



MINUTES OF THE GARY SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON **SEPTEMBER 6, 2023**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, September 6, 2023
TIME: 11:00AM
LOCATION: GSD, Boardroom

TYPE: Regular Meeting
NOTICE PROVIDED IN ADVANCE: YES
QUORUM: YES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Daniel F. Vicari, President
Maurice G. Mabon, Vice President
Ola V. Morris, Secretary
Charles W. Jackson, Jr., Member
Darnail Lyles, Member

ABSENT MEMBERS

OTHERS PRESENT

Charles G. Peller, Jr., Executive Director
Jewell Harris, Jr., Attorney – *Harris Law Firm*
Jerome Foster, Finance Manager

OTHERS ABSENT

-
- I. Call to Order: 11:04AM** by Chairman Vicari
Chairman Vicari began the Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Roll-Call. He then stated prior to the start of the September 6, 2023 Board Meeting, there was NO Executive Session held.

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REGULAR MEETING HELD ON **SEPTEMBER 6, 2023**

1. MINUTES

As per the Executive Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2023, Chairman Vicari called for the Board's pleasure with respect to approving the minutes.

A motion to accept the Executive Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2023, with any/all noted corrections; was given by Commissioner Morris. The motion for approval of the minutes was seconded by Commissioner Mabon and passed without dissent.

The vote: Five (5)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

2. NEW BUSINESS

2.1 A Motion to Approve GSD's Payroll Earnings for Period Ending: July 31, 2023 through August 13, 2023, in the amount of \$265,442.42.

Overview: Executive Director Peller recommended approval of the GSD Payroll Earnings Report submitted as GSD Agenda Item 2.1.

Chairman Vicari called for the Board's pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.1. Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve GSD's Payroll Earnings for Period Ending: July 31, 2023 through August 13, 2023 was seconded by Commissioner Lyles and passed/approved.

The vote: Five (5)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

2.2 A Motion to Approve GSD Resolution No.: SD23-12, Amending the Garbage Collection Fees for the Collection of Trash, Garbage and Refuse within the City of Gary, Indiana.

Overview: Executive Director Peller stated a garbage collection fee shall be assessed for each parcel of real estate or building served by the city garbage collection service. The city garbage collection service shall serve each single-family residential unit and each multi-family unit containing no more than four (4) family living units on a single parcel of land. The fee is amended for a single-family residential unit and for multi-family units not to exceed four (4) units to a charge of \$25.65 in Year 2023 and \$27.98 in Year 2024 per month per unit served. The fee shall not be reduced for head of such household that is over the age of 65 years or is disabled. If approved, the proposed new blended rate will start fresh in 2024. At present, GSD pays the yearly \$200,000 deficiency as rates were increased by 3% by the trash collection contractor as the rate increase was not passed along to residents.

Financial Consultant Eric Cender stated in July, 2023, the GSD Board of Commissioners approved rates of \$26.42 for Year 2023 and \$27.21 for Year 2024. These rates were presented to the City Council for approval and adoption. The Council's feedback asked for a blended rate (for 2023 and 2024) of \$27.98 per year, yet still unapproved by Council.



MINUTES OF THE GARY SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON **SEPTEMBER 6, 2023**

Chairman Vicari called for the Board's pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.2. Commissioner Lyles gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve GSD Resolution No.: SD23-12, Amending the Garbage Collection Fees for the Collection of Trash, Garbage and Refuse within the City of Gary, Indiana was seconded by Commissioner Vicari.

A POINT OF ORDER was raised by Commissioner Morris to Attorney Harris relating to if Chairman Vicari's seconding the motion for Agenda Item 2.2 was acceptable. Attorney Harris stated Chairman Vicari's seconding the motion for Agenda Item 2.2 was acceptable (per Roberts Rules of Order).

Per Attorney Harris, the Motion FAILS for lack of sufficient votes.

The vote: Two (2)-Ayes (Lyles, Vicari)
Two (2)-No (Morris, Jackson)
One (1)-Abstention (Mabon)

2.3 A Motion to Approve Amendment No. 1 to Task Order No. 43 to the Master Services Agreement between Gary Sanitary District and American Structurepoint, Inc., for Construction Inspection Services for the 27th & Chase Street Pump Station Force Main Replacement Project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$126,236.00.

Overview: American Structurepoint's Field Manager John Tucker stated Amendment No. 1 is duplicate to Phase 1, yet relates to Phase 2 (work to start in 2nd week of September) of the Force Main Replacement Project whereas Engineer's fees (for construction inspection activities) will be 42 weeks, instead of 21 weeks as referenced in Task Order No. 43.

