

**HAMMOND PORT AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
January 21, 2025  
hammondportauthority.com**

**Members Present and In Person**

Kristin Cantrell	Chairman
Rosemary Wojdyla	Vice Chairman
Thomas E. Kuhn	Secretary/Treasurer
Diane Kaminsky	Member

**Members Present Via Zoom**

None.

**Members Absent**

Eva Huerta	Member
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**Hammond Port Authority Personnel Present**

Jeffery Smith	Port Authority Director
Julia Pustek	Finance Director
Ashley Gordish	Bookkeeper & Board Recording Secretary
Kevin Smith	Attorney- Smith Sersic
Steve Sersic	Attorney- Smith Sersic

**Hammond Port Authority Personnel Present Via Zoom**

None.

**Others Present**

Casey King	Hammond, Indiana
Dave Matura	Hammond, Indiana
Maggie Dominiak	Hammond, Indiana
Joey Hinds	Whiting, Indiana
Mark Dominiak	Hammond, Indiana

**Others Present Via Zoom**

None.

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

The January 21, 2025 meeting of the Hammond Port Authority Board of Directors was called to order by Chairman Cantrell at 4:32pm. Four members are present and in person, and one member is absent. Chairman Cantrell, Vice Chairman Wojdyla, Secretary/Treasurer Kuhn, and Member Kaminsky are present and in person. Member Huerta is absent.

**Chairman Cantrell called for the approval of minutes.**

R. Wojdyla made a motion to approve the minutes of December 17, 2024 as presented. D. Kaminsky seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Yes: D. Kaminsky, R. Wojdyla, K. Cantrell

No: None.

Abstain: T. Kuhn

Motion passes, 3 approve and 1 abstain.

**Chairman Cantrell called for the Election of Officers.**

K. Cantrell opened the nominations for Chairman. R. Wojdyla nominated T. Kuhn. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved. Then a vote was taken on T. Kuhn as the Chairman. Results are as follows.

Yes: D. Kaminsky, R. Wojdyla, K. Cantrell, T. Kuhn

No: None.

Appointment of T. Kuhn as Chairman passes, 4 approve.

K. Cantrell opened the nominations for Vice Chairman. D. Kaminsky nominated R. Wojdyla. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved. Then a vote was taken on R. Wojdyla. Results are as follows.

Yes: D. Kaminsky, R. Wojdyla, K. Cantrell, T. Kuhn

No: None.

Appointment of R. Wojdyla as Vice Chairman passes, 4 approve.

K. Cantrell opened the nominations for Secretary/Treasurer. R. Wojdyla nominated D. Kaminsky. A voice vote was taken and unanimously approved. Then a vote was taken on D. Kaminsky. Results are as follows.

Yes: D. Kaminsky, R. Wojdyla, K. Cantrell, T. Kuhn

No: None.

Appointment of D. Kaminsky as Secretary/Treasurer passes, 4 approve.

K. Cantrell handed over the meeting to new Chairman T. Kuhn.

**Chairman Kuhn called for the Director's Report.**

Port Authority Director J. Smith reported on the following:

Bubblers are installed on the dock, and staff checks on the bubbler systems daily to ensure they are properly working. A boat sank, but our diver and Mike Shine helped get it out of the water over a 3 day period. We are planning to revise the ONR paperwork, as this was an abandoned boat. Lost Marsh Golf Course staff has been continuing to work on equipment for the upcoming season. They have also been working on cleaning up the Youth Building. Wolf Lake maintenance staff have been cleaning up and painting at the Splash Pad. They have been checking on the water, making sure there aren't any pipes that freeze. There is a recommendation on the agenda today to approve most of the contracts for the summer concert series at the Pavilion. Raquel is expecting a few more contracts to be coming in soon. Parks staff have been working on cleaning up on Indianapolis Boulevard and 112<sup>th</sup> street. A sound wall may make it easier to cleanup garbage. Staff has also been working on building benches.

