

SANITARY DISTRICT NO. 1 SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TOWN OF WILSON, SHEBOYGAN COUNTY, WISCONSIN
MINUTES OF March 31st, 2022

CALL TO ORDER & DECLARATION OF OPEN MEETING: President John Ehmann called the Sanitary District No.1 Commissioners Special Meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. Posting in accordance with open meeting law was confirmed by affidavit of posting and the meeting was declared an open meeting.

PRESENT: President John Ehmann, Commissioners Brian Hoffmann, Nancy Des Jardins, Matt Fore and Tom Stoelb were present. Also in attendance: Secretary Julie Wicker, Sanitary Administrator Karen Bollwahn, Maintenance Supervisor Rick Meyer and Public Works Director Ben Darkow.

NEW BUSINESS / APPOINTMENTS:

1. Informational Meeting for the Town of Wilson resident customers of Sanitary District 1 served by Indian Mound sewer as it relates to high levels of hydrogen sulfide gas noted during monitoring.

Chairman Ehmann addressed the residents by introducing Town Engineer Scott Schramm and Master Plumber Scott Winter to the audience. He then explained the letter the residents received, and the areas affected. Ehmann explained that hydrogen sulfide gas can be very dangerous, and the Sanitary District held this meeting to discuss ways to help residents stay safe, ways we can control the problem and ways we can support our residents. Chairman Ehmann turned the meeting over to Scott Schramm.

Mr. Schramm took a few moments to explain how the elevated levels were found during the manhole rehab project on Indian Mound. He also explained how increased time of wastewater in the pipes from the Schinker Creek line is what allows the anaerobic reaction to occur which is what produces H₂S. The decision was made by the commissioners to begin monitoring and tracking the levels. A detailed explanation was given on how properly functioning plumbing systems and building codes are designed to handle these issues and keep residents safe. In short, if the system in a home is working properly, it is doing it's job to protect. Mr. Ehmann also highlighted that H₂S is commonly found in sewer systems. This is not specific to the Town of Wilson. Chairman Ehmann introduced Master Plumber Scott Winter to the audience. He emphasized that the Town of Wilson has teamed up with Mr. Winter and will cover the cost to have personal plumbing systems observed. If incorrect plumbing is noted, the homeowners will be notified and encouraged to hire a licensed plumber to remedy any areas of concern. Public Works Director Ben Darkow asked Mr. Schramm to briefly discuss the levels found on the side streets. Schramm indicated that in monitoring the side streets the levels were at or near zero, indicating a rapid decline in H₂S numbers. The side streets appear unaffected.

Resident Kummer asked where we did the readings? Schramm answered right at the manholes. Resident Kummer asked about the effectiveness of P-traps. Scott Winter replied that as long as the trap has not dried up they are highly effective. For residents with fixtures such as a drain line that is not frequently used, residents could drop a small amount of vegetable oil in the drain to keep water from evaporating. Commissioner Stoelb asked about floor drains and whether they are connected to the sewer. Many are and some are not. Best practice if a resident doesn't know is to treat it as if it is.

Commissioner Hoffmann asked the meeting attendees to talk with their neighbors in the affected area and share the news about what the Town is offering with plumbing observations and evaluations. Chairman Ehmann mentioned we will likely send a follow up letter to encourage people to participate. Maintenance supervisor Rick Meyer asked Scott Schramm to discuss the following question; if H₂S is primarily odorless, what are people who are complaining of odor in the neighborhoods smelling? Sewer gases can have many different components, and it's likely other gases that are common in a system. Just not specifically H₂S. Commissioner DesJardins asked if the companies that we hire for yearly TV monitoring test the air quality before entering the system. Schramm indicated that yes they do. Resident Borth asked if having more people hook up in the Schinker Creek area will resolve the problem. Schramm said, No it likely will not make a big difference. The Town is pursuing other efforts to remedy the issues.

After Chairman Ehmann made a last call for questions, and hearing none: Motion by Fore, Second by Hoffmann to Adjourn.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Karen Bollwahn, Sanitary District Administrator