



MINUTES OF THE **GARY SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON **JANUARY 10, 2025**

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**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**DATE:** Friday, January 10, 2025  
**TIME:** 12:00PM, cst  
**LOCATION:** GSD, Boardroom

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

William Allen, President  
Ola V. Morris, Vice President  
Maurice G. Mabon, Secretary  
Freida Graves, Member

**ABSENT MEMBERS**

Willie Cook, Member

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jewell Harris, Jr., Attorney – Harris Law Firm  
Ragen Hatcher, Executive Director  
Jerome Foster, Finance Manager

**OTHERS ABSENT**

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**I. Call to Order: 12:38PM** 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 January 10, 2025 Board Meeting, there was NO Executive Session held.

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**1. MINUTES**

**1.1 Executive Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2024**

Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve/accept the Executive Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2024 with any/all noted corrections. The motion for approval of the minutes was seconded by Commissioner Morris and passed without dissent. The vote: Three (3)-Ayes / One (1)-Abstention (Graves)

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

**2.1 A Motion to Approving the Hiring of Ragen Hatcher as Executive Director for the Gary Sanitary District.**

Overview: Attorney Harris stated the Board received a recommendation from Mayor Melton to hiring Ragen Hatcher as the Executive Director for Gary Sanitary District.

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 the Hiring of Ragen Hatcher as Executive Director for the Gary Sanitary District was seconded by Commissioner Morris and passed/approved.

The vote: Four (4)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

**2.2 A Motion to Approve the Board Meeting 2025 Calendar for Gary Sanitary District.**

Overview: Executive Director Hatcher recommended the approval of changing the cadence of the Board Meetings for Year 2025.

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 the Board Meeting 2025 Calendar for Gary Sanitary District was seconded by Commissioner Morris and passed/approved.

The vote: Four (4)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

**2.3 A Motion to Approve GSD's Payroll Earnings for Period Ending: December 2, 2024 through December 15, 2024, in the amount of \$256,145.73.**

Overview: Finance Manager Jerome Foster recommended approval of the GSD Payroll Earnings Report submitted as GSD Agenda Item 2.3.

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 GSD's Payroll



MINUTES OF THE **GARY SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
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Earnings for Period Ending: December 2, 2024 through December 15, 2024 was seconded by Commissioner Morris and passed/approved.

The vote: Four (4)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

2.4 **A Motion to Approve GSD Resolution No.: SD25-01, Approving an Amended Agreement for Provisions of Security Services for Gary Sanitary District.**

Overview: Executive Director Hatcher stated an Amended Agreement is needed as the Original Agreement referenced the hourly rates at being \$17/Hour. The correct hourly rate is \$17.50/Hour.

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 GSD Resolution No.: SD25-01, Approving an Amended Agreement for Provisions of Security Services for the Gary Sanitary District was seconded by Commissioner Morris and passed/approved.

The vote: Four (4)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

2.5 **A Motion to Approve GSD Resolution No.: SD25-02, Amending GSD Resolution No.: SD24-10 - Approving Payments of Stipends by Gary Sanitary District to Certain City of Gary Employees.**

Overview: Executive Director Hatcher stated the Stipend Amount for Michael Suggs should be \$18,960.56 and NOT \$20,000 to be effective 01/01/2025; and the Stipend Amount for Mayor Melton has been reduced by \$75, effective 01/01/2025.

Chairman Allen called for the Board’s pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.5. Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve GSD Resolution No.: SD25-02, Amending GSD Resolution No.: SD24-10 – Approving Payments of Stipends by Gary Sanitary District to Certain City of Gary Employees was seconded by Commissioner Morris and passed/approved.

The vote: Four (4)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

2.6 **A Motion to Approve GSD Resolution No.: SD25-03, Approving the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for Submission to the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program for the 27th & Chase Street Pumping Station Force Main Replacement-Phase 3 Project.**

Overview: Director of Engineering Kola Awosika recommended approval of GSD Agenda Item 2.6.



MINUTES OF THE **GARY SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
 REGULAR MEETING HELD ON **JANUARY 10, 2025**

Chairman Allen called for the Board’s pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.6. Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve GSD Resolution No.: SD25-03, Approving the Preliminary Engineering Report for Submission to the State Revolving Fund Loan Program for the 27<sup>th</sup> & Chase Street Pumping Station Force Main Replacement, Phase 3 Project was seconded by Commissioner Morris and passed/approved.

