The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1100 E. Eighth Street, by the President of the Board, Michael W. Gonder.

Commissioners present for the meeting were Holt L. Edinger, Michael W. Gonder, Frank R. Harris, Garry L. Mitchell, Sr., and Charles G. Peller, Jr.

Staff Members present for the meeting were:
Michael P. Kuss, General Manager
Milorad Milatovic, Water Reclamation Superintendent
Doretha M. Sanders-Malone, Administrative Director
Tina M. Tabisz, Administrative Assistant
James J. Micheals, Assistant Superintendent of Collection
William J. McNeill, Assistant Superintendent of Operations & Maintenance
James B. Meyer, Legal Counsel

Also present for the meeting were:
Steve Janus, Interim City Controller
Yvonne Hoffmaster, Deputy City Controller
John Doyle, John A. Doyle & Associates
Tim Haas, Haas & Associates
Ryan Laughlin, Haas & Associates
Mike Edinger, Woodruff & Sons, Inc.
Wallace Steward, 614 Southwind Drive (entered meeting after Public Comment)
Anna Galloway, Access La Porte County (allcommunity.org)

Minutes
Mr. Gonder entertained a motion on the matter of the minutes.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 25, 2015, as submitted – seconded by Mr. Mitchell. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Public Comment
Mr. Gonder called for public comment. There was none.
Financial Report
Deputy City Controller Yvonne Hoffmaster read the reconciled cash balances of each of the District’s funds, as of February 28, 2015, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Description</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6201, Operating &amp; Maintenance Fund</td>
<td>$593,126.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6209, Vehicle Replacement, Fund</td>
<td>($16,255.50)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6210, Equipment Replacement Fund</td>
<td>$340,391.71</td>
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<tr>
<td>6205, Indian Springs Project</td>
<td>$5,790.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>6206, Whippoorwill Project</td>
<td>$549.07</td>
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<tr>
<td>6207, Revenue Debt Fund</td>
<td>$191,134.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6208, Improvement Fund</td>
<td>$805,335.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>6246, SRF Debt Reserve Fund</td>
<td>$870,640.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>6248, SRF Bond &amp; Interest Fund</td>
<td>$5,849.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8201, Stormwater Fund</td>
<td>$660,990.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8203, Refuse Fund</td>
<td>($161,498.85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8205, Capital Projects Fund</td>
<td>$6,080.71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ms. Hoffmaster noted that the negative balance in the Vehicle Replacement Fund is due to February only having 28 days, and the transfers are scheduled to post on the 30th day of each month. Additionally, a lease payment was made in February.

Ms. Hoffmaster noted that the Refuse Fund has no revenue coming in until the first tax draw in June. Therefore, without a temporary loan from another fund, this negative balance will remain until such tax draw.

Attorney Meyer commented that a temporary loan was already done for the Refuse Department. Ms. Hoffmaster agreed, stating that the loan was for $300,000. However, the Fund remains in the red.

Attorney Meyer asked Ms. Hoffmaster to prepare a rough calculation of funds needed until the next tax draw. Ms. Hoffmaster advised that she would do so.

Ms. Hoffmaster noted that, if the County Auditor’s projections are still correct, they plan on the tax bills to be mailed on time, with a May 10th collection date.

There being no further questions, Mr. Gonder thanked Ms. Hoffmaster for her report.

Refuse Department
Mr. Kuss reported that the disposed compacted trash in February 2015 was 796.5 tons, compared to 776 and 778 for the last two years. Additionally, the disposed loose trash was 5.3 tons, compared to 14 tons at the same time last month.
Mr. Kuss noted that he has been working diligently with Ms. Hoffmaster and Refuse Foreman Terry Blanch, as well as Central Maintenance, regarding vehicle repairs. He added that things seem to be moving smoothly at this point.

Mr. Kuss then advised that the first day of Spring Cleanup was met with snow, but the crews are back on track with the cleanup.

Mr. Kuss also advised that meetings have been held with some of the local stores, Walmart and Meijer, regarding the plastic bags and papers that tend to blow off of their parking lots, in an attempt to resolve their issues.

Mr. Kuss explained that this has been an ongoing problem for the last few years, and the District has been trying to work with them. However, this may require the District to be a bit more steadfast and diligent with repeated visits and approaches to resolve this issue.

Mr. Kuss noted that he received a call from Meijer’s store manager, who indicated that he realizes that they need to do better, because they want to remain in the community and work with the city.

Mr. Harris asked about the snow fencing. Mr. Kuss advised that there had been some in place, but that it came down with the first snowfall.

Mr. Peller asked if there was any recourse. Mr. Kuss advised that there can certainly be fines levied. However, the District has been attempting to work with the stores for the last couple of years, but it seems to be a never-ending battle with the debris.

Mr. Kuss noted that Walmart actually hires a contracting firm to come in to clean up the area. Although there may not be enough frequency with their cleanup, the Walmart area seemed to look a bit better. However, there was a significant amount of snow when he viewed it on Monday.

Mr. Kuss then reported that public announcements have been made regarding Spring Cleanup, and the schedules will remain for the next five weeks.

STATUS REPORTS

CONSULTING ENGINEERS – CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS - STUDIES

Mr. Kuss reported that Mr. Steve Stanford, of Weaver Consultants Group, has submitted a final new report on the groundwater contamination in the Lake Kai area, as well as a final draft report of the Karwick Nature Park/Dump Site.
Mr. Kuss advised that he only has two copies of the Lake Kai report, but advised that he would provide copies to the Board when he receives more.

Mr. Kuss advised that Mr. Stanford, Attorney Meyer, and he met with IDEM representatives regarding both of these issues, and copies of each of the reports were provided to them. Mr. Kuss added that IDEM was asked for any input before the Karwick Nature Park report was finalized.

Mr. Kuss explained that the report indicates that there is trash throughout much of the site. Mr. Stanford seems to believe that, based on aerial photographs, the dumping stopped in approximately 1971. However, Mr. Kuss believes there are some other indications that it may have continued past that time.

Mr. Kuss added that there are some spots that contain household trash as much as 15 feet deep. Some newspapers were found in the area, most of which were dated 1968.

Mr. Stanford’s firm is reviewing different options to finalize plans for compliance; one of which is to haul everything out of the site, which is an estimated cost of $13 Million to $15 Million.

Another plan is to cap the entire site with clay, and install a leachate collection system. The approximate cost of this plan is $5 Million to $6 Million.

Mr. Kuss noted that Mr. Stanford is concerned that the landfill is not currently producing much gas, and the gas is somewhat filtering up through the sand. Therefore, if the landfill is capped with clay, relief pipes must be installed for any methane gas that is still being developed.

Mr. Kuss advised that a more moderate system is estimated at approximately $2.4 Million, and the District is awaiting input back from the State.