**Member Cantrell presented the Chairman's Report.**

The Executive Session of the Hammond Port Authority of January 21, 2025 began at 4:00p.m. Chairman Cantrell, Vice Chairman Wojdyla, Secretary/Treasurer Kuhn, and Member Kaminsky are present and in person. Member Huerta is absent. Four members are present and in person, and one member is absent. The subject matter considered were matters for the discussion of strategy with respect to:

1. Contractual Concerns
2. Initiation or Pending litigation
3. Personnel matters

Pursuant to IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b) (2) (B), (D), (9). The Board certifies that no subject matter was discussed in the executive session other than the subject matter specified in the public notice.

**Chairman Kuhn called for the Construction Projects Updates.**

Chairman and Construction Committee Chairman Kuhn reported on the following:

Fire Station #2- They are waiting on some ceiling tiles and a few other last pieces to come in. An early February opening date is expected.

N-Dock- The dock is in, and bubblers are installed. The next steps are installing electric and plumbing. Lakes and Rivers will be coming back soon to finish installing 6x6s.

Wind Turbine at Forsythe Park- The attorneys are looking for the original documents. K. Smith added that he had found the model number and sent it over to J. Smith.

**Chairman Kuhn called for Old Business.**

There was no old business to discuss.

**Chairman Kuhn called for New Business.**

K. Cantrell made a motion to approve the government service agreement for the 2025 calendar year with Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reathe LLP. R. Wojdyla seconded the motion.

Discussion: K. Smith reminded staff to send an invoice and signed copy to the Hammond Sanitary Distract and the Hammond Water Department.

Yes: D. Kaminsky, R. Wojdyla, K. Cantrell, T. Kuhn

No: None.

Motion passes, 4 approve.

R. Wojdyla made a motion to approve the Professional Services Agreement with Smith Sersic law firm. D. Kaminsky seconded the motion,

Discussion: R. Wojdyla added that Kevin Smith and Steve Sersic have represented the Hammond Port Authority in legal matters for more than 20 years. We are very thankful for their service and commitment to the Port Authority! D. Kaminsky mentioned that the attorneys have been compensated and reimbursed the same rate since 2016.

Yes: D. Kaminsky, R. Wojdyla, K. Cantrell, T. Kuhn

No: None.

Motion passes, 4 approve.

D. Kaminsky made a motion to approve the fireworks agreement with Mad Bomber Fireworks Productions in the amount of \$50,500.00. R. Wojdyla seconded the motion.

Discussion: D. Kaminsky added that Mad Bomber professionals understand the complexity of providing these shows in this tree sensitive environment. The fee for both events – Fourth of July at Wolf Lake and Venetian Night at the Marina are enjoyed by the public, slipholders, and boaters. K. Smith mentioned that we need to put in a request with the Board of Works closer to the events.

Yes: D. Kaminsky, R. Wojdyla, K. Cantrell, T. Kuhn

No: None.

Motion passes, 4 approve.

K. Cantrell made a motion to table the recommendation for Hammond Morton High School Graduation, Hammond Central High School Graduation at Wolf Lake Memorial Park & Pavilion Facility Use Agreement. R. Wojdyla seconded the motion to table to recommendation.

Discussion to Table the Recommendation: K. Cantrell added that there are some changes in the contracts that need to be made before they are approved.

Yes to Table the Recommendation: D. Kaminsky, R. Wojdyla, K. Cantrell, T. Kuhn

No to Table the Recommendation: None.

Motion to table the recommendation passes, 4 approve.

R. Wojdyla made a motion to approve the 2025 Lost Marsh Golf Course Rates and Rules. D. Kaminsky seconded the motion.

Discussion: R. Wojdyla thanks the staff for putting together a comprehensive fee schedule. The rate reflects the philosophy of affordable golf as indicated in advertisements and brochures as well as the City of Hammond. The Senior Rate is especially appreciated.

Yes: D. Kaminsky, R. Wojdyla, K. Cantrell, T. Kuhn

No: None.

