

**Solid Waste District of La Porte County
District Board Meeting
December 10, 2025
1:30 p.m.**

**Call to Order
Pledge**

CHAIRMAN COUNCILMAN PRZYBYLINSKI

Roll Call District Board

Commissioner Haney
Councilman Przybylinski
Mayor Dermody
Commissioner Holifield
Councilman Mollenhauer

APPROVED

Absent

Commissioner Gramarossa
Mayor Nelson Deutch

Others Present

Clay Turner, Executive Director
Robin Havens, Office Manager/HR
Douglas Biege, Attorney
Mike Pavey – Pavey Excavating
Bob Garrelts – County Resident
Chris Havens – CAC Board/LP Co. Soil & Water
Destiny Harrison – LP Co. Soil & Water

MINUTES DISTRICT BOARD/CAC Meeting – September 10, 2025, DISTRICT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING - October 10, 2025, DISTRICT BOARD SPECIAL MEETING – November 6, 2025

Commissioner Holifield made a motion to approve all three sets of minutes as presented. Commissioner Haney seconded the motion. Voice vote taken. All in favor. Motion approved.

CLAIMS – October - November – December

Mayor Dermody made a motion to approve October, November, December claims as presented. Commissioner Haney seconded the motion. Voice vote taken. All in favor. Motion approved.

APPROVAL FOR END OF YEAR CLAIMS

Mayor Dermody made a motion to approve the end of year claims. Commissioner Haney seconded the motion. Voice vote taken. All in favor. Motion approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Balances through November 30, 2025

Mayor Dermody made a motion to approve the Financial Reports. Commissioner Holifield seconded the motion. Voice vote taken. All in favor. Motion approved.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Bob Garrelts stated that he was at the last meeting and asked if there was any more information found out (about the compost site fire) since the last special meeting. He further asked if anything had been done to do a root cause analysis since he asked at the last special meeting. Mr. Garrelts also offered to come out to do a root cause analysis, for the District. Mr. Garrelts further stated he is worried the tax payer dollar shouldn't be used to clean up the site. Director Turner and Commissioner Holifield both informed Mr. Garrelts the insurance would be taking care of the cost to put out the fire and as of this meeting date, the District is waiting to hear what will be covered. Mr. Garrelts also suggested that the site deliver materials if a resident wishes to purchase materials. Mr. Pavey stated he did not like that idea, as it would be competition for local landscapers and excavators. Director Turner stated that he does not wish to have more fees added to the LaPorte County residents to make deliveries of product available. Mr. Garrelts further stated that he feels Board members should be able to appoint someone to fill in if they cannot attend a meeting. Director Turner indicated that is not an option, as all of the Board members are appointed by Indiana Code and must attend in person.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Lyn De Groote Announcement

Ms. De Groote announced her retirement; the Board wished her well.

B. 2026 Holiday Schedule

Mr. Turner presented the 2026 Holiday Schedule to the Board. **Commissioner Haney made a motion to approve the 2026 Holiday Schedule. Commissioner Holifield seconded the motion. Voice vote taken. All in favor. Motion approved.**

C. 2026 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Turner informed the Board of the 2026 meeting schedule. He further informed that the July meeting which is usually scheduled for the week after the fair has been moved up due to the 2026 fair schedule. **Mayor Dermody made a motion to approve the 2026 meeting schedule. Commissioner Haney seconded the motion. Voice vote taken. All in favor. Motion approved.**

D. CAC Appointments

Mr. Turner explained to the Board four (4) positions on the CAC Board are coming available, as of 12/31/25. He further stated the District has not heard anything from those positions or reappointments so if the Board has any recommendations, please feel free to give the District any recommendations they have.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Electronics Contract

Mr. Turner explained the current electronics contract is expiring at the end of 2025. He indicated the contract was completed with both Porter and Lake Counties to get the best price possible. He further stated Green Wave Recycling was the best price for the District. **Councilman Mollenhauer made a motion to approve the electronics contract with Green Wave Recycling. Commissioner Haney seconded the motion. Voice vote taken. All in favor. Motion approved.**

B. HHW Contract

Mr. Turner stated the current HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) contract is expiring at the end of 2025. This contract is also negotiated with Porter and Lake County Solid Waste Districts to negotiate the best price. He further stated Tradebe Environmental Services would be the best price for the District going forward. **Commissioner Haney made a motion to approve the contract with Tradebe Environmental Services. Councilman Mollenhauer seconded the motion. Voice vote taken. All in favor. Motion approved.**

NEW BUSINESS

A. Salary Resolution

Mr. Turner presented the salary resolution for 2026. He further stated he was presenting the resolution as the salary study increase and as a 2% increase for all salaries, except for the Controller and Office Manager/HR positions; as they received a bump for their 2026 salaries to come closer to the salary study done in the spring of 2025. After discussion, the Board agreed on a 3% raise for the District due to County employees receiving a 3% raise across the board, however; the Office Manager/HR position and the Controller position will not receive a 3% raise on top of the salary bump. Ms. Havens, Office Manager/HR, argued that the salary study bump should include the 3% raise, as the study was being utilized to bring some salaries up to meet or equal salaries for positions overpaid. **Councilman Mollenhauer made a motion to approve the salary study increases for the Controller and Office Manager bumps. Commissioner Haney seconded the motion. Voice vote taken. All in favor. Motion approved. Commissioner Haney made a motion for all employees to receive a 3% raise on top of the salary study, with the exception of the Controller position, as it will be a new hire. Councilman Mollenhauer seconded the motion. Voice vote taken. All in favor. Motion approved.**

B. Open RFP's

Mr. Turner turned the RFP opening over to Attorney Biege. Mr. Turner further explained a bid was received at the Compost Site, in the door, sometime during the day, on December 5th. Mr. Turner suggested the Board just refuse the bid, as there is no way to know when it was delivered. President Pryzybilinski asked Attorney Biege what the Board should do with the bid received at the Compost Site. Attorney Biege stated it should just be opened and returned to the vendor. Mr. Biege opened each bid, however, they were not bid in the same aspect. It was further

noted, the bids would be laid out for anyone to review, after the meeting. Director Turner stated he had an email from Midwaste Waste Solutions, which was handed to Attorney Biege. Attorney Biege stated the company was asking for a 30-day extension of the RFP. Mr. Turner further stated that Midwaste Waste Solutions would like to give a proposal to the Board in thirty (30) days, proposing to lease the site. Mr. Turner stated this company would like to take over the site, clean it up and obtain a 10-year contract at a minimum. Mr. Turner further stated, this company would allow residents to drop green waste for free but they would charge municipalities a fee to drop green waste.

The representative from the company that submitted the bid at the compost site, stated many of the requirements were not met, on the RFP request, including manpower, completion date, etc. He further stated all bids should be rejected and a re-bid should take place. Attorney Biege stated the Board should review what was received and make a decision at the January meeting.

C. Baler

Director Turner indicated Commissioner Holifield wanted the baler put back on the agenda. Commissioner Holifield stated the baler could be a source of income for the District. Commissioner Holifield further stated Howmet would be gifting the District the baler for free, even if the District can't make money off the bales, the District could sell it. After Board discussion **Commissioner Haney motioned for the District to accept the baler. Commissioner Holifield seconded the motion. Voice vote taken. Mayor Dermody nay. All else in favor. Motion approved.** Mayor Dermody expressed that he only voted against the baler because he felt he was voting against the Director's decision.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:08 PM