Note: 27th & Chase Street Pump Station Force Main Replacement Project will have a groundbreaking event on September 7 at 10am (at corner of 25th & Chase Street).

Chairman Vicari called for the Board's pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.3. Commissioner Lyles gave the motion to approve. The motion to approve Amendment No. 1 to Task Order No. 43 to the Master Services Agreement between GSD and American Structurepoint, Inc., for Construction Inspection Services for the 27th & Chase Street Pump Station Force Main Replacement Project was seconded by Commissioner Mabon and passed/approved.

The vote: Five (5)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

2.4 A Motion to Amend the Approval of the Award of Bid to Refax for the Purchase of 15 Trough Sections (instead of five (5) Trough Sections as previously approved on July 17, 2023) for Primary Tank No. 10, in an amount not-to-exceed \$191,850.00.

Overview: Plant Superintendent Rhonda Anderson stated the July 17, 2023 Board Approval for Trough Sections only referenced five (5) Trough Sections, when in fact, GSD's specification for a quote was for 15 Trough Sections. Upon receiving a new quote, 15 Trough Sections were referenced and the vendor is offering a discount in price for the miscommunication. Refax's bid is the lowest



MINUTES OF THE GARY SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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responsive, responsible bid. All material is galvanized. (Note: Per Attorney Harris, the NEXT lowest responsive, responsible bid was still \$300,000 more than Refax’s bid).

Question: Commissioner Lyles asked the age of the tanks/troughs.

Response: GSD’s Director of Engineering Kola Awosika stated the tanks (where troughs are house) were built in 1976.

Chairman Vicari called for the Board’s pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.4. Commissioner Jackson gave the motion to approve. The motion to Amend the Approval of the Award of Bid to Refax for the Purchase of 15 Trough Sections was seconded by Commissioner Mabon and passed/approved.

The vote: Five (5)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

2.5 A Motion to Approve an Award of Bid to Alex Metz Sewers, Inc., for the Sanitary Sewer Repair at the vicinity of 1744 Jefferson Street, in an amount not-to-exceed \$38,100.00.

Overview: Executive Director Peller stated the existing sanitary sewer has lost its structural integrity and collapsed near the manhole, thereby causing a cave-in and infiltration of groundwater. The cave-in is a pedestrian and vehicular hazard.

The work comprises of removing and replacing existing 12-inch diameter pipe with 12-inch diameter PVC SDR_{35±42}-linear feet starting from Manhole No. 535, going south towards Manhole No. 536; and removing and replacing existing 8-inch diameter pipe with 8-inch diameter PVC SDR₃₅ 10-linear feet starting from Manhole No. 535, going east towards the existing catch basin.

Quotes were solicited from 11 contractors; with three (3) responses. Gary-based Alex Metz Sewer’s bid was the lowest responsive, responsible bid.

Chairman Vicari called for the Board’s pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.5. Commissioner Jackson gave the motion to approve. The motion to Amend the Approval of the Award of Bid to Refax for the Purchase of 15 Trough Sections was seconded by Commissioner Mabon and passed/approved.

The vote: Four (4)-Ayes / One (1)-Abstention (Jackson)

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MINUTES OF THE GARY SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON **SEPTEMBER 6, 2023**

3. CLAIMS

3.1 GSD Claims Numbers: 2534 through 2621, in the amount of \$707,199.50

Overview: Finance Manager Jerome Foster recommended approval and ratification of the GSD Claims.

Chairman Vicari called for the Board pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 3.1. Commissioner Lyles gave the motion to approve. The motion for approval and ratification of GSD Claims Numbers 2534 – 2621 was seconded by Commissioner Mabon and passed/approved.

The vote: Five (5)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

Question 1: Commissioner Mabon asked if there is an extended warranty on the recently purchased vector.

Response 1: Sewer Collections Manager LaMingo Tomlin stated the vector has four (4) parts by which warranty is necessary: water tank, pump, electrical components and debris tank. GSD will look into an extended warranty

4. INFORMATION UPDATES

4.1 Plant Superintendent Updates

Rhonda Anderson, Plant Superintendent, provided the Board with an update:

Major Projects

- Major Projects
- Grit Project
- HMI Project

Operations

- IWEA Annual Conference
- July effluent data was entered into the EPA Data Exchange and the MRO and CSO_DMR were uploaded ahead of the July 28th due date.

Maintenance

- Aerator #6 diffuser membranes have all been replaced.
- The maintenance department continues to work on repairs on Primary Tank #10 and north intermediate tanks.

4.2 Construction Activity Updates

Eric Tonk, GSD Resident Engineer, provided Construction Activity Updates:

PROJECT: AERATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Current Work: Termination of Project

Planned Work: Finalized documentation of Termination of Project

PROJECT: GRIT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Current Work: Completion of Punch List Items. Installation of new Grit Pumps.



