

A Public Hearing was held at 6:00 p.m. in regards to the DWSRF Public Hearing
A Public Hearing was held at 6:15 p.m. in regards to the PILOT Lead Service Line Replacement Project

MEETING MINUTES, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HAMMOND WATERWORKS DEPARTMENT
Thursday, March 7, 2024

Electronic Communication was available via Zoom – No Public Attended

Those members in person:

S. Daniels	President	
B. Grisolia	Vice President	J. Prieto, Deputy Chief Executive Operator
P. Walker	Secretary	S. Levinson, Board Attorney
R. Lendi,	Treasurer	
P. Gavrilos	Assist. Secretary/Treasurer	

Those not present: M. McLaughlin

- The Board President called the meeting to order.
- A motion was made by B. Grisolia seconded by P. Gavrilos and motion carried to approve and place on file the previous meeting's Minutes as submitted to the Board.
- A motion was made by R. Lendi seconded by B. Grisolia and motion carried to approve Accounts Payable Voucher Ledger (Claims List), Refund Vouchers and Payroll Vouchers as submitted to the Board.
- A motion was made by B. Grisolia, seconded by R. Lendi and motion carried to approve the miscellaneous reports as submitted.

Board Meeting Claims – Operating Fund \$426,349.66

Board Meeting Claims – Capital Improvement \$0.00

Board Meeting Claims – Depreciation \$29,764.65

3 Year Pumpage Comparison for February

Filtration Plant Overtime Report – 24 Hours of Overtime 2/25/24 & 3/3/24

Bank of New York Bond Bank – \$0.00

- The Board Attorney stated for the record that a public hearing took place before the regular meeting and was properly noticed and advised the Board it was her advisement that the Board take up the motion to pass the Resolution 2024-6. This Resolution is for the DWSRF as discussed.

MEETING MINUTES, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HAMMOND WATERWORKS DEPARTMENT
Thursday, March 7, 2024
Page Two

- A motion was made by R. Lendi, seconded P. Gavrilos and motion carried to approve Resolution 2024-6 A Resolution of the Hammond Water Works Department confirming a Declaratory Resolution determining to acquire, construct and install certain additions and improvements to the waterworks system of the City and other matters related thereto.

The Deputy Chief Executive Operator submitted his report to the Board as follows:

- *On Wednesday, March 6th, 2024, a Hammond Water Employee, Michael Korba was marking locates on the property of 610 165th St. and was confronted by a person who resides there. The resident threatened our employee and pushed him a few times as well as threw his hat to the ground multiple times. The resident then took a rake and hit the Water Department vehicle causing damage to the windshield and hood. Police were called to the scene but the resident went back inside and did not answer the door. Michael is doing fine but was just shaken up a bit by the events. HPD detectives will be investigating.*

The Board Attorney stated she feels that we should be in contact with the prosecutor sometime and make sure they know there's a restitution component with the issue here.

- *On Wednesday, March 6th, 2024, Chuck informed me that he made the decision to send new employee, Wayne Miller, home until further notice, for insubordination as well as work performance issues. Wayne refused to take orders from both Plant Foreman Jeff Pala as well as Chuck. Wayne was hired January 8th, 2024 and has only shown up for work 19.5 days while missing 21.5 days for personal reasons. It is Chuck's recommendation to relieve Wayne of his duties at HWW.*
- *Our 2 required appraisals for the Rimbach building have come in with an average of \$524k. Peoples Bank has accepted this new offer. They would like to close in the next couple of weeks, but we need clearer guidance to see if we need to get an environmental survey done before we close.*

The Board Attorney informed the Board she had spoken with Ron from Environmental and he felt that there are no issues with that area. He feels that because there was a bank built there back in 2005 that the bank would have made sure at that time that everything was fine with the area. She further mentioned that paperwork is back from the title company to go through but it looks as though everything is in line to close next week.