The vote: Four (4)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

2.7 **A Motion to Approve GSD Resolution No.: SD25-04, Approving Signatory Authorization for the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program for the 15th & Clay Street Pumping Station Screen Replacement Project.**

Overview: Director of Engineering Kola Awosika recommended approval of GSD Agenda Item 2.7.

Chairman Allen called for the Board’s pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.7. Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve GSD Resolution No.: SD25-04, Approving Signature Authorization for the State Revolving Fund Loan Program for the 15<sup>th</sup> & Clay Street Pumping Station Screen Replacement Project was seconded by Commissioner Morris and passed/approved.

The vote: Four (4)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

2.8 **A Motion to Approve GSD Resolution No.: SD25-05, Declaratory Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the Gary Sanitary District with Respect to its Intention for the Issuance of Bonds.**

Overview: Brandon Comer, Managing Partner for Comer Capital Group, stated GSD Resolution No.: SD25-05 authorizes the issuance of bonds for the acquisition of garbage trucks.

Chairman Allen called for the Board’s pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.8. Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve GSD Resolution No.: SD25-05, Approving the Declaratory Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the Gary Sanitary District with Respect to its Intention for the Issuance of Bonds was seconded by Commissioner Morris and passed/approved.

The vote: Four (4)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

2.9 **A Motion to Approve a Professional Services Contract by and between Gary Sanitary District and Harris Law Firm, PC., for Professional Legal Services for Calendar Year 2025.**



MINUTES OF THE **GARY SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
 REGULAR MEETING HELD ON **JANUARY 10, 2025**

---

Overview: Executive Director Hatcher recommended approval of GSD Agenda Item 2.9.

Chairman Allen called for the Board’s pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.9. Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve a Professional Services Contract by and between Gary Sanitary District and Harris Law Firm, PC., for Professional Legal Services for Calendar Year 2025 was seconded by Commissioner Morris and passed/approved.

The vote: Four (4)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

2.10 **A Motion to Approve Addendum No. 1 to the Contract by and between Gary Sanitary District and Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP., for Legal Services relative to the GSD Consent Decree, Environmental Law and Utility and Regulatory Issues.**

Overview: Executive Director Hatcher recommended approval of GSD Agenda Item 2.10.

Chairman Allen called for the Board’s pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.10. Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve Addendum No. 1 to the Contract by and between Gary Sanitary District and Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP., for Legal Services relative to the GSD Consent Decree, Environmental Law and Utility and Regulatory Issues was seconded by Commissioner Morris and passed/approved.

The vote: Four (4)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

2.11 **A Motion to Approve and Ratify an Amendment to the Interim Services Agreement by and between Gary Sanitary District and Republic Services for Recycling Services (effective 01/01/25 - 12/31/25).**

Overview: Executive Director Hatcher recommended approval of GSD Agenda Item 2.11, stating the Interim Services Agreement is so that GSD can continue using Republic Services for Solid Waste Disposal Services through 12/31/2025 while GSD implements an inhouse garbage collection program.

The recycling portion (curbside recycling) of the Republic Services contract will no longer be in effect as of February 1, 2025. The recycling dropoff sites will be announced during the next Board Meeting.

Chairman Allen called for the Board’s pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.11. Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve and Ratify an Amendment to the Interim Services Agreement by and between Gary Sanitary District and Republic Services for Recycling Services was seconded by Commissioner Morris and passed/approved.

The vote: Four (4)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No



MINUTES OF THE **GARY SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON **JANUARY 10, 2025**

---

- 2.12 **A Motion to Approve and Ratify an Award of Bid to Metz Sewer Plumbing and Pumping, LLC., for the Emergency Sanitary Sewer Repair at the vicinity of 920 W. 55th Ave., in an amount not-to-exceed \$172,225.00.**

*Overview:* Director of Engineering Kola Awosika stated the existing sanitary sewer at the referenced location has lost its structural integrity causing a cave-in of the street and allowing sand and groundwater infiltration into the sewer. The sewer line is being vactored daily by the Sewer Department. The cave-in is a pedestrian hazard. Immediate repairs are necessary to prevent sanitary sewer overflow.

Chairman Allen called for the Board's pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.12. Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve and Ratify an Award of Bid to Metz Sewer Plumbing and Pumping, LLC., for Emergency Sanitary Sewer Repair at the vicinity of 920 West 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue was seconded by Commissioner Morris and passed/approved.