Mr. Kuss then advised that Mr. Stanford is assisting the District with obtaining Lab Accreditation, as well as developing a quote to provide testing services to the U.S. EPA for Lake Michigan sampling.

Mr. Kuss explained that the District will be submitting a quote to perform additional lab work and bacteria testing. The District should be able to recoup a large percentage of the costs involved. Additionally, we will be obtaining valuable information regarding Washington Park Beach and Trail Creek flowing in.

Mr. Kuss advised that the proposal will be submitted in approximately three weeks.
Mr. Kuss then advised that Mr. Stanford is doing very well, and has been working well with Attorney Meyer and Mr. Kuss. He added that he has entered into a new contract with Mr. Stanford for some additional services over the next couple of months.

Mr. Kuss commented that the District may want to consider a future agreement with Mr. Stanford, similar to the agreement with Attorney Meyer, for services on a continuing basis.

Mr. Kuss advised that Mr. Stanford is greatly assisting the District with many technical matters.

Mr. Gonder thanked Mr. Kuss for the report.

John Doyle, of John A. Doyle & Associates, reported on the following projects:

**Michigan Boulevard Sanitary Sewer Extension Project**
Mr. Doyle submitted the Performance and Payment Bonds from the contractor, along with the Notice to Proceed forms.

Mr. Doyle then reported that the contractor has requested that the Notice to Proceed be held up a little while. He noted that one of the other jobs will require paving and the asphalt plants are not yet open.

Mr. Doyle asked that, if the Board agreed, the Notices to Proceed be issued in a couple of weeks, since the time of completion begins on the date of the Notice to Proceed. Mr. Kuss advised that he had no issues with the request, adding that it may also be in the District’s best interests.

Mr. Doyle then submitted his proposal for Continuing Engineering Services for Inspection and Project Management, and requested approval of same.

Mr. Kuss asked for clarification from Mr. Doyle regarding the issuance of the Notices to Proceed. Mr. Doyle explained that he did not want the Notices to Proceed to be issued with the current date, due to the construction timeframe beginning at that time.

Mr. Doyle advised that he would like them issued at a mutually agreed upon date. Mr. Kuss understood and asked if the Board would be agreeable with Mr. Kuss and Attorney Meyer consulting with all involved for a start time in the near future. The Board agreed.

Mr. Doyle then noted that the proposal for Continuing Engineering Services for this project is in the amount of $21,500.00, based on their hourly rates.
Mr. Peller moved to accept the proposal of John A. Doyle & Associates for the Michigan Blvd. Sanitary Sewer Extension Project, in the amount of $21,500.00.

Attorney Meyer pointed out that Mr. Doyle’s correspondence also included a proposal for the Sherman Avenue Project.

Mr. Peller then amended his motion to accept the proposal of John A. Doyle & Associates for Continuing Engineering services for Administration and Construction Management of the Michigan Boulevard Sanitary Sewer Extension, in the amount of $21,500.00, and the Sherman Avenue Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project, in the amount of $17,500.00, for a total amount of $39,000.00, as submitted – seconded by Mr. Harris. There being no further questions and comments, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

**Sherman Avenue Sanitary Sewer Extension**

Mr. Doyle submitted the Performance and Payment Bonds from the contractor, along with the Notice to Proceed forms. He requested that the Notice to Proceed be issued at a later date, as with the Michigan Boulevard Project.

Mr. Harris asked when the asphalt plants are scheduled to open. Attorney Meyer explained that they are typically opened in early April, depending on weather conditions.

Mr. Doyle agreed, adding that he has been told that they are currently scheduled to open on April 13th.

**Donnelly Street/Carlon Court Sanitary Sewer Project**

Mr. Doyle advised that a letter has again been issued to the contractor requesting the final paperwork for the project. Although he has not received same, he has received the as-built drawings for this project. He then submitted them to Mr. Kuss.

Mr. Doyle also submitted the as-built drawings for the Riley Ct./Combs St./Michigan Blvd. Sanitary Sewer Project.

**U.S. Hwy 12/Meer Road Sanitary Sewer Extension Project**

Mr. Doyle advised that he received information from the attorney for H&G Underground Utilities, dated March 12th, but noted that it does not contain enough information for him to make a judgement to substantiate the requested increased cost.

Mr. Kuss asked that Mr. Doyle submit a written opinion. Mr. Doyle indicated that he would do so.

Mr. Peller asked Mr. Doyle’s opinion of whether this matter will be resolved. Mr. Doyle did not believe it would be.
Mr. Doyle explained that some of the documentation that was submitted contained either adjustments of costs from suppliers or subcontractors.

Mr. Doyle advised that one in particular, was dated December 22, 2014, that included a note that this project was set to start July 2015. However, he is unaware of where the dated originated.

Attorney Meyer advised that the only contact he has received is in reference to obtaining the documentation that Mr. Doyle was provided to review for a proposed change order.

Mr. Doyle explained that the information provided to him included an additional $42.00 per hour increase in one labor category.

Mr. Kuss explained that he met with Mr. Micheals and Mr. Doyle, along with Attorney Meyer via phone conference, after which Mr. Doyle was asked to review the information and provide the District with a written response as to whether or not he feels that the information for a change order is adequate, and whether the District can move forward. As Mr. Doyle explained, he does not feel that the information is sufficient. Once this written opinion is received from Mr. Doyle, it will be forwarded to Attorney Meyer for consideration.

Mr. Doyle asked if the Bonding Company has been brought into the matter. Attorney Meyer advised that they have not yet been notified. However, he has a draft letter prepared in anticipation.

Attorney Meyer explained that the agreement signed by H&G Underground Utilities to extend the contract until December 31, 2014, stated that it would be agreeable based on them receiving additional increases for the increased costs. Therefore, the District is trying to calculate the increased costs to verify whether the contractor has a responsibility to have held the contract open for that period of time. However, there has been difficulty in receiving documentation establishing what the “claimed” increase costs are.

Mr. Harris asked about the recourses available to the District. Attorney Meyer advised that the District could notify the Bond Company, after which the Bond Company would most likely submit the letter from the contractor. Depending upon how far the District would like to go, there would then probably be an attempt for some resolution of getting the matter negotiated and resolved.

Attorney Meyer noted that these matters don’t progress very quickly.

Attorney Meyer then advised that the project could be re-bid. He added that there have been internal discussions about a possible alternative project that may be a better methodology for obtaining the same type of service.
Mr. Gonder asked if the project could be re-bid in the interim. Attorney Meyer advised that it could be.

Mr. Kuss then reminded the Board of the situation with Mr. Rozendal, owner of Shady Oaks Mobile Home Park, requesting to install a lift station to pump the sewage from his Mobile Home Park to the Sanitary District. He also reminded the Board that the District wanted to address the matter in a holistic way.

