

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING Wednesday, September 24, 2025

The Board of Trustees of the Sanitary District of Decatur, Illinois met in regular session Wednesday September 24, 2025, at 5:29 pm at the District's Office, 501 Dipper Lane. Present for the board meeting were board members Dan Smallwood, Phil Cochran, Rob Jacobsen, and Megan Baskerville. Staff present at the meeting were Kent Newton, Executive Director/CFO; Don Miller, Director of Engineering; J.D. Malone, Director of Maintenance; Ashley Bailey, Director of Compliance and Innovation; Hailey Beals, Administrative Office Coordinator and Patrick Sullivan, General Counsel for the District. The audience included David Deihl of Black & Veatch (electronically), and staff member Tishia Greve.

Mr. Smallwood called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no comments from the public.

13391 Mr. Cochran moved that the items on the Consent Agenda including Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Closed Session of August 20, 2025; Payroll and Checks including travel expense reimbursements as submitted be approved; and that the President, Clerk, and Executive Director be authorized and directed to take all actions required to execute the items on the consent agenda. Motion seconded by Ms. Baskerville. **Trustee Smallwood, Cochran, Jacobsen and Baskerville voted Aye, and the motion passed.**

Mr. Newton reviewed the Executive Director's Report that was included in the packet. Mr. Newton preemptively stated how he is mentioning the Property Tax now since it must be on the table for 20 days, and by stating the amount now that gives him wiggle room. The amount can easily be lowered before it is finalized. The 2025 Property Tax estimate has been prepared with an increase of \$205,000. Mr. Newton can always deduct the amount without adding more time, but if he increases the 20-day period is reinstated. Mr. Newton elaborated on the fact that his report was a little unclear about the intention to switch the District's energy broker to Progressive Business from Seven Utilities. Seven Utilities has done a good job for us, but we are dealing with Progressive Business for our solar. Mr. Newton plans to use Progressive for our smaller accounts and come September of 2026 we will see who we plan to use for our larger accounts. It is conference season, so IGFAO (Illinois Government Finance Officers) and Illinois Association of Wastewaters were both last week. WEFTEC is in Chicago and starts this Sunday, and several staff are attending.

Mr. Miller presented the Engineering Report that was included in the packet. Mr. Miller explained that the Administrative Workforce Complex is coming along. A test on air barrier and the tightness of the building was completed and passed. The next test cannot be completed until the exterior siding is completed. A lot of drywall has gone up inside the building so it's starting to look like offices inside. The laboratory equipment will start to be delivered tomorrow, and even though the lab cabinetry has been behind, the supplier is doing partial shipments to keep things moving along. The force main inspection project is underway, and upon further inspection, the Damon Avenue air release valves are in very poor shape. The air release valves are pricey, so rather than continuing the inspection, we are going to get the air release valves repaired. The Nutrient Reduction program is progressing, with lots of meetings, and Donahue was on sight today for a walkthrough. Mr. Miller touched on the IAWA Conference that Mr. Newton mentioned, and how AI has been brought up at the conferences. We will be looking into seeing how AI can be utilized in the Wastewater world. We will be talking to AG Neuros regarding blower management.

Mr. Malone reviewed the Maintenance Report that was included in the packet. Mr. Malone informed the Board that Kharson Buckles has been hired in the Buildings and Grounds Janitorial position. Kharson is graduating high school in two weeks. He is working in a part time capacity until he graduates. The maintenance group has completed 761 work orders in the last month, 1426.35 hours with 1353 of those hours being reactive. There was a lot of focus on project work. The guys spent a lot of time working on Final Clarifier 11, getting it vactored out. The guys also did a lot of work on the dewatering wells. The F750 Dump truck is getting the tarp installed this week. The F550 service truck has been serving us very well. Mr. Malone has had a lot of communication with Beehive recently. They did a test transition of our database to Beehive 2.0. They were trying to work out some flukes to ensure that all our assets were accounted for, and Mr. Malone feels that's a valid explanation. Beehive believes it will be 6-8 weeks for our transition, and Mr. Malone is pleased with that. Mr. Malone shared with the Board a 365 view of the significant deterioration of Secondary Digester #2 lid.

Ms. Bailey presented the Compliance and Innovation Report included in the packet. Ms. Bailey informed the Board that we continue to work with Hepplerbroom on our AOC with the Agency. Ms. Bailey discussed the reduced fines for Primient as allowed in their Executive Order. Primient explained upgrades they have to prevent these issues from continuing to happen, and we adjusted their fines accordingly. The fine was reduced from \$306,000 to \$30,000. Ms. Bailey touched on how we have had a quite a few meetings with Clark Dietz, Donahue, Black & Veatch, and Geosyntec regarding our nutrient upgrades.

13392Ms. Baskerville moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur accept change order #1 for the Damon Avenue pump station improvement agreement with Bodine Electric, decreasing the contract amount by \$71,498 to a new total contract amount of \$125,332 and increasing the contract time to 310 calendar days; and that the executive director be authorized and directed to execute said change order. Motion seconded by Mr. Cochran **Motion carried unanimously.**

13393Mr. Jacobsen moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur accept change order #1 for the 36" Dewater Well Installation agreement with Brotke Well and Pump, increasing the contract amount by \$45,378.05 to a new contract amount of \$464,835.05; and that the executive director be authorized and directed to execute said change order. Motion seconded by Mr. Cochran. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13394Ms. Baskerville moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur accept change order #1 for the Primary Clarifiers #4 and #6 Installation agreement with Plocher Construction, increasing the contract amount by \$1,337.93 to a new contract amount of \$640,337.90; and that the executive director be authorized and directed to execute said change order. Motion seconded by Mr. Jacobsen. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13395Mr. Cochran moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur accept the easements, both temporary and permanent as outlined on the easement document property for PIN 04-12-01-151-002; and that the executive director be authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to make a part of the permanent record. Motion seconded by Mr. Jacobsen. **Motion carried unanimously.**

13396Mr. Jacobsen moved that the Sanitary District of Decatur issue a purchase order to Illinois Meter, the sole source of ARI air release valves in our area, for the purchase of eight (8) ARI D-26 3-inch air release valves in the amount of \$43,371.36, and that the executive director be authorized and directed to execute said purchase order. Motion seconded by Ms. Baskerville. **Motion carried unanimously.**

There was no New Business, Closed Session, or Attorney Report.

13397Mr. Jacobsen moved that the board adjourn. Motion seconded by Ms. Baskerville. **Motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2025, at 5:30 PM.

Clerk