The vote: Four (4)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

- 2.13 **A Motion to Approve an Award of Bid to Metz Sewer Plumbing and Pumping, LLC., for the Sanitary Sewer Repair at the vicinity of 4311 E. 12th Pl., in an amount not-to-exceed \$125,015.00.**

*Overview:* Director of Engineering Kola Awosika stated the existing sanitary sewer at the referenced location has lost its structural integrity causing a cave-in of the street and allowing sand and groundwater infiltration into the sewer. The cave-in is a pedestrian hazard. Immediate repairs are necessary to prevent sanitary sewer overflow.

Chairman Allen called for the Board's pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.13. Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve an Award of Bid to Metz Sewers Plumbing and Pumping, LLC., for the Sanitary Sewer Repair at the vicinity of 4311 East 12<sup>th</sup> Place was seconded by Commissioner Morris and passed/approved.

The vote: Four (4)-Ayes / Zero (0)-No

- 2.14 **A Motion to Approve an Award of Bid to Metz Sewer Plumbing and Pumping, LLC., for a Sanitary Sewer Repair at the vicinity of 558 Jefferson St., in an amount not-to-exceed \$136,480.00.**

*Overview:* Director of Engineering Kola Awosika stated the existing sanitary sewer at the referenced location has lost its structural integrity causing a cave-in of the street and allowing sand and groundwater infiltration into the sewer. The cave-in is a pedestrian hazard. Immediate repairs are necessary to prevent sanitary sewer overflow.



MINUTES OF THE **GARY SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
 REGULAR MEETING HELD ON **JANUARY 10, 2025**

---

Chairman Allen called for the Board’s pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.14. Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve an Award of Bid to Metz Sewer Plumbing and Pumping, LLC., for a Sanitary Sewer Repair at the vicinity of 558 Jefferson Street was seconded by Commissioner Morris and passed/approved.

The vote: Four (4)-Ayes / Zero (o)-No

- 2.15 **A Motion to Approve an Award of Bid to Metz Sewer Plumbing and Pumping, LLC., for a Sanitary Sewer Repair at the vicinity of 539 Maryland St., in an amount not-to-exceed \$85,450.00.**

*Overview:* Director of Engineering Kola Awosika stated the existing sanitary sewer at the referenced location has lost its structural integrity causing a cave-in of the street and allowing sand and groundwater infiltration into the sewer. The cave-in is a pedestrian hazard. Immediate repairs are necessary to prevent sanitary sewer overflow.

Chairman Allen called for the Board’s pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.15. Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve an Award of Bid to Metz Sewer Plumbing and Pumping, LLC., for a Sanitary Sewer Repair at the vicinity of 539 Maryland Street was seconded by Commissioner Morris and passed/approved.

The vote: Four (4)-Ayes / Zero (o)-No

**3. CLAIMS**

- 3.1 **GSD Claims Nos.: 1 through 66, in the amount of \$184,233.02**

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

Chairman Allen called for the Board’s pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 3.1. Commissioner Mabon gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve GSD Claims Nos.: 1 through 66 was seconded by Commissioner Morris and passed/approved.

The vote: Four (4)-Ayes / Zero (o)-No

**4. INFORMATION UPDATES**

- 4.1 **Construction Activities**

Jabez Anderson, GSD Assistant Manager of Engineering, provided the Board with updates concerning GSD’s Construction Projects.

- 4.2 **American Structurepoint**

John Tucker of American Structurepoint, provided the Board with updates concerning GSD Projects.



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---

**4. REQUEST TO SPEAK**

- Robert Buggs, 4002 Rhode Island Street, Gary, IN  
Would like attention given to a cave-in near his home. Provided pictures to our Engineering and Collection Department.
- Jake Summers, Cintas (Account Manager)  
Requested a signature on the Cintas contract recently awarded.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:18PM.





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ADOPTED BY THE BOARD DURING THE MEETING ON:

02/07/2025

DocuSigned by:

*Ola V. Morris*

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Acting President for  
2/7/25 Meeting

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

William L. Allen, President  
Ola V. Morris, Vice-President  
Maurice G. Mabon, Secretary  
Willie Cook, Member  
Freida Graves, Member

**PRESIDENT**

DocuSigned by:

*Maurice G. Mabon*

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**SECRETARY**