Mr. Rozendal was also willing to give the District the land and cost-share to put a bigger lift station on his property that would service the entire area. Mr. Kuss explained that the District did not really want to build another lift station due to the operating costs moving forward, as well as the potential future development value of the corner of Mr. Rozendal’s property.

Subsequent to those discussions, the District has been approached by an investor who is looking to potentially constructing an assisted living facility in the area. A part of this property may not be very usable, and there is the potential to build a lift station on that property that can be more aesthetically pleasing.

Mr. Kuss advised that Mr. Doyle has been involved in discussions about potentially eliminating the need to construct under the railroad now that there may be a better location to construct a lift station.

Mr. Kuss noted that preliminary cost projections seem somewhat close to the current project. Although there would be future operational costs, there would not be the need for a special company to bore under the railroad, as well as the permitting for the railroad.

Mr. Gonder asked if the project were to be re-bid, would there need to be permission obtained again from Amtrak Railroad. Mr. Doyle explained that the Amtrak Permit was issued to H&G Underground Utilities. However, any contractor would have to comply with their requirements with re-bidding.

Mr. Gonder asked if the permit would be null and void if the District decided to proceed with another contractor. Mr. Doyle believed that only the contractor would have to submit their equipment and experience information application.

Mr. Kuss did not believe that the complete process would have to begin again. He noted, however, that H&G Underground has not even approached Amtrak to perform their safety training, as required by the permit.

Mr. Doyle agreed, noting that the engineering aspect and plans of the project have been approved by Amtrak. There would only be the need to approve the contractor.
Mr. Harris asked if a yearly cost is charged for the sewer line. Attorney Meyer advised that it can be paid on an annual basis or as one lump sum.

Attorney Meyer advised that the District have some sewer easements that are paid yearly. Mr. Kuss added that the sewer would be in the public right-of-way, therefore the District would not have to submit an annual payment. Amtrak seemed to agree.

Mr. Kuss reiterated that the District is reviewing all available options. In regards to the environment, it would be nice to move forward with the project due to the Shady Oaks Mobile Home Park Wastewater Treatment Plant is not in the greatest shape. There have been violations shown in their discharge reports to the State.

Mr. Kuss noted, however, that if an assisted-living facility is constructed in this area, they will also need sewer service.

Mr. Peller asked how long it will be before the assisted living facility would be constructed. Mr. Kuss anticipated that it could be within the next two years.

Mr. Peller felt that it would be too long of a wait in order to service the Mobile Home Park. Mr. Kuss agreed, but it may not be too long to request an agreement with the Mobile Home Park to place a lift station on their property in a certain area, for any future connection.

Mr. Kuss added that, although there are no specific plans in place, but the investors are aware of what they have in mind. Attorney Meyer advised that there is a basic floor plan and these facilities are constructed all over the country.

Mr. Gonder noted that the Mobile Home Park is under an order to connect. Mr. Kuss agreed, adding that they have been under an Agreed Order from the State of Indiana for many, many years.

Mr. Kuss also explained that the previous Sanitary District Administration was also trying to get this same project constructed. Mr. Doyle agreed, noting that it has been an ongoing matter since approximately 2005.

Mr. Kuss explained that the permit delay is what complicated this matter in the first place, which is what the contractor is using to justify the need for increases. However, they have been less than helpful in submitting the detail information that is continually being requested.

Mr. Peller views the issue to be that the sub-contractors are not coming forth with detailed information. Mr. Doyle advised that information has been submitted from a couple of the contractor’s suppliers and one of their sub-contractors.
Mr. Doyle noted that the date he previously mentioned to the Board is taken from a sub-contractor de-watering service, which basically revised his bid in December 2014, and indicates that the construction is to begin in July 2015. This leads Mr. Doyle to believe that the date is consistently being moved back.

Mr. Peller commented that the de-watering costs shouldn’t change much. Mr. Doyle advised that he was merely using this information as an analogy that the July date was set in December. However, he had been led to believe that the contractor could start in May or June. Therefore, he does not believe that the District is being told everything it should be.

Mr. Gonder thanked Mr. Doyle for his report.

Tim Haas and Ryan Laughlin, of Haas & Associates, reported on the following projects:

10th Street Alley Sewer Project
Mr. Haas explained that there is a Marquette High School (MHS) student housing unit, between 10th and 11th Streets, that was the former Hutchinson Manor. There is a building behind Hutchinson Manor, which is known as the Carriage House, and also has students living in it.

Mr. Haas advised that there was a lack of sewage flow from the Carriage House. MHS initially utilized private plumbers, who were unable to determine the exact location of connections or what was actually occurring.

The District then became very involved and were able to determine several things, but there still was not a verified connection to an existing sanitary sewer found.

After further investigation, District staff determined that there are community laterals at several of the older homes along the north/south alley that connects 10th and 11th Streets, between Washington and Wabash Streets. This community lateral ultimately flows north to 10th Street.

Additionally, the Carriage House has two laterals, one of which is unknown as to where it flows, and the other is believed to be connected to the community lateral.

Mr. Haas advised that MHS consequently had to abandon the building and move the students out. This building has been unused since December.

As a result, Mr. Kuss requested a proposal for engineering services from Haas & Associates, to design a sewer that would correct the community laterals, and install an eight inch sewer in the alley from 10th Street in order to service the Carriage House, as well as three or four other houses along the line. This line would then flow north to the existing sewer on 10th Street.
Mr. Mitchell asked for clarification on the direction of the flow. Mr. Haas explained that the proposed sewer would flow from a high point in the alley, very near 11th Street, and flow north to 10th Street. He noted that the alley goes downhill approximately six feet before meeting 10th Street. Therefore, the sewer would follow the grade of the land.

Mr. Kuss agreed, noting that there is no sewer on 11th Street, however it is also where the South Shore Railroad runs.

Mr. Kuss added that other options were also reviewed, but it was determined that this would be the best option due to the fact that other community laterals, that were brought to the District’s attention, could be corrected.

Mr. Mitchell asked on which corner the Carriage House sits. Mr. Haas explained that it is not on a corner, rather it is the north/south alley, between one house on the corner of 11th and Wabash Streets, and another house to the east on the corner of 11th and Washington Streets. Mr. Mitchell understood.

Mr. Hass noted that the building is a very old structure, possibly constructed in the 1860’s or 1870’s.

Mr. Haas advised that his proposal is for surveying, design, quoting (due to estimated construction costs of approximately $79,000), and construction and administration services, for an hourly basis based on their standard rate schedule, with a not-to-exceed amount of $23,800.00.

Mr. Peller made a motion to approve the proposal of Haas & Associates, as submitted – seconded by Mr. Harris. There being no questions or comments on matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Attorney Meyer asked how the unknown lateral outfalls will be addressed in this project. Mr. Haas explained that MHS will have the responsibility of re-routing the plumbing from the Carriage House, at their own expense, to one lead and connection point to the new sewer.

