

**PERU UTILITIES
MINUTES OF THE PERU UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING OF
MAY 5, 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, May 5, 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 Chairperson Mary Costin, Mr. Dave Van Baalen, Mr. Richard Donoho, and Mrs. Jami Edwards. Mr. Chris McKinney attended virtually. Others present Attorney Dustin Kern, Mr. Josh Chance, Mrs. Brenda Tillett, Mrs. Alice Hartley, Ms. Joyce Clark, Mr. Michael Biesenbach, Mr. Jamin Beisiegel, and Mrs. Patricia Russell-City Council Liaison.

1.) APPROVE BOARD MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2021:

Mr. Donoho moved that the minutes of April 21, 2021, be approved. Mrs. Edwards seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.

2.) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

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

3.) NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting will be held on-site Wednesday, May 19, 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 BAD DEBT WRITE-OFFS OCTOBER 1, 2020, – DECEMBER 31, 2020:

	<u>Peru</u>	<u>Grissom</u>	<u>Total</u>
Electric	\$ 21,341.10	-	\$ 21,341.10
Water	1,855.32	7,120.13	8,975.45
Wastewater	632.71	263.03	895.74
Stormwater	69.60	-	69.60
Trash	271.73	-	271.73
Total	\$24,170.46	\$7,383.16	\$31,553.62

The bad debt write-offs from October 1, 2020, – December 31, 2020, were reviewed and Mr. Chance requested permission to write off the delinquent accounts October 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, for \$31,553.62. Mr. Chance said that this particular quarter’s bad debt write-offs were abnormally high due to the pandemic. Mr. Donoho inquired if the Utilities can recapture debt owed to us after a customer

passes away. Ms. Clark will investigate the matter and will report the results to the Board.

Mrs. Edwards made a motion to grant permission to write off the delinquent accounts October 1, 2020, - December 31, 2020, for \$31,553.62. Mr. Donoho seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B.) APPROVE 69 KV TRANSMISSION STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT BID SELECTION

Mr. Chance stated that we received five responses to the invitation for bids as follows:

• L.E. Myers	\$89,921.09
• D & T Power	\$139,731.62
• Gaylor Electric	\$88,000.00
• Henkel & McCoy	\$169,081.81
• Hydaker-Wheatlake	\$148,748.00

Mr. Beisenbach said that the L.E. Myers bid also included the replacement of a rejected transmission pole, which the other bidders declined to have any interest in. Mr. Beisenbach recommended the Board award the 69KV structure replacement project to the L.E. Myers Company for \$89,921.09. He noted that so far we are under budget on this project.

Mrs. Edwards made a motion to award L.E. Myers Company the bid for the 69 KV Transmission Structure replacement for \$89,921.09. Mr. Van Baalen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7.) CITY ADMINISTRATION UPDATE:

The mayor reported that the city has hired two new police officers; he thanked Peru Utilities for helping with the preventative maintenance of the tornado sirens. Mr. Chance and Mr. Biesenbach had met with city and county officials to determine who is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the tornado alert sirens distributed at various points throughout the city and county.

8.) CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE:

Attorney Dustin Kern reported he and Mr. Chance are working on a broad-based policy that would establish guidelines for 3rd party advertisements on both City and Utility structures and equipment. Mr. Chance and Attorney Kern and the Board discussed the pros and cons and it was the Board’s decision not to pursue it any further.

9.) MANAGER’S REPORT:

RECENT RETIREES:

Jeff Julian retired on April 26 and Marlon Miles retired on April 30.

BUCKET TRUCK ACCIDENT INSURANCE SETTLEMENT:

The original cost of the bucket truck that recently was totaled in an accident was \$183,350.00. The insurance company payout offer at this time is \$55,000.00. The replacement truck will cost \$260,000.00 with a build time of approximately 18 months. Mr. Chance stated that we are looking to see if the insurance company will cover the cost of a rental bucket truck in the meantime.

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES:

Mr. Chance reported that receiving materials and supplies is becoming more difficult to obtain. For example, conductor wire was quoted 6 – 9 ½ months to receive and the supplier is currently not quoting prices at this time.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT:

Mr. Chance discussed with the Board the opportunity for Peru Utilities to receive funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. In the future, he will discuss with the Mayor where Peru Utilities will fit into the equation. It is anticipated that the City will receive the money sometime in June.

10.) ADJOURNMENT:

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

Jami Edwards, Secretary Peru Utilities Service Board