



MINUTES OF THE GARY SANITARY DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON **AUGUST 7, 2023**

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**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**DATE:** Monday, August 7, 2023  
**TIME:** 11:00AM  
**LOCATION:** GSD, Boardroom

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

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

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**ABSENT MEMBERS**

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**OTHERS PRESENT**

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

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**OTHERS ABSENT**

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**I. Call to Order: 11:20AM** 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 August 7, 2023 Board Meeting, there was NO Executive Session held.

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**II. Bid Opening:**

Chairman Vicari made a final call for the acceptance of Bids for *The Procurement of Sodium Hypochlorite* and *The Procurement of Sodium Bisulfite*. With no additional bids being received, Chairman Vicari turned the meeting over to Attorney Harris to publicly opened and announced all bids received before the closing.

**A. BIDS RECEIVED FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF SODIUM BISULFITE**

1. PVS Chemical Solutions, Inc., 10900 Harper Avenue, Detroit, MI 48213  
Price: \$181,000.00 Total and \$1.81 Per Gallon, Received Aug 4 2023
2. Wilson Industrial Sales Company, P.O. Box 297, Rensselaer, IN 47978  
Price: \$241,000.00 Total and \$2.41 Per Gallon, Received Aug 3 2023
3. Alexander Chemical Corporation, 7593 S. First Rd., LaPorte, IN 46350  
Price: \$193,500.00 Total and \$1.935 Per Gallon, Received Aug 3 2023

**B. BIDS RECEIVED FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE**

1. Wilson Industrial Sales Company, P.O. Box 297, Rensselaer, IN 47978  
Price: \$585,200.00 Total and \$2.09 Per Gallon, Received Aug 3 2023
2. Alexander Chemical Corporation, 7593 S. First Rd., LaPorte, IN 46350  
Price: \$588,000.00 Total and \$2.10 Per Gallon, Received Aug 3 2023
3. Rowell Chemical Corporation, 15 Salt Creek Lane, Suite 205, Hinsdale, IL 60521  
Price: \$601,600.00 Total and \$1.88/ Per Gallon, Received Aug 3 2023

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**1. MINUTES**

As per the Executive Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of the July 17, 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 the July 17, 2023 Meeting, 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: June 19, 2023 through July 2, 2023, in the amount of \$260,911.98.**

Overview: Finance Manager Jerome Foster 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 Jackson gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve GSD's Payroll Earnings for Period Ending: June 19, 2023 through July 2, 2023 was seconded by Commissioner Mabon and passed/approved.

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

**2.2 A Motion to Approve GSD's Payroll Earnings for Period Ending: July 3, 2023 through July 16, 2023, in the amount of \$362,570.81.**

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

Note: Finance Manager Jerome Foster mentioned the payroll for Period Ending: July 3, 2023 through July 16, 2023 was higher than usual as it included Certification Pay totaling \$91,500.00.

Chairman Vicari called for the Board's pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.2. Commissioner Jackson gave the motion to approve. The motion to Approve GSD's Payroll Earnings for Period Ending: July 3, 2023 through July 16, 2023 was seconded by Commissioner Mabon and passed/approved.

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

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**2.3 A Motion to Approve GSD Resolution No.: SD23-11, Terminating a Contract for Services with Thieneman Construction, Inc., (pertaining to GSD Project No. SD18-07, Aeration System Improvements).**

Overview: Executive Director Peller stated GSD entered into a Contract with Thieneman Construction, Inc., on October 18, 2019 for the improvements of GSD's Aeration System. The flowmeters installed by Thieneman's subcontractor were later determined to be defective and/or non-operational; and due to supply chain issues, Thieneman's was unable to procure the replacement equipment necessary to rectify the deficiencies. GSD has since been able to procure the necessary replacements.

Question 1: Commissioner Mabon asked what was the Retainage amount held as per GSD Project No.: SD18-07.

Response: Plant Superintendent Rhonda Anderson stated there is approximately \$18,000 held in retainage and GSD can purchase flowmeters for less than the retained amount. GSD staff will install the flowmeters once received.

Question 2: Commissioner Mabon asked why did the contractor (Thieneman's) have difficulty procuring the flowmeters; yet GSD had no such difficulty.

Response: Executive Director Peller stated Thieneman's was tied to a certain vendor with respect to parts/supplies relative to the project; whereas GSD is not tied to any certain vendor for supply procurement.

Chairman Vicari called for the Board's pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.3. Commissioner Jackson gave the motion to approve. The motion to approve an Award of Bid and Sole-Source Purchase with Fairfield Service Company of Indiana, LLC., for the Purchase of Flights and Chains for Primary No. 10 was seconded by Commissioner Mabon and passed/approved.