Attorney Meyer asked if the unknown lead will be abandoned by MHS’s contractor. Mr. Haas agreed, noting that it is in very bad shape. It will likely be filled, and at least plugged.

Mr. Kuss added that all of this work can be documented for future reference.

Mr. Kuss then commented that his only concern is how to fund this project. Although the District is getting a little tight on some of the funds, there is also a matter of getting sewer service to an institution in Michigan City, as well as other affected properties.
Mr. Peller agreed, noting that the construction costs will be better estimated once the engineering is complete.

Mr. Haas briefly discussed an overview of the area.
Mr. Peller asked if District personnel would be able to perform the construction. Mr. Kuss answered that it has been reviewed, but there are significant depths that may prohibit this. Once the final design is complete, it can be reviewed.

Mr. Haas added that there are curbs, sidewalks, and driveway and asphalt replacement along the 10th Street corridor as well.

**Larkspur Lane Drainage Improvements Project**
Mr. Haas advised that this is an area where residents have been experiencing groundwater issues during heavy rains.

Mr. Haas discussed a display of a design plan of the area, explaining that there is a property, directly across the street from the western driveway of former the OfficeMax property (4421 Franklin Street), which is inundated during heavy rains because the water flows down the driveway on the south of Larkspur Lane.

Although there are existing drywell structures interspersed throughout the area, they do not work very well there due to the clay soil. Therefore, the drywells fill up, and flows across the street, flooding the yards and some crawlspaces.

Mr. Haas also noted that another house in the area had a failure of a foundation wall after last winter.

Mr. Haas distributed copies of the plans, advising that they were 75% complete, and noted that this project was actually a result of the Master Drainage Plan for the Southwest Area, as one of the target areas.

The plans display the proposed new storm drainage system, which is essentially a new outfall into Lake Henry. It starts out as an 18 inch sewer, ending up as a 15 inch drain with new inlets tied into it at many locations.

The street of Larkspur Lane has base failure and the street is in very poor condition and there is clay soil under the street. The base of support stone under the street is failed, and is beyond repair. Any new asphalt placed on top will merely deteriorate in a short period of time due to the wetness of the ground, the type of soil, and the lack of drainage.

Mr. Haas commented that there may have been improper initial construction, but he is unsure at this time.
As a result of discussions with District staff, Mr. Haas recommended that the road be rebuilt, at least where the pipe is constructed, because there is no sense in wasting money on patching.

Mr. Haas was then requested to prepare a cost estimate for this work. This information was distributed to the Board, and Mr. Haas explained that there is an estimated cost of $490,000, which includes the removal and replacement of the entire pavement section, from the IHOP Restaurant drive (5250 Franklin Street), to the west and around the curve to the north. At that point, there is still some existing pavement worth saving, and there is no work scheduled to be done there.

Mr. Haas advised that this work includes removal and replacement of the street, installation of sidewalks on both sides of the street, installation of under-drains under the street and sidewalks. He noted that the under-drains will help the residents. Although this won't cure all of the problems, removing the water and under-draining in the right-of-way will help to remove water from the area. Mr. Haas added that, once the area gets wet, it stays wet for a long time.

Mr. Peller asked if the design has included curbs and gutters. Mr. Haas stated that it does not, because he does not believe that this is a good place for curbs and gutters. Mr. Peller agreed.

Mr. Peller then asked why the sidewalks are being added. Mr. Kuss advised that he asked Haas & Associates to estimate sidewalk costs, in the event the City wanted to add sidewalks.

Mr. Haas advised that eliminating sidewalks would reduce the cost by approximately $84,000. Therefore, just the drainage project is estimated at approximately $406,000.

Mr. Harris asked if the clay and base would be removed for the road reconstruction. Mr. Haas explained that, if the road was reconstructed with this design, there would be removal of pavement plus 10 inches for stone and drainage, and then rebuilt the roadway. Although there will still be clay below, there will be under-drains under the road, which will allow for a longer lasting roadway as well.

Attorney Meyer noted that the pavement reconstruction and sidewalks do not relate to stormwater drainage, and asked if the City would be able to fund some of this work. Mr. Peller understood and thought that perhaps they could do so.

Mr. Peller added that the entire Paving, Sidewalk, and Alley Program is in flux. The Request for Bids will be going out, but he is unsure where the funds will be coming from. He noted that there are some projects that the Redevelopment Commission may be involved with in the TIF (Tax Increment Financing) Districts.
Mr. Peller did note, however, that he did not agree with spending money for sidewalks because there are no sidewalks any other place in that area. Additionally, the City is working on ADA (American with Disabilities Act) compliance. However, ADA Compliance does not require sidewalks on streets. It merely requires existing sidewalks to be brought into compliance.

Mr. Kuss pointed out that the District does not have sufficient funds in the Stormwater Fund for just the drainage work. Mr. Peller understood and agreed.

Mr. Peller then asked the cost of the street reconstruction. Mr. Haas advised that he did not have that amount available but will break out that amount.

Mr. Kuss pointed out that if the storm drains are installed, but the street moves around, the storm sewers will not work anymore. Mr. Peller understood and agreed that, if the project is done, the road needs to be reconstructed. He asked that an estimated costs be provided so that he can try to assist with funding.

Mr. Kuss thanked Mr. Haas for bringing this information to the Board so that the public can also see what the District is working on to resolve some of these problems.

Mr. Kuss added that some further internal discussions, along with Mr. Peller, need to be held on how to proceed. Perhaps a recommendation can be presented to the Board at its next meeting.

Mr. Peller noted that one possibility is to install the sewer this year, and then the street can possibly be reconstructed next year. Although this may not be the best way to move forward, he may not be able to provide the funds for the reconstruction of the street.

Mr. Kuss reiterated that another meeting can be held with District staff, the City Engineer, and Haas & Associates to develop a recommendation. Mr. Peller agreed.

Mr. Haas noted that there is one structure that his staff has been unable to locate, which may potentially be a conflict with the new storm sewer. He requested the District’s assistance in trying to locate same. Mr. Kuss advised that the District would do so.

Mr. Peller asked about the other manholes downstream. Mr. Haas advised that all other structures have been located.

**Storm Drainage Master Plan for Southwest Michigan City Area.**

Mr. Haas then displayed an exhibit of a schematic view of a section through the side of a house, which provides information on some of the things that homeowners can check out on their own homes.
Mr. Haas noted that there will be another public meeting held in the near future to discuss these types of things, in more detail.

Mr. Haas briefly noted items such as properly working sump pumps, length of sump pump discharge pipes, and length of roof downspout drainage pipes.

Mr. Haas then discussed a map display of four currently installed piezometers, which are essentially wells in the ground used to the depth of groundwater. These wells have been monitored.

