

**PERU UTILITIES
MINUTES OF THE PERU UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING OF
MARCH 21, 2018**

The Peru Utilities Service Board held a meeting at the Peru office at 335 East Canal Street, Peru, Indiana, on Wednesday, March 21, 2018. Mr. Akers called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. pursuant to notice as required by law. The following Board members were present: S. Akers, M. Costin, G. Ward, M. Burnell and J. Edwards. Others present, D. Kern, J. Chance, B. Tillett, B. Zartman, J. Clark, J. Beisiegel, L. France, T. Alley-City Council Liaison, and C. Eggers-Peru Tribune.

1.) APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2018:

Mr. Ward moved to accept the minutes of March 7, Board meeting. Mr. Burnell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2.) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

Ms. Costin moved to approve the claims as presented. Mrs. Edwards seconded the motion and the motion carried.

3.) NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting will be held Wednesday, April 4, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in the Utility Service Boardroom.

4.) PUBLIC COMMENT: None

5.) OLD BUSINESS: None

6.) NEW BUSINESS:

A.) APPROVAL OF PICK UP TRUCK PURCHASE FOR THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT:

Mr. Chance stated there is a need for a pickup truck for the Technical Services Department to pull the fiber trailer and haul conduit and equipment. He reported three bids were received for the purchase of a pickup truck. Previously the lineman had performed the duty of pulling the fiber trailer to different locations, but it had always been an interruption in their regular duties. Mr. Chance stated that the only other vehicle available for the Technical Services Department would have been the SCADA Jeep, which is 24 years old, has 80,000 miles, and is not big enough to do the job. After investigation, it was found that the the Jeep is not 24 years old, but in fact 18 years old. It was felt that a medium size truck would best fill the needs of the Technical Services Department. The two Chevy bids are for a mid-size pickup, and the Ford bid is a full-size pickup as a comparison. Ford does not manufacture a mid-size pickup.

The following are the bid amounts submitted by the three vendors:

Paul Richard Chevrolet	\$31,755.35
Mike Anderson Chevrolet	\$32,030.35
Bob Schwartz Ford	\$39,000.00

Mr. Chance recommended accepting the low bid from Paul Richard Chevrolet for \$31,755.35 for a Chevrolet Colorado 4x4 crew cab. Consideration was given to the lowest price and compliance with the bid requirements.

Mrs. Edwards voiced a number of concerns about the purchase of this pickup. Mr. Chance addressed her concerns.

Mr. Burnell moved to approve the purchase of the Chevrolet Colorado 4x4 from Paul Richard Chevrolet for \$31,755.35. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. Four voted in favor, Mrs. Edwards voted against, (4-1) the motion carried.

7.) **CITY ADMINISTRATION UPDATE:** None

8.) **CITY ATTORNEY’S UPDATE:** None

9.) **MANAGER’S REPORT:**

SMITHFIELD FOODS:

Mr. Chance reported that Smithfield Food is expanding and we need to replace their two existing transformers before year-end in order to meet their new load prediction. Funding was not included in the 2018 Budget; however, we will be able to facilitate funding this project, which will enable Smithfield Foods to increase their production. We plan to locate and install a used transformer initially and before the end of the year purchase a second new one. Due to Smithfield’s equipment expansion, we anticipate an additional \$300,000 in revenue per year. Ms. Costin inquired as to what would happen if we order the equipment now and Smithfield Foods changed their mind. Mr. Chance stated that we have met with Smithfield and they have confirmed their intentions.

AMI:

Mr. Chance summarized the letter and the bill stuffer for Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) that was mailed to customers March 15. He gave the Board copies of the communication material, which included, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS), Notice to Customer, Customer Notice of Mandatory Water Meter Installation, Immediate Response Required, and Meter Installation Authorization. Also, included a memo to inform the public that Peru Utilities has contracted with Utility Metering Solutions (UMS) to implement an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system for the Peru Utilities water and electric service. UMS staff will be supervised by Peru Utility employees and wear Peru Utility contractor badges. The project will begin in April 2018

and is expected to take 8 – 12 months to complete. We will publish a press release in the Peru Tribune. Mr. Chance stated that once the project starts, we hope that the meter installation will progress quickly.

WATER FILTRATION PLANT RENOVATION & UPGRADE:

Mr. Chance reported that Kokosing Industrial has been selected to perform the rehab of the water treatment facility and will put two job trailers south of the water plant. We plan to get them hooked up with electricity the first of next week.

DWM UPGRADE:

Mr. Chance referenced a map and reported that Deichman Excavating is currently working along Van Buren Avenue between North Smith Street and North Pine and between North Denver Avenue and North Wayne Street. The new water main is installed and a chlorine test is underway. They have not made any connections to the homes yet. This is the project is part of the State Revolving Fund Loan (SRF). We have asked that Deichman be more proactive with our customers while working on the roadways. Mr. Chance told the Board that he is always available to answer any questions the General Public might have.

BUCKET TRUCK:

The next meeting Mr. Chance will present the Board with a proposal for a new bucket truck for the Line Department. He will also discuss plans with the Board about the purchase of a Digger Derrick truck for the Line Department this year. Because it takes a year to manufacture a Digger Derrick truck, it will be ordered in 2018. It will be received and paid for in 2019, the cost will be about \$275,000.

SECURITY:

Intrasect Technologies is trying to find us an access control system to purchase for our external gates. We now keep gates closed and locked.

POWER PLANT DEMOLITION:

National Salvage has returned and is cleaning up the bunker basement; they will have a larger crew in place next week.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before the Board, Mr. Ward made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Edwards seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.

Geoff Ward, Secretary Peru Utilities Service Board