

**PERU UTILITIES  
MINUTES OF THE PERU UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING OF  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2020**

The Peru Utilities Service Board held a meeting at the Peru office at 335 East Canal Street, Peru, Indiana, and virtually through video conferencing via Zoom, on Wednesday, September 16, 2020. Chairperson M. Costin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. pursuant to notice as required by law. *The following Board members were present M. Costin, D. Van Baalen, and R. Donoho. Board member J. Edwards and C. McKinney attended virtually. Others present Mayor Miles Hewitt, City Attorney Dustin Kern, J. Chance, B. Tillett, J. Beisiegel, and J. Clark.*

**1.) APPROVE BOARD MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2020:**

*Mr. Donoho moved that the minutes of September 2, 2020, be amended to reflect that the vote was 3-0, instead of 4-0. Ms. Costin seconded the motion. Ms. Costin, Mr. Donoho, Mrs. Edwards, and Mr. McKinney voted in favor. Mr. Van Baalen abstained as he was absent from that meeting. The motion passed.*

**2.) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:**

*Mrs. Edwards moved to approve the claims as presented. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**3.) NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

The next regular meeting will be held on-site Wednesday, October 7, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. in the Team Teaching Room and virtually through Zoom video conferencing. The link to join the meeting will be advertised in the Peru Tribune before the meeting date.

**4.) PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

**5.) OLD BUSINESS:**

**SRF ACCOUNT REVIEW:**

Ms. Costin commented on an accounting matter passed at the prior meeting for the SRF Disbursement Request #15.

**6.) NEW BUSINESS:**

**A.) APPROVE SRF DISBURSEMENT REQUEST #16 FOR THE GRISSOM WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS:**

The Board considered the following disbursement request #16 for the Grissom Water System Improvements.

Disbursement #16, Thieneman Construction, for contract construction work for the Grissom Water System Improvements for the period of 7/30/20 – 8/26/20, for the amount of \$109,560, less retainage of \$10,956 for the total amount of \$98,604.

*Mr. Donoho made a motion to approve Disbursement Request #16 to Thieneman Construction for the Grissom Water System Improvements for the amount of*

*\$109,560 less retainage of \$10,956 for the total amount of \$98,604 for the period of 7/30/20 – 8/26/20. Mr. Van Baalen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**7.) CITY ADMINISTRATION UPDATE:**

Mayor Hewitt said he had attended the groundbreaking yesterday of the new VA Clinic that is to be constructed on W. Hoosier Blvd. at the Grissom Air Force Base. Next Tuesday morning he will attend the groundbreaking for the new Miami County YMCA. West Main Street is currently undergoing a paving project that should be completed in a couple of weeks.

**8.) CITY ATTORNEY'S UPDATE:**

Attorney Dustin Kern reported that he has yet to hear back from Clawson Communications regarding our counter-proposal.

**9.) MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**GRISSOM WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT UPDATE:**

Mr. Chance and Mr. Beisiegel provided the Board with an update on the Grissom Water System Improvements Project noting that an underground electric line had been installed. In addition, a new electric panel will be constructed for better efficiency. Mr. Beisiegel stated that the size of the electric voltage was being changed and that a concrete pad had been poured for a new transformer to be set; electrical and plumbing work has begun in the water operator's building. The contractor is reconfiguring the inside walls in the water operator's building for better access to the furnace. It was noted that the project is not yet in full swing.

**2021 CAPITAL BUDGET:**

Mr. Chance said that the staff is working on next year's Capital Budget. It is hoped to have it completed for the Board's approval at the November 18 meeting.

**UPDATE ON UTILITY BILL PAYMENTS:**

Mr. Chance said that we have started adding penalties on customer's current bills if they are not paying since the prohibition on disconnections has been lifted. Some customers have been put on a payment plan in which they must pay their current month's bill plus 1/6 of their arrearage. For the customers that have had their utilities disconnected we request that they pay their account to a zero balance, plus a reconnect fee. We offer individual payment plans to all of our customers to help them get their accounts caught up. Next week, Mr. Chance said that cutoffs would begin at Grissom. So far, we have made about \$75,000 headway in collecting our arrearage.

**AFSCME CONTRACT:**

Current contract effective January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020. Next year we will be

negotiating a new union contract.

**CUSTOMER ARREARAGES:**

Mr. Chance stated that customer arrearages to date are \$380,000. We are typically between \$100,000 to \$120,000. However, the high number at this time is due to the pandemic. If a customer makes an honest effort to take care of their responsibilities we are doing our best to accommodate them.

**INTERNAL LOAN FROM ELECTRIC CAPITAL TO GRISSOM WATER:**

Mr. Donoho inquired if the \$500,000 loan from Electric Capital to finance the Grissom Water Systems Improvement Project would be returned. Mr. Chance indicated that by the end of the year the \$500,000 would be transferred back into the Electric Capital.

**10.) ADJOURNMENT:**

*There being no further business to bring before the Board, Mr. Van Baalen made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Donoho seconded the motion. The motion passed, the meeting adjourned.*

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Jami Edwards, Secretary Peru Utilities Service Board