Mr. Haas pointed out the locations of Piezometer #1 (Village Road), Piezometer #2 (Ohio Street), Piezometer #3 (Lake Henry, behind the homes on Southwind Drive), and Piezometer #4 (Larkspur Lane).

He explained that the groundwater level at Ohio Street is significantly lower, at approximately four to six feet below grade. However, the groundwater level at Lake Henry and Larkspur Lane is less than one foot below grade. Additionally, the groundwater level at Village Road is at approximately two feet below grade.

Mr. Haas advised that these levels will be monitored over time to see how the levels may change during dry weather.

Mr. Haas then commented that it is apparent that the most frequently experienced problems also coincide with the highest groundwater levels.

Mr. Harris asked if the piezometers will remain in the ground. Attorney Meyer advised that they will, and are placed on public property. Mr. Haas added that they are also owned by the District.

Mr. Haas then discussed another exhibit that represents the level of Lake Henry, over time. The exhibit contains elevation information, as far back as 1974.

Mr. Haas summarized that the lake level has not changed very much. The lake level was 655 in 1974. It was then 654.5 when Haas first checked the elevation in 2014, and maintaining at approximately 654 until the recent clearing and opening of the flow performed by District crews. The level is now at 653.7. Therefore, the lake is currently significantly lower than it has been in the past, including April 2014 and 1974.

Mr. Kuss noted that 1974 reading shows a level of 655 feet, but the readings in 2014 show a level of 654, which indicates a lower lake level in 2014 than in 1974. Mr. Haas clarified that he was surprised that, when this issue came to light last year, the lake level was at 655.22, which is only two/tenths of a foot, or approximately three inches, higher than in 1974.
Attorney Meyer asked if the groundwater level information can be combined with the lake level information in order to obtain some comparison of the surface of Lake Henry to the groundwater level. Mr. Haas advised that he would do so.

Mr. Kuss advised that the dredging of the Lake Henry outfall was completed on March 16th. Although the overall drop in the lake level was noticed, it had nothing to do with the tree stump, or anything else near the outfall since the water was barely trickling over the outfall.

Mr. Kuss advised that there was more of an issue at the mouth of the channel, in the lake itself. The water was seen significantly flowing over when the actual channel clearing was done. Additionally, the crews went back out to dredge a bit more to help the lake flow out better.

Mr. Harris asked where the lake flows. Mr. Haas referred to a displayed map, explaining that it flows out of a structure, crossing Southwind Drive, flowing into a buried storm sewer that always holds water because it cannot drain out. He explained that the buried storm sewer is lower than the receiving sewer, and is located closely in between some homes.

Mr. Haas continued, advising that the flow continues to a reinforced concrete structure on the west side of Ohio Street, near Sager Metals (100 Boone Drive), which then flows into a culvert flowing north on Ohio Street to the Striebel Arm (of Kintzele Ditch) near Hearthside Foods (Cookie Factory at Ohio Street & U.S. Hwy. 20), and ultimately flows out to Lake Michigan.

Mr. Kuss added that basically everything in the study area flows through 600 and 720 W. U.S. Hwy. 20, which is the entire southwest side of the city. Mr. Haas agreed, adding that there is a ridge line near Larkspur Lane and Franklin Street.

Mr. Haas continued, advising that they have discovered that there are many archived records in the lower level of City Hall, and they have just begun looking at the information today. They are attempting to gather information on some of the gaps in current data, in an effort to fully prepare the report.

Mr. Haas stated that there are a couple of things that have become obvious during the review, one of which is that the capacity of the Ohio Street Storm Sewer is likely insufficient, which will require close consideration of increasing the capacity of same.

Another matter is the Franklin Street Storm Sewer System, more or less, drains the right-of-way and does not have much capacity to take in additional areas.

Mr. Haas then directed the Board’s attention to an area north of the Adams Park ball diamonds, explaining that it would be a very good spot for a regional detention basin.
He also referenced another corridor to the east of that area, which would be a good location for another significant main drainage lay between Ohio Street and Franklin Street.

Mr. Haas identified out some parcels that will most likely be developed by the Dunes Plaza owners.

Mr. Harris asked if there are wetlands in the area. Mr. Haas believed that there may be some in the area. He noted one particular building is built-up higher than the others. He noted that there will most likely be the need to build up the property by three or four feet of elevation if the property is developed.

Mr. Harris then expressed his concern of building up a wet area and the ultimate result. Mr. Haas agreed, adding that the other way of removing stormwater from the area will become very important.

Mr. Haas explained that the key items are investigation and verification of capacity in the Ohio Street Culvert, investigation of the potential for a third major north/south transport for stormwater flow, improvements to flow and draining the water from the wetland pond area next to Von Tobel Lumber (321 E. U.S. Hwy. 20), which flows across Hwy. 421, and crosses Hwy. 20 and ties into the large culvert in Dunes Plaza. There may be a need for some improvements to a portion of the system from the wetland area.

Mr. Kuss asked about the areas hashed in yellow on the map. Mr. Haas explained that they are two areas that were not included in the original scope. However, during meetings with District staff, there has been discussion about adding those areas into the study.

Mr. Haas pointed out that there are some other areas included in the study area that could possibly be eliminated and are actually outside of the city limits. Mr. Kuss agreed, adding that the entire drainage area needs to be reviewed.

Mr. Harris asked if there are issues with the outfall to Striebel Arm. Mr. Haas advised that the District crew has been able to de-water and televise the system. It is his understanding that the only problem found is where someone had installed an underground communication cable that was run through the storm sewer. Mr. Kuss noted the belly in the line as well.

Mr. Harris asked if the flow is good. Mr. Kuss advised that it is.

Attorney Meyer asked if there was a belly or if the discharge end was merely lower than where it is discharging. Mr. Haas agreed that the discharge end is lower, but he was unaware of a sag.
Assistant Superintendent of Collections Jim Micheals advised that nothing could be seen on the video camera. Everything was open and drained, and the pipe appeared to be in good condition. Mr. Haas commented that he would like to see the video.

Mr. Laughlin added that the 30 inch outfall sewer is restricted down to a 12 inch sewer at the last manhole before it reaches the outfall on Ohio Street. Attorney Meyer guessed that it may have been done to reduce downstream flowing.

Mr. Haas advised that they have been unable to ascertain why this was done. Mr. Peller agreed that it was probably done to limit the flow downstream.

Mr. Kuss advised that the District currently has a filter cloth over the bars at the top of the concrete barrier in an effort to keep solids out of the storm system. It appears to be working very well.

Mr. Wallace Steward, of 614 Southwind Drive, asked to speak. The Board agreed.

Mr. Steward asked why his basement is still flooded with water. Mr. Haas stated that the groundwater level around Mr. Steward’s house is approximately 8 or 12 inches below ground.