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

**2.4 A Motion to Approve an Award of Contract to UniFirst for Uniform and Mat Rental Services for Gary Sanitary District.**

Overview: UniFirst Corporation Sales Representative Alan Miree and Sales Manager Patrick Martinez gave the Board an overview:

- UniFirst Founded in 1936, located at 4029 Calumet Avenue, Hammond, IN
- 260 Facilities in US, Canada and Europe | 150 Employees at Hammond location
- 18% of every dollar invoiced is allocated to new uniform garments and replacements for staff
- 8% of every dollar invoiced is reinvested in our service infrastructure and technologies
- Will give GSD complimentary shirt pressing, accurate inventorying and processing efficiency
- To get new account started it should be a 6-8 week turn around, with a seamless transition with great cost savings to GSD with each employee receiving 11 uniforms



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Procurement Manager Bryan Cossey recommended approval of awarding a contract to UniFirst.

Question: Chairman Vicari asked Procurement Manager Bryan Cossey to obtain authorization from AFSCME/Union as the current Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) stipulates that *“uniforms shall be selected by Gary Sanitary District and the Union, after consultation with the Union concerning quality”* (CBA, Section 10, Page 29).

Question: Chairman Vicari asked the Procurement Manager to obtain a price quote for logoed Polo Shirts and Cardigans for the 504 Broadway Customer Services office as the possibility of reopening the office (for person-to-person customer communication) is being revisited.

Question: Commissioner Mabon asked if there would be a price increase for rentals within the next year.

Response: UniFirst Sales Representative Patrick Martinez stated there may possibly be a minimum 5% national pricing increase, yet the increase depends on how the market fluctuates.

Chairman Vicari called for the Board’s pleasure with respect to approving GSD Agenda Item 2.4. Commissioner Lyles gave the motion to approve. The motion to approve an Award of Contract to UniFirst for Uniforms and Mat Rental Services 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 he Sanitary Sewer Repair at the vicinity of 400 McKinley Street, in an amount not-to-exceed \$94,400.00.**

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

The repair will comprise of removing and replacing 153 linear feet of existing 15-inch diameter pie with new PVC pipe.

The Engineering Department solicited quotes from 11 contractors; with three (3) responses:

- Alex Metz Sewers, Gary-based: \$ 94,400
- Gariup Construction, Gary-based: \$147,700
- LGS Plumbing, Crown Point based: \$109,500

The Engineering Department’s recommendation is for the award to be issued to Alex Metz Sewers as the lowest responsible, responsive bidder.





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Chairman Vicari 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 an Award of Bid to Alex Metz Sewers, Inc., for the Sanitary Sewer Repair at the vicinity of 400 McKinley Street was seconded by Commissioner Jackson and passed/approved.

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

**2.6 A Motion to Approve an Award of Bid to Grimmer Construction Co., for the Sanitary Sewer Force Main Replacement for the Marquette Pump Station at the vicinity of 800 Montgomery Street, in an amount not-to-exceed \$69,000.00.**

**NOTE: MOTION MODIFIED ON THE FLOOR**

**NEW MOTION: A Motion to Approve an Award of Bid to Alex Metz Sewers, Inc., for the Sanitary Sewer Force Main Replacement for the Marquette Pump Station at the vicinity of 800 Montgomery Street, in an amount not-to-exceed \$72,100.00.**

Overview: Executive Director Peller stated the existing Force Main has deteriorated and now has leakage. The leaking is flooding the Marquette Pump Station and affecting the structural integrity of the building including the foundation.

The repair will comprise of removing and replacing the existing 12-inch diameter pipe with new ductile iron (D.I.) pipe.

The Engineering Department solicited quotes from 14 contractors; with three (3) responses:

- Grimmer Construction, Highland based: \$ 69,000
- Alex Metz Sewers, Inc., Gary-based: \$ 72,100
- LGS Plumbing, Crown Point based: \$ 83,230

Question: Commissioner Mabon asked if said replacement could be deferred.

Response: Lift Station Manager Justin King stated it is his recommendation that the replacement not be deferred, but approved and replaced immediately as there is water leaking presently happening.

The Engineering Department's recommendation is for the award to be issued to Alex Metz Sewers for an amount not exceeding \$72,100.00 – per the GSD Purchasing Policy allowing for a Gary-based business to receive a 10% downward adjustment, which would make Alex Metz Sewers, Inc., the lowest responsible, responsive bidder.

Chairman Vicari 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 an Award of Bid to Alex Metz Sewers, Inc., for the Sanitary Sewer Force Main Replacement for the Marquette Pump Station



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at the vicinity of 800 Montgomery Street was seconded by Commissioner Lyles and passed/approved.

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

### 3. CLAIMS

#### 3.1 **GSD Claims Numbers: 2177 through 2356, in the amount of \$1,914,170.48**

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 2177 – 2356 was seconded by Commissioner Mabon and passed/approved.