MINUTES OF THE **GARY SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON **SEPTEMBER 6, 2023**

Planned Work: Completion of Punch List items.

PROJECT: 27TH AND CHASE PUMP STATION FORCE MAIN REPLACE, PH 2 PROJECT

Current Work: Piping has been delivered, awaiting joints and key locks which should be delivered after Labor Day weekend.

Planned Work: Installation of piping near 25th & Chase. Work will continue down street heading north down Chase Street

PROJECT: LAKE STREET PUMP STATION FORCEMAIN RELOCATION

Current Work: Punch list was created and includes curb restoration and trace wire relocation to inside of manholes.

Planned Work: Close out of Project.

PROJECT: LAKE STREET DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AND ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

Current Work: Installation of storm water chambers has begun near 3rd Avenue going towards Birch Avenue. Utility relocations delays are causing the Contractor to jump to another section of the project between Birch Avenue and Hemlock Avenue. Asphalt and concrete base of Lake street will be removed, however, access to homes will be maintained.

Planned Work: Installation of storm water chambers, and road way reconstruction.

PROJECT: 27TH & CHASE PUMP STATION BAR SCREEN REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Current Work: Measurements of bottom channels for installation of bar screens. Discussions on Air Handling Units to take field measurements at the bottom channels.

Planned Work: Schedule a meeting to discuss what is will take to get measurements.

4.3 Community Engagement Updates

Todd McCain, Community Engagement Director, provided Community Engagement updates:

- EMPLOYMENT CORRECTION

It was previously reported that GSD hired two (2) GSD Intern for positions. Only one (1) was hired for a part-time position: Destinee Winger

- Air & Water Education sessions have been scheduled for the new school year

4.4 Human Resources Updates

Kara Burns, Human Resource Manager, provided the Board with updates:

- Open Positions:

As of September 6, 2023, GSD has 11 vacant positions, the online postings now show salaries

- Employee Appreciation Cookout on September 21st



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REGULAR MEETING HELD ON **SEPTEMBER 6, 2023**

4.5 American Structurepoint, Inc.

John Tucker, American Structurepoint, Inc., (ASI) provided the Board with updates:

- Force Main at 27th & Chase Street, Phase 2 of said project will start the second week of September.

4.6 CDM Smith, Inc.

Matthew Bednarski, CDM Smith's Client Service Leader, provided the Board with updates:

- 27th & Chase Bar Screen: working with GSD staff and the contractor (FH Paschen) to finalize the H₂S mitigation plan; the contractor would like to gain access to the lowest levels of the pump station for in-field measurements prior to fabricating the new bar screens.
A meeting response from FH Paschen has been received regarding the H₂S (Hydrogen Sulfide) issues.

Note: The elevated H₂S levels causes a build-up of gas to cause the area not to ventilate properly.

- 27th and Chase HVAC & 15th and Clay Grit: Currently finalized responses to IFA (Indiana Finance Authority) regarding the preliminary engineering reports for both of these projects; we are currently developing our responses with input from GSD staff as needed; responses are due by 9/12/2023.

5. DISCUSSION

Question: Commissioner Mabon asked for a response relative to GSD's contract with Cintas for uniforms.

Response: Procurement Manager Bryan Cossey stated he plans to meet with Cintas in the coming weeks.

GSD's current contract with Cintas will expire in October 2024

No notification was given to GSD when Cintas increased pricing

6. REQUEST TO SPEAK

There was one (1) attendee who requested to speak:

1. Robert "Bob" Day of Day's Asphalt Paving, 855 Taft Street, Gary, IN

Mr. Day expressed his concern at how GSD bids jobs with respect to Union and Non-Union Labor/Contractors – making reference to a paving job that is now five (5) months old that he feels Day's Asphalt should have been entitled to receive as they were the only bidder.

Mr. Day also mentioned there is an area at 23rd & Chase Street that he observed to be in need of repair.

Director of Engineering Kola Awosika was asked to follow-up on Mr. Day's concerns.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:24PM.



MINUTES OF THE GARY SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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ADOPTED BY THE BOARD DURING THE MEETING ON:

09/18/2023

DocuSigned by:

Daniel F. Vicari

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Daniel F. Vicari, President

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Daniel F. Vicari, President
Maurice G. Mabon, Vice-President
Ola V. Morris, Secretary
Charles W. Jackson, Jr., Member
Darnail Lyles, Member

Ola V. Morris, Secretary

NOTE:

Ola Morris absent at 9/18/2023 Board Meeting