Mr. Haas speculated that the very hard freeze during the winter of 2013/14 most likely froze the groundwater in the area, and might have pushed in some of the foundation walls and bowed them in, which may have resulted in foundation cracks. Mr. Steward advised that he had Nova Basement System come to his property and “they didn’t see any of that”.

Mr. Steward advised that Nova returned to his house and was advised that they saw no ruined foundation or cracks in the walls. He added that he has photos of how much water remains in his basement.

Mr. Haas asked Mr. Steward if the water is coming into the basement where the floor slab meets the basement walls. Mr. Steward advised that the water is coming in all of the way around the walls.

Mr. Steward added that he is the only one living in his house because the rest of his family refuses to stay in the house due to the mold.

Mr. Haas then commented that Mr. Steward had previously indicated that there was also a sewage problem. Mr. Steward agreed. Mr. Haas suggested that this would be something that the District could review, if they haven’t already. Mr. Kuss explained that the District’s sewer has been cleaned and evaluated, and there is no problem with the flow. He added that there may be a problem with cracking in Mr. Steward’s private lateral as well.
Mr. Kuss reiterated that the District believes that the high groundwater level in the area is most likely seeping into Mr. Steward’s basement through cracks. Mr. Kuss believed that Mr. Steward should have his basement waterproofed.

Mr. Kuss advised that the Sanitary District has also experienced issues with groundwater leaking in through some walls, and hired Nova Basement Systems to install a system in the galley-way.

Mr. Kuss explained that this type of system allows for the water in to be collected, and then pumped out. There is also another resident who has previously appeared before the Board, who also has this type of system.

Mr. Kuss noted that there are other companies whose theory is to seal the foundations to prohibit any water from entering. This system should also be reviewed.

Mr. Kuss stated that the District has stated for quite some time, and the data presented at the meeting appears to substantiate, that the basement walls or foundation has minor cracks and seeps. He noted that it doesn’t take much of a crack to allow water to seep in.

Mr. Kuss pointed out that his previous conversations with Mr. Steward were an attempt to assist him in evaluating quotes received from these type of companies, and offer answers to any questions Mr. Steward may have. Mr. Kuss then understood that Mr. Steward did not want that type of assistance.

Mr. Steward advised that it is his understanding that he is not the only one in the area with this problem. He stated that there are other residents over the years that have had problems with water coming into their basements.

Mr. Kuss stated that he is aware of a resident in the 600 block of Southwind Drive that has a Nova System, which pumps the water out of her basement.

Attorney Meyer stated that all of this discussion does not answer Mr. Steward’s question of why his basement is wet. Attorney Meyer advised that the reason that it is wet is due to the fact that the groundwater is only one foot below the surface, and his basement floor is probably six feet below the surface. Therefore, the groundwater is five feet higher than his basement floor.

Attorney Meyer added that this has nothing to do with Lake Henry or the drainage system. It is merely the clay-type soils in the area do not allow for the water to percolate down through the ground.

Mr. Steward questioned why people were allowed to build in the area, if that was the case. Attorney Meyer pointed out that the current members of this Board were not around when the homes were built.
Mr. Steward stated that it doesn't matter, “it is still a city problem”.

Mr. Kuss clarified that Mr. Steward only has a half-basement, which isn’t as deep as a regular basement. Attorney Meyer noted that it didn’t matter due to the fact that it is more than one foot deep, which is the groundwater level. Mr. Kuss agreed.

Attorney Meyer stated that he has experienced the same type of problems in homes that he has owned, as well as other Michigan City residents have experienced. Mr. Haas agreed, noting that he has had a similar problem.

Mr. Haas then explained that the only proper thing to do, in that type of soil, would be to install a foundation drain. Even assuming this was done at the time of construction, Mr. Haas explained that foundation drains don’t always last forever. Sometimes they become clogged or collapse.

Mr. Haas noted that he had a building that had clay tile butted together, which ultimately collapsed over time, and required replacement. These are not systems that last forever.

Attorney Meyer added that any clay tile in the ground would have to discharge. There have been no foundation drain discharges located.

Mr. Haas added that this drainage is sometimes connected, by gravity, directly to the sanitary sewers. Although he is not aware that it exists in Mr Steward’s area, it is not uncommon.

Mr. Haas further added that, even if the groundwater discharge flows through a gravity line to the sanitary sewer, they may no longer be functioning due to clogging or collapse.

Mr. Haas referred to information provided him by the District, which displayed soundings. He explained that, according to those soundings, the average depth of Lake Henry was in the range of four to five feet, when the lake surface was at a level of 655.

However, now that the lake surface level is down to 653.7, which is three feet lower and four years later, the lake most likely contains a lot of silt. Therefore, the lake may only be an average of one or two feet deep. Mr. Haas pointed out that this shallowness would also explain the significant fish kill that occurred last winter.

Mr. Kuss requested a proposal for expanding the study area. Mr. Haas indicated that he would do so. Attorney Meyer indicated that he remembered that an 84 inch corrugated metal drainage pipe was identified during the recent Dunes Plaza development. Mr. Haas agreed.
Attorney Meyer thought his recollection was that the pipe was not in good shape. Mr. Kuss disagreed, advising that it was in good shape. Mr. Kuss noted that the pipe was videotaped and found to be in good shape.

Mr. Haas indicated the location of the pipe on the display, explaining that it is not a round pipe. He advised that it is the equivalent of approximately an 84 inch diameter and is from approximately 1970. He agreed that the video indicated that the pipe was in good shape.

Mr. Haas explained that all of the Marquette Mall site, as well as all the way down to the ridge line, flows through this pipe. This is essentially the backbone of the drainage system.

Attorney Meyer asked if the pipe flows to a ditch that flows to Ohio Street as well. Mr. Haas explained, while showing on the display, that the pipe ends just to the west of Dunes Plaza and into an open ditch behind some homes in the 100 block of Southwind Drive.

Mr. Haas further explained that this ditch formerly was directly behind those homes. The residents were very concerned about the ditch-line getting closer and closer to the homes each time it was mowed. Approximately 15 to 20 years ago, the District acquired property easements and moved the ditch to the north, approximately 20 feet.

Mr. Kuss commented that there probably hasn’t been any maintenance done on the ditch, and most likely needs some. Mr. Haas was unsure, but noted that some of the best quality gray clay was used for this project.

Mr. Haas advised that he was involved with the project at the time. He stated that he used some of that clay to mold a ball the size of a baseball, adding that he still has the ball and it is still hard as a rock. He stated that is the same type of clay that is used to cap a landfill.

Mr. Kuss advised that some of the clay that was excavated from the Dunes Plaza development was used on the remediation on the Karwick Nature Park, which seems to holding up quite well.

Mr. Laughlin then submitted an Engineer’s Pay Request for the Larkspur Lane Drainage Improvement Project, in the amount of 730.25, and requested approval of same.

