



MINUTES OF THE GARY SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON **MARCH 18, 2024**

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**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**DATE:** Monday, March 18, 2024  
**TIME:** 12:00PM, cst  
**LOCATION:** GSD, Boardroom

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

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

William L. Allen, President  
Ola V. Morris, Vice President  
Maurice G. Mabon, Secretary/Treasurer  
Darnail Lyles, Member  
William Cook, Member

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**ABSENT MEMBERS**

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**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jewell Harris, Jr., Attorney – *Harris Law Firm*  
Rhonda Anderson, Executive Director  
Jerome Foster, Finance Manager

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**OTHERS ABSENT**

**I. Call to Order: 12:20PM** by Chairman Allen

Chairman Allen began the Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Roll-Call. He then stated prior to the start of the March 18, 2024 Board Meeting, there was an Executive Session held and there was nothing discussed in Executive Session that was not indicated on the Posted Notice of the Executive Session; and being in compliance with Indiana Statutes, there were no final votes held during the Executive Session. Chairman Allen asked if any Board member dissented to the certification. Hearing none, he proceeded with the meeting.

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**1. MINUTES**

Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve/accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2024, with any/all noted corrections. The motion for approval of the minutes was seconded by Commissioner Lyles 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: February 12, 2024 through February 25, 2024, in the amount of \$256,564.09.**

Overview: Finance Manager Jerome Foster recommended approval of the GSD Payroll Earnings Report submitted as GSD Agenda Item 2.1.

Chairman Allen 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 and Ratify GSD's Payroll Earnings for Period Ending: February 12, 2024 through February 25, 2024 was seconded by Commissioner Cook and passed/approved.

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

**2.2 A Motion to Approve a Wastewater Treatment Agreement between Gary Sanitary District and Calumet Township (by means of the Calumet Township Septic Tank Elimination Project).**

Overview: Executive Director Anderson stated Lake County has built (or is in the processing of building) a sanitary sewer system in certain unincorporated regions of Calumet Township by means of the Calumet Township Septic Tank Elimination (STEP) Project and presently does not have adequate means of disposing of its wastewater from the Calumet Township STEP.

GSD owns and operates an approved wastewater treatment plant that has an approved user charge system and has capacity available for the treatment of wastewater from the Calumet STEP.

Lake County is an Indiana political subdivision which renders wastewater disposal services within certain areas in Lake County, Indiana not serviced by other political divisions, and desires to contract with GSD to treat wastewater collected by the Calumet Township STEP.

Lake County has connected or will connect its sewer system to the wastewater treatment and disposal facilities of GSD and will transport wastewater generated within the jurisdiction of Lake County and its contractual customers to the GSD plant to be treated by GSD.

Question: Commissioner Mabon referred Section 5 of the Wastewater Agreement: "*a new manhole to be constructed at Chase Street & 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue*". He asked what direction would the wastewater flow be received from and if septic customers would be received under this agreement.



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Response: Leslie Yoo, Project Engineer for VS Engineering, stated the flow received will all be conveyed to a Lift Station within the project area. The Lift Station will pump the flow through a Force Main along Chase Street which will discharge in to the GSD System at 35<sup>th</sup> & Chase Street by way of a doghouse manhole. The flow will be coming from the South to the North into the GSD system.

Question: Commissioner Mabon asked Executive Director Anderson the referenced Lift Station would be the 27<sup>th</sup> & Chase Street Station and if GSD has enough capacity to accept the flow.

Response: Executive Director Anderson confirmed that the 27<sup>th</sup> & Chase Street Pumping Station would be the station accepting the flow; and there is sufficient capacity to accept said flow.

Question: Commission Mabon asked if GSD’s chemical costs would substantially increase due to accepting the additional flow.

Response: Executive Director Anderson stated GSD’s chemical costs would not increase as the amount of water to be conveyed by Lake County is negligible as they plan to discharge – AT PEAK - less than 1MGD (gallons per day); and presently GSD treats approximately 48MGD.

Chairman Allen called for the Board’s pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.2. Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve a Wastewater Treatment Agreement between Gary Sanitary District and Calumet Township (Calumet Township Septic Tank Elimination Project) was seconded by Commissioner Lyles and passed/approved.

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

**2.3 A Motion to Approve a Contract between Gary Sanitary District and Heartland Business Systems for the Purchase and Installation of a New Telephone System for the Gary Sanitary District, in an amount not-to-exceed \$46,705.25.**

Overview: Executive Director Anderson stated our current telephone system is old technology and is experiencing problems. There are concerns that if the next time the system goes down, it may be unable to be restored. There have been instances of dropped calls. A new system will provide a solution to our telephone issues.

Chairman Allen called for the Board’s pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.3. Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve a Contract between Gary Sanitary District and Heartland Business Systems for the Purchase and Installation of a New Telephone System was seconded by Commissioner Lyles and passed/approved.

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



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**2.4 A Motion to Approve Change Order No. 1 to F.H. Paschen for the 27th & Chase Street Pump Station Bar Screen Replacement Project (GSD Project No.: SD22- 02), for a No Cost Time Extension – with a New Substantial Completion Date of May 31, 2024 and a New Final Completion Date of July 5, 2024.**

Executive Director Anderson called for Matt Bednarski, Client Service Leader for CDM Smith, to provide an overview.

Overview: Matt Bednarski stated the contractor currently has the bar screens in manufacturing stage and has taken a bit longer than expected.

Chairman Allen called for the Board’s pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.4. Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve Change Order No. 1 to F.H. Paschen for the 27<sup>th</sup> & Chase Street Pump Station Bar Screen Replacement Project was seconded by Commissioner Cook and passed/approved.

