

MINUTES OF THE METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT BOARD

APRIL 20, 1976

The regular monthly meeting of the Metropolitan Sewerage District Board was held in the old office of the Junior Chamber of Commerce on the first floor, City Hall Building, Asheville, North Carolina, at 2 p.m., on Tuesday, April 20, 1976.

Chairman Robinson called the meeting to order, and Mrs. Crowe called the roll. In addition to Chairman Robinson, the following members were present: Messrs. Clark, Dawson, Dent, Dillingham, Hyatt, McDevitt, Warlick, and Williams.

In addition to the Board members, the following consultants and staff members were present:

Mr. Anthony Redmond
Mr. Lew E. Hoffmann
Mr. Dean Huber
Mr. W. H. Mull
Mrs. Jan Crowe
Mrs. Linda Duncan

The members having received copies of the Minutes of the March 16 meeting, Mr. Dawson moved the motion and Mr. Clark seconded that the Minutes stand approved as read. Voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. W. H. Mull, Engineer-Manager, reported on the following:

- (a) Collection of Wastewater Service Charges from Holiday Inn West. Mr. William C. Morris, attorney for Holiday Inn West, represented the motel at the meeting and spoke on their behalf. After considerable discussion, Mr. Clark moved the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board authorize Mr. Redmond to begin proceedings against Holiday Inn West for collection of past due sewer service charges. Roll call vote was unanimous.

After Chairman Robinson expressed concern that there might be other water customers who have not been paying sewer service charges, Mr. Warlick moved the motion that Mr. Mull request from the City of Asheville a computer printout listing the names of water customers in the Metropolitan Sewerage District who have not been and are not being charged a sewer service charge. Mr. Dent seconded this motion, and voice vote was unanimous.

- (b) Status of Resolutions regarding South Buncombe, Hominy Valley, and I/I Survey Projects. Received as information by the Board.
- (c) Report on advertisement by the Trustee for tenders of the District's bonds. Received as information by the Board.
- (d) Proposed increased benefits by the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System. After discussion, Mr. McDevitt moved the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Clark, that the Board support the proposed increases. Voice vote was unanimous.

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Mr. Lew E. Hoffmann, of Harry Hendon and Associates, MSD's consulting engineers, submitted their Annual Report to the Board, a copy of which is attached herewith and made a part of these Minutes.

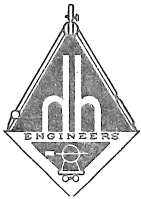
Mr. McDevitt, Chairman of the Budget Committee, presented the Preliminary Budget to the Board. Mr. Dent moved the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Warlick, that the Board accept the Preliminary Budget and set a Public Hearing for June 15, 1976, to be held during the Board's regular monthly meeting. Roll call vote was unanimous.

Date of the next meeting of the MSD Board was set for May 18, 1976.

Chairman Robinson requested that there be an Executive Session of the Board; roll call vote was unanimous. The Board entered Executive Session at 3:30 p.m.

Following the Executive Session, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.


Secretary



Harry Hendon and Associates

INCORPORATED
ENGINEERS

Phone 871-3597

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10 OFFICE PARK, MOUNTAIN BROOK • BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35223

April 9, 1976

W. L. SAMUEL
M. G. BUCKLEY, JR.
J. C. PRUETT
J. E. LITTLE

HARRY H. HENDON (1904-1973)
L. E. HOFFMANN
A. B. JOWERS
P. L. BENTLEY

Metropolitan Sewerage District
Buncombe County, North Carolina
P. O. Box 7157
Asheville, North Carolina 28807

Attention: Mr. W. H. Mull
Engineer-Manager

Gentlemen:

Section 505 of the Resolution authorizing the Sewage Disposal System's Bonds for the Metropolitan Sewerage District of Buncombe County Board requires the Consulting Engineer to prepare and file with the District Board, the Local Government Commission, the Engineer-Manager and the Trustee, on or before the 15th day of April in each year, a report setting forth the following:

"(a) their advices and recommendations as to the proper maintenance, repair and operation of the Sewerage System during the ensuing fiscal year, and an estimate of the amount of money necessary for such purposes";

We have found on our visits to, and on inspections of, the Sewerage System, that the properties are being adequately maintained and operated.

A safety survey and inspection of the main plant was made by Travelers Insurance Company, the insurance underwriters, during April 1975; who reported that "plant maintenance and housekeeping continued to be good". They had no formal recommendations to offer as a result of their inspection.

Our last Annual Report discussed in some detail serious continuing breakdowns of the blowers at the main treatment plant. During the past year, the diffusers in the aeration tanks have been replaced and the blowers have been reworked. The blowers are now operating satisfactorily with no apparent overload on the motors, and this problem has apparently been satisfactorily resolved.

In our last Annual Report we advised that the roof of the raw sewage pumping station at the main plant had sagged due to settlement of the floor slab and required correction, and also that riprap on each side of Sweeten Creek was required to prevent another washout of the Swannanoa River Outfall Sewer. Neither of these relatively minor corrections have been accomplished, due to the inability of the District to obtain the services of a contractor to even quote on this work, because of the workloads on the very few contractors in the Asheville area who would be interested in this work. The District is continuing their efforts and it is anticipated that a contractor will be obtained in the near future.

It is not anticipated that there will be any unusual expenditures required during the ensuing fiscal year which will exceed funds presently available in the budget for these purposes.