Mr. Peller made a motion to approve the Pay Request of Haas & Associates, in the amount of $730.25, for the Larkspur Lane Drainage Improvement Project, as submitted – seconded by Mr. Harris. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.
Mr. Laughlin then submitted an Engineer’s Pay Request for the Storm Drainage Master Plan, in the amount of $3,207.10, and requested approval of same.

Mr. Peller made a motion to approve the Pay Request of Haas & Associates, in the amount of $3,207.10, as submitted – seconded by Mr. Harris. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Laughlin then submitted an Engineer’s Pay Request, in the amount of $190.30, for out-of-scope engineering services, and requested approval of same.

Mr. Peller made a motion to approve the Pay Request of Haas & Associates, in the amount of $190.30, as submitted – seconded by Mr. Harris and Mr. Edinger. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Kuss thanked Mr. Haas for his report and helpful information provided.

Mr. Haas advised that they plan to review the information and data obtained from City Hall, continue with progress, and ultimately schedule another public meeting in the next month or so.

Mr. Gonder thanked Mr. Haas and Mr. Laughlin for their report.

**Staff Reports**

Mr. Milatovic, Mr. Micheals, and Mr. McNeill joined Mr. Kuss, reporting and briefly discussing, the following items:

**Mike Milatovic**
  - Safety Report for January and February
    - Road Safety Training scheduled for April 30th, with assistance of Michigan City Personnel Director Shelley Dunleavy and the City’s Loss Prevention Consultant
    - Snow Plow Safety Training held
  - No violations or exceedances for February
  - No reportable overflows or backups in February
  - Continuing to work on Fats, Oil & Grease (FOG) Program
    - Draft of new program is approximately 99% complete
    - Working with restaurants regarding grease traps; one discovered not to have one

Mr. Kuss advised the Board of an issue at the Knights Inn Motel (201 W. Kieffer Road) that was performing demolition work. They were using an insecticide that has been banned in the United States, and there was a concern of whether this would be discharged into the sanitary sewers.
Mr. Kuss contacted its consulting Biologist Greg Brite, of Commonwealth Biomonitoring, who also performs the District’s Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) analysis, about this chemical. The District was advised that merely 200 ml of this chemical in 600 gallons of water could potentially destroy the process of the treatment plant.

Mr. Kuss advised that water samples were obtained for analysis by Commonwealth Biomonitoring. The samples were found to be free of any toxicity and there were no problems indicated.

Mr. Kuss added that there were State and Federal Agents on site on the same day the District collected samples, and they were also looking at the use of this chemical.

Mr. Kuss pointed out that this is another example of good cooperation in working with the Inspection and Building Department.

Mr. Mitchell commented that this chemical should have been confiscated. Mr. Kuss advised that it was.

**Jim Micheals**
- Collection Department
  - Assisted with snow removal and street cleaning to keep curbs and sidewalks open for flow
  - 160 total work orders
  - No reportable backups to IDEM
    - One questionable backup at 2534 Wabash Street. Further investigation with contractor substantiated that the problem was in the private lateral.
  - Hobart Street
    - Sanitary sewer repair work complete. Project complete pending laying of asphalt once it is available.
    - Additionally found broken underground water line.

Mr. Harris asked if the District coordinates with other utilities before performing sewer repairs, in an effort to address all utilities during the same excavation. Attorney Meyer advised that the District, or its contractors, always call Indiana 811 (Underground Utility Locating System). However, in this case, nothing was dug up.

Mr. Harris understood, but wanted to know if this work is coordinated ahead of time. Mr. Kuss advised that we would do so.

Mr. Micheals continued his report:

- Michigan Boulevard Phase II comments were submitted to AmericanStructurepoint, and awaiting word back on when the storm sewer corrections will be done.
Bill McNeill
The Board packets included the written reports for activities in January and February, which included the following items:

- **January**
  - **Training**
    - Three Phase Electrical Power, Motor Starters
      - (Overload - Auxiliary Contactors – Coils)
    - Hand Off Auto Switches, and Basic Control Circuits
      - 90 Minutes, 6 Maintenance Staff
        - Provided by Bill McNeill
  - **Improvements**
    - Installed New LED Lighting in Main Blower Building
      - (Nine 40 Watt LED)
    - Replaced Nine High Pressure Sodium 150 Watt
    - Updated Firmware in 16 Mission Telemetry Units at Lift Stations
  - **Removal of Old Equipment**
    - Removed old Sample Pumps and Piping in Filter Building
  - **Miscellaneous**
    - Replaced Defective M80 Float Telemetry Device in B&E Sewer Pipe
  - **196 Total Work Orders**

- **February**
  - **Safety**
    - Replaced Old Safety Shower Eye Wash Unit in Ferric Storage Room of Chemical/Operations Building
  - **Improvements**
    - Installed 39 New Fuses on all Lift Stations with Low Voltage Controllers
    - Replaced 8 inch Check Valves on #4 and #5 RAS Pumps.
    - Ground the Floor and Epoxy Painted in Safety Equipment Room In Lab/Digester Building
  - **Preventive**
    - Collections Vacuumed Grease and Debris from Ohio Street, Clark, and Tinkers Dam Lift Stations.
  - **Removal of Old Equipment**
    - Removed old Sample Pumps and Piping from Filter Building.
  - **News**
    - Received New Mobile Generator 250 KW
  - **145 Total Work Orders**
Mr. Kuss asked if the study is continuing on #3 Sludge Blanket Detector. Mr. McNeill advised that the vendor of the ultrasound blanket detectors have added a cell phone modem in order to communicate with their system in Texas.

Mr. McNeill explained that the District has been providing them with manual readings to compare to the electronic readings to study if the information corresponds. He advised that it has been determined that the levels trend in the same direction together, although the readings are not the same level.

Mr. McNeill further explained that Mr. Kuss requested that the output of one of the units be connected directly to a VFD (Variable Frequency Drive) that controls the pump that adjusts the blanket levels. He added that he is still working on tuning the loop and it is getting much closer. There is consideration to automate this process.

Mr. Harris referenced Mr. McNeill’s written report regarding epoxy painting the floors in the Lab/Digest Room, noting that his facility (Sullair Corporation) is moving away from painting floors altogether. They are now grinding them down and polishing them. Mr. McNeill advised that the District is doing exactly that.

Mr. McNeill further explained that the District has floors that date back as far as 1935, through generations of improvements. Some of the floors are in very bad shape with considerable damage. Those floors may not look very good with a clear finish.

Mr. McNeill advised that they are experimenting with some of the smaller floors to determine the most appropriate for each application.

Mr. McNeill commented that he is open to suggestions about other finishes. Mr. Harris offered Mr. McNeill the opportunity to look at the applications being used at Sullair. He added that they are even removing carpeting from the offices and changing to polished concrete floors. They are just placing carpet under the desk areas and it all seems to be working out very well.