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

**3. CLAIMS**

**3.1 GSD Claims Numbers: 829 through 997, in the amount of \$1,900,327.47**

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

**Question:** Commissioner Mabon asked (of Finance Manager Foster): As there are numerous invoices on the Claims List for Sweney Electrical and a contract for Sweney has not come before the Board, how does Sweney billing/operate with GSD for the electrical work/jobs performed.

**Response:** Executive Director Anderson stated that years ago, GSD was told that Sweney could be used to do electrical upgrades (in plant and lift stations) as needed. Since the Board of Commissioners has expressed an interested in having an agreement with Sweney, changes are in progress and GSD is moving forward with the process of creating and awarding an agreement. GSD has created a scope of work, which would be the first step in creating bid specifications; and things are moving forward with public bidding.

**Question:** Commissioner Mabon asked if Sweney Electric has the ability to do work at 27<sup>th</sup> & Chase Street Pumping Station.

**Response:** Executive Director Anderson stated that Sweney Electric is capable of handling any/all electrical projects for the Gary Sanitary District, however, in the case of 27<sup>th</sup> & Chase Street, the Contractor has an assigned electrical contractor for the work. Sweney does, at times, work at the Lift and Pumping Stations.



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Chairman Allen 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 829 – 997 was seconded by Commissioner Mabon and passed/approved.

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

#### 4. INFORMATION UPDATES

##### 4.1 Plant Superintendent Updates

Rhonda Anderson, Executive Director, provided the Board with an update:

- HMI/SCADA Training:
  - o GSD's Instrumentation & Controls Team and the IT Team participated in roughly 64 hours of training for the maintenance of the new SCADA System.
  - o There is approximately 100 hours of training left
  - o The new system is operational
- CORE Conference Training:
  - o On March 21<sup>st</sup>, several GSD employees will participate in the 2024 Core Conference (IWEA) at Fort Harrison State Park Inn Garrison Conference Center in Indianapolis. Forum topics will provide discussions on the core aspects of wastewater treatment (research, new technologies, operational and/or maintenance case studies, residual management, resource recovery, laboratory and safety. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be received (approved by IDEM)
- Rain Events:
  - o There were two (2) significant rain events in the past week – a breaker went offline
  - o Adequate pumping was done by Sweney Electric, Instrumentation & Controls Teams assisted the operators in restoring pumping
  - o 130Million gallons of water was treated during the rain event

##### 4.2 Construction Activity Updates

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

PROJECT: 27<sup>TH</sup> & CHASE PUMP STATION BAR SCREEN REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Current Work: Electrical work continuing with demolition and digging of trench for electrical bank; and installation of concrete pad for new equipment.

Planned Work: Submittal review on-going. Progress meeting to be held on February 22, 2024.

PROJECT: LAKE STREET DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AND ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

Current Work: Road Closure between Birch and Hemlock. StormTech basins have been installed north of Hancock/Cyprus Street. Storm sewers are being installed south of Hemlock Ave towards the StormTech basins north of Hemlock Ave.

Planned Work: Underground work to continue

PROJECT: 27<sup>TH</sup> & CHASE STREET PUMP STATION FORCE MAIN REPLACEMENT, PHASE II

Current Work: Site has been prepared for winter usage.



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Planned Work: Work to resume in Spring 2024.

PROJECT: GRIT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Current Work: Certificate of Submittal Completion has been approved by the ACOE.

Planned Work: Delivery of final 4 Punch List Items. Approval of Certificate of Final Completion.

Question: Commissioner Mabon asked when will Indiana American Water finish with service relocation at the vicinity of 805 East 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue (project has been ongoing since 2021).

Response: Eric Tonk stated the area is abandoned yet pressurized.  
Executive Director Anderson stated she would reach out to IAWCO to see if any progress can be made.

**4.3 American Structurepoint, Inc.**

Chris Murphy, American Structurepoint, Inc., (ASI) provided the Board with updates:

- 27<sup>th</sup> & Chase Street Force Main Replacement Project:
  - o There is no current activity on Phase 2 of the project
  - o Phase 3 will complete the Force Main Construction from approximately 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue
  - o ASI Engineers are working with CDM Smith Engineers to add that portion of the Force Main Replacement Construction to an application for SRF Funding. In anticipation of the SRF Funding being available

**4.4 CDM Smith, Inc.**

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

- CDM Smith is actively working on three (3) projects:
  - o 27<sup>th</sup> & Chase Street Bar Screen
  - o SRF Application is due by April 1 Working with GSD Staff for IFA Funding Submittal for Projects by April 1 deadline.
- Working with GSD Staff and Legal to address F.H.Paschen and the 27<sup>th</sup> & Chase Street Bar Screen Project. Receiving little response from Contractor (Paschen)  
There are schedules (Construction Schedule and Schedule of Values) that have not been submitted.

Comments received from Ragen Hatcher, Director of Strategic Compliance:

The Gary Materials Supply Project had been bid out and it's being grant funded; and Strategic Compliance have an opportunity to put the new compliance language in the contract/agreement. There is compliance; which currently indicates that payment can be held and/or prevent the start of the project until they're in compliance. The Board is being asked to begin thinking about penalties within the contract that we talked about before. The changes would relate to accessing penalties to



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be 2/3 within each category: the workforce, 2/3 of the laborers; and 2/3 of the managers. The changes would not be substantial, but it would need to be changed within the policy so we could enforce compliance.

**5. DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Mabon asked when will a GSD newsletter be submitted to our City of Gary Residents, introducing our new Mayor.

**6. REQUEST TO SPEAK**

There were no requests to speak.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40PM.



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ADOPTED BY THE BOARD DURING THE MEETING ON:

04/01/2024

DocuSigned by:

*William L. Allen*

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**William L. Allen, President**

DocuSigned by:

*Maurice G. Mabon*

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**Maurice G. Mabon, Secretary**

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