stated that, along with the flooding, there will be a lot of debris, branches and logs left along the riverside of the levee. He stated the district is responsible for removing that debris so that mowing can continue. Mr. Conrad stated this will be an additional expense likely to come up at the next board meeting. He stated the debris is waterlogged and must be paid for by weight, making cleanup quite costly. Mr. Conrad stated that although it is expensive, it is a necessary part of maintaining the flood protection system. He stated earlier in the week; the district had a kickoff meeting with the TY Lin Group. Mr. Conrad stated that TY Lin will be evaluating the pollution control facility to identify ways to improve treatment capacity. He stated that while the plant is currently capable of treating thirty-eight million gallons per day, in reality, demand rarely exceeds ten million gallons per day. Mr. Conrad stated the problem is due to the high number of combined storms drains and sewer lines. He stated that when stormwater exceeds plant capacity, it leads to combined sewer overflow. Mr. Conrad stated that one solution is to separate storm and sewer lines, but in some cases, it is more cost-effective to increase plant capacity. He stated increasing capacity also reduces road and infrastructure maintenance and allows for treatment of the first flush of rain, which benefits river quality. Mr. Conrad stated there are two big benefits from the project, cost savings and cleaner river water. He stated they are looking forward to moving this project forward. Mr. Conrad stated there are also a few public events for the district coming up. He stated that, as mentioned earlier this year, there will be a Shred Day at East Central Recycling. Mr. Conrad stated this event will run from April 21st to April 25th, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 701 East Centennial. He stated there will also be a river cleanup on Earth Day, April 22nd, in a group effort with the Sanitary District, the Mighty Stormwater Partnership (MIDY), and Let Us Keep Muncie-Delaware Clean Beautiful. Mr. Conrad stated those interested can meet at the Cardinal Greenway Depot at seven hundred East Wysor at 9 a.m. He stated the cleanup will take place on the opposite side of the river from White River Boulevard. Mr. Conrad stated that same evening, on Earth Day, there will be a rain barrel workshop at 6 p.m. He stated registration is required for the workshop, as space is limited, and more information is available on the district's Facebook page. Mr. Conrad stated he was also informed by the sanitation and recycling superintendent that milk, juice, and soup cartons can now be recycled. He stated that these were previously excluded due to their waxy coating but are now accepted. Mr. Conrad stated that, as Mr. Yencer had hinted earlier, Senate Bill 1 recently passed and is expected to affect the sanitary district.

He stated they are still evaluating the bill's full impact, but it will reduce income from property taxes. Mr. Conrad stated the bill will specifically affect the sanitation department. He stated they do not yet have a full understanding of the financial impact or a concrete plan in place. Mr. Conrad stated the district will be working on a response throughout the year.

Department Head Update – None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Additional Board Topics:

1. Mr. Clark stated that he appreciates the mention of Senate Bill One and stated a reminder that the stormwater projects are federally mandated and unfunded.
2. Mr. Overton stated that in the recent deluge there were fewer phone calls about the flooding issue and gave credit to Thom Noble and the Engineering Department for their work.

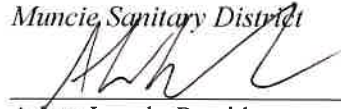
3. Mr. Leach stated he would just like to convey the appreciation that the Muncie Chief of Police, Mr. Nathan Sloan, provided to him in regard to the Sanitation and Engineering Departments. He stated that apparently, the police department had been reaching out for help and are deeply appreciative of the efforts made on their behalf. Mr. Leach stated he just wanted to say "good job" from the Chief. He stated that, from him as well, they would all like to work together. Mr. Leach stated they all live in the same sandbox, so to speak. He stated thank you very much. Mr. Leach stated he is glad they were able to help the police department. He stated they also appreciate the department for being able to help them in return.

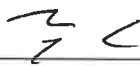
Adjourn: Mr. Leach stated our next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. in the City Hall Auditorium. Mr. Leach stated he would accept a motion to adjourn. Mr. Selvey made a motion to adjourn the meeting for April 16, 2025. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

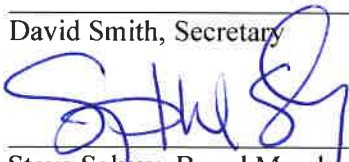

Maggie Bales, Executive Office Manager

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


Adam Leach, President


Tim Overton, Vice President

David Smith, Secretary


Steve Selvey, Board Member


Aaron Clark, Board Member