

**PERU UTILITIES  
MINUTES OF THE PERU UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING OF  
FEBRUARY 3, 2021**

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, February 3, 2021. Chairperson Mary Costin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. pursuant to notice as required by law. The following Board members were present Ms. Mary Costin, Mr. Dave Van Baalen and Mr. Richard Donoho. Board members Mrs. Jami Edwards, and Mr. Chris McKinney attended virtually. City Attorney Dustin Kern and Mrs. Patricia Russell-City Council Liaison attended virtually. Others present Mayor Miles Hewitt, Mr. Josh Chance, Mrs. Brenda Tillett, Ms. Joyce Clark, Mr. Jamin Beisiegel, and Mr. Lee France.

**1.) APPROVE BOARD MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2021:**

*Mr. Donoho moved that the minutes of January 20, 2021, be approved. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion. Ms. Costin, Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Donoho, and Mr. McKinney voted in favor, Mr. Van Baalen abstained since he was absent from the January 20 meeting. The motion passed.*

**2.) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:**

*Mr. Donoho moved to approve the claims as presented. Mr. Van Baalen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.*

**3.) NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

The next regular meeting will be held on-site Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 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: None**

**6.) NEW BUSINESS:**

**A.) APPROVE SRF DISBURSEMENT REQUEST #29 FOR THE GRISSOM WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS:**

The Board considered the following disbursement request #29 for the Grissom Water System Improvements.

Disbursement #29, Wessler Engineering, for professional services for the period of 12/1/20 – 12/31/20, for \$6,901.00.

*Mrs. Edwards made a motion to approve Disbursement Request #29 to Wessler Engineering for \$6,901.00 for the Grissom Water System Improvements. Mr. Donoho seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.*

**B.) APPROVE CONTRACTOR FOR THE BOARDROOM REHABILITATION:**

Mr. Chance discussed the bids with the Board for the upcoming Boardroom window and structural repairs, multiple bids were sent out but only two bids were received for the project as follows:

- Action Construction – Performed assessment, quoted price is \$54,700.00
- Schleppenbach Co. – Performed assessment, quoted price is \$28,000.00

Mr. Chance recommended awarding the bid to Schleppenbach Company for \$28,000.00.

*Mr. Van Baalen moved to accept the bid from Schleppenbach Company as the lowest responsible bidder for the Boardroom structural repairs in the total amount of \$28,000.00. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.*

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

8.) **CITY ATTORNEY’S UPDATE:**

The Peru Utility Resolutions for the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer’s wages from Peru Utility was approved at the February 1 City Council Meeting.

9.) **MANAGER’S REPORT:**

**CUSTOMER ACCOUNTS AND PAYMENTS PENDING:**

Mr. Chance gave the Board an in-depth discussion on how both Peru Utilities and customers are working through the challenges presented during the COVID pandemic with past due payments. Peru Utilities had established payment plans to enable customers to be caught up on their bills.

**COVID UPDATE:**

One employee has tested positive for COVID and was sent home to quarantine, we are relatively healthy and as always we follow the CDC's current guidelines.

**2020 BUSINESS OFFICE & DIVISION OF WATER MANAGEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

Mr. Chance gave the Board a list of accomplishments for the Business Office and the Division of Water Management for 2020; he pointed out a few of the highlights and commended both divisions for their efforts. The Line Department and Technical Services’ accomplishments will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:**

Mr. Chance took the opportunity to single out for the Board’s recognition of our Planning Engineer, Mike Walsh. Mike is a long time employee with Peru Utilities and has built

many strong relationships throughout the community, which helps Peru Utilities in gaining easements, state permits, and property acquisitions. Mike whenever necessary works closely with Attorney Dustin Kern regarding legal matters and he has been especially helpful in keeping Peru Utilities updated with INDOT and the US 31 Project.

**BOOSTER STATION AT NORTH BROADWAY AND US 24:**

The north booster station at North Broadway and US 24 sits on an easement and we would like to acquire some land around it. Mr. Chance stated that Mike Walsh and Attorney Dustin Kern are working to acquire that parcel of land that has been surveyed. Peru Utilities has paid for an appraisal of the land and the matter will now go to Russ Bellar, the landowner for his review and or approval to deed the land to us for the cost of the appraisal fee.

**FUTURE FOR ELECTRIC CARS-ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS:**

Mr. Chance said in looking towards the future and the increasing interest in the utilization of electric vehicles Peru Utilities would like to begin to investigate the possibility of installing an EV Charging Station at North Broadway and US 24, which might be a perfect spot, City Hall, and possibly Peru Utilities Line Department. He talked about the costs associated with charging stations and the possibility of Peru Utilities purchasing an electric vehicle and adding it to our fleet as many utilities are in the process of doing. The matter was discussed at length.

**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