Motion passes, 4 approve.

D. Kaminsky made a motion to approve the Wolf Lake Memorial Park Bands, Service Contracts, and Performance Agreements. K. Cantrell seconded the motion.

Discussion: R. Wojdyla mentioned that there is a nice variety within this summer's lineup. It helps the city to become more of a venue for entertainment.

Yes: D. Kaminsky, R. Wojdyla, K. Cantrell, T. Kuhn

No: None.

Motion passes, 4 approve.

**Chairman Kuhn called for the approval of Purchase Orders.**

D. Kaminsky made a motion to approve the Purchase Orders as follows:

626 – Marina Operations

627 – Construction

628 – Embarkation

630 – Lost Marsh Golf Course

631 – Parks

708 – Payroll

Electronic Transfers

K. Cantrell seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Yes: D. Kaminsky, R. Wojdyla, K. Cantrell, T. Kuhn

No: None.

Motion passes, 4 approve.

**Chairman Kuhn called for Public Comment.**

Casey King of Hammond, IN expressed concern for the eagles in regards to fireworks. He asks if the location can be changed to a concrete space elsewhere. WREN collected plastic caps and ask if a bench can be made with them to be installed at Amoco Park. The organization would need the funding to process the caps into a bench, but members would be willing to pick up the bench upon completion. WREN is interested in planting some additional trees this summer in Forsythe Park. King spoke with Parks Superintendent Michael Dawson, and he suggested near the baseball fields.

Dave Matura of Hammond, IN asked when the treatment for phragmites takes place. Director Jeff Smith responded that the treatment takes place late May into June.

Maggie Dominiak of Hammond, IN emphasized the public comments regarding the shoreline from the last meeting. She passed around some photos she has taken of different wildlife throughout the area while walking or canoeing. She pointed out in the pictures that some trees were cut down that didn't have leaves but were still healthy. Dominiak and King are interested in installing a Little Free Library at Forsythe Park near the lookout upon entering the park. King volunteered to build it with permission from the Port, and he suggested that it could be a good Eagle Scout project if more were wanted in the future.

Joey Hinds of Whiting, IN mentioned that last time he was out near Wolf Lake it looked like there was a blue spray herbicide covering everything. Hinds was wondering why it was there and what the plan was. He worries that the herbicide could be contaminating the water and affecting the native species.

Mark Dominiak of Whiting, IN is willing to use his drone with the help of Matura to take some pictures of the cuts that were done. With this information, they will then be able to help with future planning. He hopes that this can alleviate some time and stress for the Port Authority as well as reduce costs.

R. Wojdyla thanks guests for their comments, and she thanks Maggie Dominiak for sharing the pictures.

**Chairman Kuhn announced the Next Meeting.**

The next regular meeting of the Hammond Port Authority is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 2025. These meetings will be held at 701 Casino Center Drive, Hammond, IN 46320. The Board may attend in person or by Zoom with the stipulations adopted in Resolution 21-03 approved by the Board on July 27, 2021. The Executive Session will begin at 4:00p.m, the Construction Meeting will begin at 4:15p.m. and the Regular meeting will begin at 4:30p.m.

**Chairman Kuhn called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

R. Wojdyla made a motion to adjourn the meeting. D. Kaminsky seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Yes: E. Huerta, D. Kaminsky, R. Wojdyla, K. Cantrell

No: None.

Motion passes, 4 approve.

The January 21, 2025 Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 4:58pm.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION MEMORANDUM**

The Executive Session of the Hammond Port Authority of January 21, 2025 began at 4:00p.m. Chairman Cantrell, Vice Chairman Wojdyla, Secretary/Treasurer Kuhn, and Member Kaminsky are present and in person. Member Huerta is absent. Four members are present and in person, and one member is absent. The subject matter considered were matters for the discussion of strategy with respect to:

1. Contractual Concerns
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Board Minutes Prepared By: Ashley Gordish