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

Question 1: Commissioner Mabon asked the reason that Day's Asphalt invoice amounts seem to have doubled.

Response 1: Sewer Collections Manager LaMingo Tomlin stated the jobs for Day's Asphalt have become larger, in area/coverage.

Request: Chairman Vicari asked Mr. Tomlin to instruct Days Asphalt to indicate tonnage and square footage in all future invoicing.

Question 2: Chairman Vicari asked (of Finance Manager Jerome Foster) if GSD made additional software requests of Rostech as there are various Utility Management Billing System (UMBS) invoices referenced on the Claims List.

Response 2: Finance Manager Jerome Foster stated the invoices pertain to Rostech work in assisting GSD when cybersecurity was an issue. Matters have been resolved and we are back on our own server.

### 4. INFORMATION UPDATES

#### 4.1 **Plant Superintendent Updates**

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

##### **Major Projects**

- Aeration
- Grit Project
- HMI Project

##### **Operations**

- The July NWIOA meeting was hosted by Wessler Engineering at Hobart City Hall where we heard a talk entitled "SCADA Systems: An Overview".



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- June effluent data was entered into the EPA Central Data Exchange and the June MRO and CSO DMR were uploaded ahead of the July 28<sup>th</sup> due date.

**Maintenance**

- New rollers for Belt Filter Press #1 have been installed and it is back in service.
- The maintenance department continues to work on repairs on Primary Tank #10.
- GSD maintenance department has cleaned and made repairs on Intermediate tanks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8.
- GSD maintenance staff cleaned contact chamber #5.
- Concrete repairs to the east entrance of the Administration Building have been completed.

**4.2 Construction Activity Updates**

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

PROJECT: AERATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Current Work: Replacement of 4 flow meters that have recently failed and are under warranty.

Planned Work: GSD is taking the appropriate steps to terminate the project and close the project out.

PROJECT: GRIT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Current Work: Completion of Punch List Items. New Grit Pump Volutes have been delivered. Once Impellers and Motors are delivered, they will be installed. Inventory and delivery of spare parts.

Planned Work: Installation of new grit pumps were to be installed the week of July 24<sup>th</sup>, however, manufacturer is delaying the delivery due to missing coupler sections of the motors. Completion of Punch List items.

PROJECT: 27TH AND CHASE PUMP STATION FORCE MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT PHASE I

Current Work: Punch list items have been completed.

Planned Work: Project Closeout Documents.

PROJECT: 27TH AND 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 meeting to discuss what it will take to get measurements.

PROJECT: LAKE STREET PUMP STATION FORCEMAIN RELOCATION

Current Work: Walk through to create punch list item.

Planned Work: Close out of Project.





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**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.

**Request:** Chairman Vicari stated F.H. Paschen has not started the work for the 27<sup>th</sup> & Chase Street Bar Screen Project (project awarded November 2022), and GSD needs to consider reviewing the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest bid and re-award the bid.

**Question:** Commissioner Mabon asked what would be the process to re-award.

**Response:** Attorney Harris stated the Project Documents would need to be reviewed to determine what process should be considered and the terms for F.H. Paschen's possible removal.

#### **4.3 Community Engagement Updates**

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

- Grimmer Construction Co.  
Project: Lake Street Reconstruction (Pipe Installation)  
60% Gary Resident Workforce  
40% Non-Gary Resident Workforce
- Agee Concrete & Construction Co.  
Project: GSD Concrete Repair/New Adm. Entrance  
100% Gary Resident Workforce
- Tour, National Guard at Gary/Chicago Airport
- Intern Farewell Banquet

#### **4.4 Human Resources Updates**

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

- Open Positions:  
As of August 2, 2023, GSD has 14 vacant positions
- Tentative Employee Cookout on September 21<sup>st</sup>

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**4.5 American Structurepoint, Inc.**

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

- Reported on July 5<sup>th</sup> - - Force Main at 27<sup>th</sup> & Chase Street, Phase 2 of said project will start as soon as material has been received.

As of the Aug 7<sup>th</sup> report - - no material received as of yet.

**4.6 CDM Smith, Inc.**

Matthew Bednarski, CDM Smith's Client Service Leader, was absent, no verbal report provided (Board was emailed updates).

**5. DISCUSSION**

- Executive Director Peller informed the Board of a Business Proposal for upgrading copiers within GSD is forthcoming.

**6. REQUEST TO SPEAK**

There were no requests to speak.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:52PM.



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ADOPTED BY THE BOARD DURING THE MEETING ON:

08/21/2023

DocuSigned by:

*Daniel F. Vicari*

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Daniel F. Vicari, President

DocuSigned by:

*Ola V. Morris*

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Ola V. Morris, Secretary

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