- *IDEM has sent us back PFAS Sampling Initiative Results, which were taken from Lake Michigan raw water as well as our treated water on 12/27/23. I am happy to report that all PFAS results are below detection levels. A copy of this report can be sent to you at your request.*
- *We have halted our training of the new Tyler Software till the Fall. We have been busy learning and customizing the new software but need to pump the brakes a little, as we get used to what we have already implemented. We have conversed with the Controller's Office and they are on the same page as us. There is a lot to learn and work on, on top of doing day to day work.*
- *On Sunday, March 3rd, 2024, Chuck received a call from our plant employees on shift stating that the part of the perimeter fence along the service road had been damaged badly. We investigated using our camera system and saw a tractor-trailer with company name "Forward Air" was the culprit. He attempted to make somewhat of a u-turn and took a few sections of fence. We did see that he got out of the truck and attempted to make connection with someone in the plant via our intercom system, but was unsuccessful. I reached out to the company and spoke with their claims department and sent them the video evidence. We received a quote from SDI for repairs and immediately sent that to the company. They will be reimbursing us for the damage. Because of this, we will be installing 120' of guardrail along our fence.*
- *Distribution is working on a project in the intersection of Vine St. and Harrison Ave. where a lead jointed bell clamp was leaking. The only way to really fix this issue is to take out that section of pipe which is 16" and replace the bell clamp. The bad thing is that in order to shut down this 16" main, we would have to turn off 19 valves around the neighborhood, and some of these valves are already broke open. We are getting quotes to do a line stop along Harrison Ave., install 3-4 new valves, and replace the bad section of pipe.*
- *We will be on a call with EBridge Procurement tomorrow morning concerning moving forward with the reverse auctions for our chemicals at the plant. The goal is to have bidders fight for our business!*
- *A Plant employee contracted COVID and has been off since Monday. The employee claims to still have a fever, so we are not allowing them back until they are fever free in accordance to CDC guidelines.*

MEETING MINUTES, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HAMMOND WATERWORKS DEPARTMENT
Thursday, March 7, 2024
Page Four

The Board President informed the Board that she is working with Christine Cantrell to see if there's any executive orders that need to be repealed as the CDC guidelines have changed. If we need to repeal anything on our end that will be forthcoming.

- The Board reviewed the Filtration Plant Superintendent's report on probationary employee Wayne Miller. Upon the Filtration Plant Superintendent's recommendation and due to Mr. Miller's excessive absenteeism, work performance and attitude, P. Gavrilos made a motion to terminate probationary employee Wayne Miller from the Hammond Water Works Department, motion was seconded by R. Lendi and motion carried.
- The Deputy Chief Executive Operator informed the Board that the technology at the booster station at Hohman Avenue is about 15 years old and needs an upgrade. Metropolitan does all our SCADA and booster station and the upgrade came in at \$32,670.00 for that upgrade. A motion was made by B. Grisolia, seconded by P. Gavrilos to approve the upgrade by Metropolitan.
- New and Unfinished Business
- The Board President asked if anyone had anything further.
- The Filtration Superintendent submitted his report as follows:

*Filtration Superintendent Report
3/7/24*

In Collaboration with IDEM (Indiana Department of Environmental Management) and Pace Analytical, I drew samples for PFAS. These samples were tested for 18 common PFAS compounds. I am happy to report the results were below any detection levels.

After many delays in shipping ACMS, our contractor for the Plant #2 Sedimentation and Flocculation Project are beginning to construct Basin #1. This includes tube settlers and all materials for the catwalks. Drive shafts for sludge collection installation will begin on March 11, 2024. Flocculation equipment is also expected the week of March 11th. Work has really started to pick up after so many delays.

Backup generators at our Harrison and Parrish Elevated tanks were serviced.

Charles P. Pietrucha
Filtration Plant Superintendent

- A motion was made by P. Gavrilos seconded B. Grisolia and motion carried to adjourn the meeting.

ATTEST:

Paul Walker
SECRETARY

Sharon M. Daniels
PRESIDENT