Attorney Meyer asked that the written reports of Mr. McNeill and Mr. Micheals include a bit more of a breakdown, rather than just the total number of work orders, asking that they include such things as numbers of work orders outstanding, closed out, pending, etc.

After brief discussion, Mr. McNeill understood and advised that he would do so.

Mr. Kuss reported, and briefly discussed, the following:

- Community Lateral information on Lateral Application Permit
  - Contains language “If your existing sewer lateral is part of a community lateral, you must not disconnect or interrupt the community lateral without
Mr. Kuss explained that there was an instance wherein a resident, that was part of a community later, installed a new sewer lateral but did not obtain a permit. He did not inform anyone else and just disconnected the other properties, resulting in termination of their service.

Mr. Kuss explained that there has been discussion about creating an ordinance to address this type of situation. However, Mr. Kuss believes that this permit application and process can accomplish the same thing.

Mr. Harris asked why someone would do such a thing. Attorney Meyer advised that there were long-standing issues between neighbors, and they did not get along.

Mr. Micheals pointed out, in the instance referenced by Mr. Kuss, the owner disconnected the neighbor’s sewer and left it open. Therefore, there was nothing but sand left, and ultimately backed up the other line.

- Lake Henry Work
  - Dredging March 16th
- Compliance Plan
  - One backup so far in March, resulting in approximately three gallons of backup. Although there were roots found in the District’s line, there was a contractor on site before the District was even notified of an issue.
  - The Compliance Demonstration Period ends on March 31st. The State will then make a determination as to whether the District is compliant.
- Partners for Clean Air Luncheon – April 17th
  - The City of Michigan City has won the Municipal Award for the most proactive community in Northwest Indiana for clean air. Award will be presented at this luncheon.
  - Board Members are invited to attend
- Compressed Natural Gas Refueling Station Open House – April 28th
  - 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- MS4 Program Housekeeping Inspection performed by IDEM
  - Passed inspection and Inspector very pleased with the District’s Public Outreach, Training and Education
- Conference on the Environment – June 5th
  - Confirmation received that the Director of the Purdue Water Institute, Dr. George Nnanna, is willing to speak at the Conference
  - Agenda almost complete
  - Banana Slug String Band will be involved again, which also helps with the Public Outreach requirements.
• District nominated for US Water Environment Federal (WEF) Award for Public Outreach
  o Conference to be held in Chicago this year
• Beach Monitoring will be done again this year.

**James Meyer, Legal Counsel**
Attorney Meyer submitted the list of 2014 Recorded Liens for Certification. He explained that the District records liens on properties throughout the year for non-payment of sewer bills, pursuant to statutory requirements.

Attorney Meyer advised that this matter requires Board action, and recommended that the Board approve the placement on the list for County certification.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the list of 2014 Liens for Certification, as submitted – seconded by Mr. Edinger. There being no questions or comments on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

Attorney Meyer noted that he was informed of a customer that was concerned about the fact that he was required to pay a minimum sewer bill during the time period that he did not have a tenant and, in theory, there was no usage.

Attorney Meyer reminded the Board that the District’s rates are set up under two major cost categories. One is the operation of the sewer system itself, which requires maintenance and operation regardless of whether a property is connected or not. This is all included in the base rate that was approved during the last Cost of Service Study and Rate Ordinance.

The other category is in reference to the actual costs incurred by treating the sewage that is discharged to the District’s treatment plant.

Attorney Meyer advised that concerned gentleman felt that it was not proper that he should have to pay anything when no sewage was being discharged, despite the fact that he was connected to the sewer.

Attorney Meyer explained that the Sanitary District does not bill its customers; the Water Department does, and only does so if the water is turned on.

Attorney Meyer advised that the rate ordinance is set up to require this type of billing. The only way to change this would be through approval by the Common Council, through an amendment to the ordinance.

Attorney Meyer advised that he misunderstood, thinking that the issue was three minimum payments made; one by the former tenant, one by the property owner, and
one by the new tenant. However, this was not the case. The account was actually in
the owner's name for a couple of months.

Attorney Meyer advised that there was no double-billing, adding that it is his opinion that
there is no basis to make any kind of adjustment.

Attorney Meyer further explained that the customers need to understand that the
minimum bill is to actually have the sewers in place and maintenance of those sewers.
Therefore, it is in everyone's best interest that the sewer be in place and functioning
properly. This is merely the cost of doing business.

Attorney Meyer reminded the Board that the Sanitary District, through IT Director Andy
Matanic, provides all of the IT (Information Technology) services for the City of Michigan City.

Attorney Meyer explained that the creation of a totally new infrastructure is currently
undergoing city-wide. The first two contracts of this approximate $2 Million project have
been approved, which includes the installation of fiber needed to connect the main
locations, as well as the software and hardware for IT storage.

Attorney Meyer further explained that there will be another future contract for the
internet service itself, along with an entirely new telephone system.

Attorney Meyer advised that the IT Department is in the process of hiring at least one
additional employee to allow servicing of the entire IT system.

Mr. Kuss advised that it has been difficult to find any candidates for this job. However,
this job notice has been posted to some more extensive locations, and there have been
four or five more qualified candidates that may be able to fill these positions.

Mr. Kuss further advised that some interviews have been held and there may be some
offers made to a couple of individuals in the next two weeks.

Mr. Kuss noted that Mr. Matanic had been concerned about not receiving responses for
qualified candidates, and there was a potential of consideration being given to hiring
some candidates that may not have been very qualified but could possibly be taught.
However, it now appears that there may be some qualified candidates that may be
willing to accept an offer.

Mr. Peller asked about the qualifications for these positions. Mr. Kuss believed that the
qualifications included a minimum of a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer
Sciences or Technology, or the possible substitution of 10-15 years of experience.
Mr. Kuss noted that one candidate did not have the education, but had been doing this type of work for 15 years, and had a significant amount of experience. Additionally, another candidate holding a Master's Degree was interviewed.

Mr. Peller noted that Ball State University, as well as other colleges, have very good IT Programs.

Mr. Kuss explained that he has been advised that this type of degree can allow candidates to obtain a job as a Help Desk Technician in Chicago, making upwards of $50,000, just answering phones.

Mr. Gonder entertained a motion to approve and allow Tax Levy and Revenue claims for payment.

Mr. Peller made such a motion – seconded by Mr. Edinger. There being no question or comment on the matter, the motion carried 5 – 0 in favor.

**Old Business**
There was none.

**New Business**
There was none.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Gonder adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

There will be a Special Meeting of the Board of Sanitary District Commissioners on April 8th, 2015, at 12:00 p.m., at 1100 E. Eighth Street

The next regular monthly meeting of the Board of Sanitary District Commissioners – April 22nd, 2015, at 4:00 p.m., at 1100 E. Eighth Street

/ Frank R. Harris /
Frank R. Harris, Secretary