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"(b) their advices and recommendations as to the extensions, improvements, renewals and replacements which should be made during the ensuing fiscal year, and their recommendations as to the amount that should be deposited during the ensuing fiscal year to the credit of the Repair and Extension Fund for such purposes";

It has been previously recommended that a sampling pump with appurtenant facilities be installed to permit obtaining sewage samples of the incoming raw sewage which do not contain return sludge. This is not possible under the present physical set-up at the main treatment plant. As stated above, in the case of the pumping station slab and roof and the Swannanoa River riprap, the District has been unable to secure the services of a contractor willing to undertake this small project, which is estimated not to exceed \$10,000 in cost. It appears hopefully at this time that within the near future a contractor can be found who will undertake all three of these projects and bring these matters to a completion.

The District's present administrative office space is inadequate and inefficient. In addition, additional laboratory and operational facilities are required in order to administer the industrial waste monitoring requirements under the recently adopted industrial waste users charges. A study is presently underway to determine the relative desirability of acquiring a new building, acquiring land and constructing a building, or renting or leasing existing office space. When a decision is reached, should it be determined that the District will purchase a building or construct a new building, the capital requirements for implementing whatever plan is adopted are estimated to be approximately \$150,000 to \$200,000.

The Step 1 Facilities Planning report for Metropolitan Asheville and Buncombe area, which is a prerequisite for obtaining Federal funds for

the construction of additional sewerage facilities by the District, is proceeding rapidly. It is anticipated that a final public hearing will be held in July, which will hopefully result in successful applications for EPA approval for meeting the further requirement of an Infiltration/Inflow Survey of the sewage collection systems discharging into the District's intercepting sewers, and planning funds for the preparation of detailed plans and specifications for the proposed South Buncombe Intercepting Sewer and the Hominy Valley Intercepting Sewer.

The Infiltration/Inflow Survey is estimated to cost approximately \$3,000,000; the cost to be shared by each of the entities owning the collection systems on the basis of the work required on each respective system. It is anticipated that this will be a two-year program with the first year requiring an expenditure of approximately \$1,250,000. It is estimated that the District's cost, depending upon the method finally adopted for pro-rating the total cost, will not exceed \$25,000 during the ensuing fiscal year.

The cost of the preparation of plans and specifications for the South Buncombe and Hominy Valley Intercepting Sewers is estimated to be approximately \$525,000, which cost would be shared jointly by EPA, the State, Buncombe County, Henderson County, and the District. It is estimated that the District's share of this total will be approximately \$20,000.

Funds on deposit in the Repair and Extension Fund totaled \$1,463,452 as of February 26, 1976, and are adequate to meet the requirements for the ensuing fiscal year.

Our previous recommendation that the Repair and Extension Fund be maintained at a level of \$1,500,000 as the flow of funds permits is still

valid. This will enable the District to handle interim financing during construction in future fiscal years prior to actual reimbursement of construction costs from grant funds.

"(c) their advices and recommendations as to the insurance to be carried under the provisions of Section 706 of this Resolution";

The amount of coverage carried by the District under their special multi-peril insurance coverage was last increased in late 1973 or early 1974 by 10%. Since that time construction costs have increased by 27% and with some allowance for depreciation, it appeared prudent to increase the amount of coverage by 20%, which we recommended during the year.

We have obtained from the District's insurance carrier copies and/or certificates for the policies and coverages currently in effect. The insurance being carried is in accordance with this recommendation as required by Section 706 of the Bond Resolution.

"(d) their recommendations as to any necessary or advisable revisions of the sewage disposal charges, and";

The District adopted on May 20, 1975 a Resolution adopting charges for the discharge of domestic wastewater and industrial wastes to the sanitary sewerage system, which became effective July 1, 1975. A careful check is being made of the additional revenues being generated by the revised charges, and it is not recommended that any additional revisions be made to the sewage disposal charges at this time.

"(e) their findings whether the properties of the Sewerage System have been maintained in good repair and sound operating condition, and their estimate of the amount, if any, required to be expended to place the System in such condition and the details of such expenditures and the approximate time required therefor".

During the year the main treatment plant failed to meet the effluent discharge requirements of EPA and the District was cited and caused to appear at a non-compliance hearing on January 27, 1976. It was developed at this meeting that the reasons for failure to meet the discharge requirements were due to (1) blower breakdown and diffuser clogging which has been discussed in our Annual Reports and has now been corrected, (2) breakdown of sludge recirculation pumps at the digesters which caused the digesters to sour, (3) excessive inflow during periods of high groundwater, and (4) slugs of chemicals introduced by one or more unknown industries.

Plant equipment breakdowns are unavoidable and these have all been corrected. The excessive inflow cannot be corrected until the Infiltration/Inflow Survey is completed and necessary repairs and rehabilitation completed on the collecting sewers which contribute to the District's interceptor sewers and treatment system. Plant monitoring and surveillance now underway should result in revealing the source of the reported slugs of chemicals introduced by industries.

There is no action that can be taken by the District other than as noted above to further correct or to prevent the recurrence of the conditions cited by EPA. The properties of the sewerage system are being

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maintained in good repair and sound operating condition and we have no specific recommendations of any consequence that may be required to place the system in such condition other than conditions which may later be revealed by the Step 1 Facilities Planning Study.

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to Mr. W. H. Mull and to Mr. R. L. Cunningham, who have been most cooperative with our work as Consulting Engineers.

Yours very truly,

HARRY HENDON AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

By



L. E. Hoffmann, President

LEH:h

cc: Local Government Commission

Trustee