

**PERU UTILITIES  
MINUTES OF THE PERU UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING OF  
JUNE 2, 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 Teams Meeting, on Wednesday, June 2, 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, Dave Van Baalen, and Mr. Richard Donoho. Absent: Mrs. Jami Edwards. Mr. Chris McKinney attended virtually. Others present Attorney Dustin Kern, Mr. Josh Chance, Mrs. Alice Hartley, Mr. Michael Biesenbach, Mr. Jamin Beisiegel, Mayor Miles Hewitt and Mrs. Patricia Russell-City Council Liaison.

**1.) APPROVE BOARD MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2021:**

*Mr. Donoho moved that the minutes of May 19, 2021, be approved. Mr. Van Baalen 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, June 16, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in the Team-Teaching Room and virtually through Teams Meeting 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 REQUESTS #67 THE WABASH RIVER MAIN CROSSING PROJECT:**

The Board considered the following disbursement request #67 for the Wabash River Main Crossing Project.

Disbursement #67, to Atlas Excavating for the Wabash River Main Crossing Project in the total amount of \$128,052.00.

*Mr. Donoho made a motion to approve Disbursement Request #67 to Atlas Excavating for the sum of \$128,052.00. Mr. Van Baalen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.*

**B.) APPROVE CHLORINE SUPPLY PRICING:**

Mr. Beisiegel recommended we agree to the temporary increase of \$10.00 per cylinder to be paid to Alexander Chemical due to the chlorine shortage. We use on average one cylinder per week at both our Peru and Grissom water plants. We currently pay \$47.85 for a 150 lb. cylinder.

*Mr. Donoho made a motion to approve the increase. Mr. Van Baalen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.*

**C.) APPROVE REVISED NET METERING ORDINANCE:**

Mr. Chance stated the need to amend the current Small Generation Service Policy Rate to increase the allowed amount of renewable small-scale solar generation from 0.1% (~50kW) to 1.5% (~750kW) of our most recent summer peak.

*A motion was made by Mr. Van Baalen to approve the revised ordinance. Mr. Donoho seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.*

**D.) APPROVE BUCKET TRUCK PURCHASE:**

Mr. Biesenbach recommended awarding the contract to UTE, in the amount of \$174,510 to replace bucket truck #256. Their bid comes in \$75,490 under budget and meets all designated specifications.

*Mr. Van Baalen made a motion to approve the purchase of a new bucket truck from UTE. Mr. Donoho seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.*

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

8.) **CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE:** None

9.) **MANAGER’S REPORT:**

**IMPA’S POSSIBLE CONTRACT EXTENTION:**

IMPA is requesting an eight-year contract extension to 2050, with a 30-year notice of termination. We are currently under a Purchase Power Agreement through 2042.

Mr. Chance stated that IMPA has invited Peru Utility staff and city council members the opportunity to visit the IMPA facility scheduled on June 28, 2021 in order to ask questions and express their concerns before giving the okay to extend the agreement. Peru Utilities currently has a total of 14, staff, mayor and city council members attending the dinner.

**LOWER POPULATION AT THE MIAMI COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY:**

Mr. Chance stated that he received a response from Ethan Manning and the Executive Director of the IDOC concerning the low population of the prison. Mr. Manning explained that the main issue contributing to the low population was the COVID situation. Mr. Manning said with the reopening of the courts and if the staffing issue can be resolved then the population will increase back to full capacity. Mr. Chance stated the concern with the loss of revenue due to empty buildings. Mr. Chance explained he has cut payroll, some capital projects and maintenance at this time. He will be monitoring the situation for a least the next six months.

**NEW MAIN EXTENSION LEGISLATION:**

Mr. Chance explained it might be necessary to update our policy for the water/wastewater main extension agreement in order to stay compliant with Indiana Code. There are different interpretations of the rule depending on the municipality. One rule is only if the developer requests an agreement and the other is a special contract provision if you’re making it equitable with other contractors. Mr. Chance stated he will wait until it gets clarified formally by the state of Indiana before making a new policy.

**ELECTRIC LINE LOSS CALCULATOR:**

Mr. Chance gave a short presentation of the Line Loss Calculation for the year ending Dec. 31, 2020. Electric billed versus purchased. The electric line loss total percentage for Peru Utilities for the year 2020 was 4.19%. The Department of Energy average is 5.0%.

**CASS STREET BOTTLENECK PROJECT:**

Mr. Chance showed the Board pictures of the Cass Street Bottleneck project. That project is moving forward without incident. Mr. Beisiegel stated that Diechman Excavating is doing a good job.

**WABASH RIVER CROSSING MAIN PROJECT DELAY:**

The underground boring machine is back because of small collapse a 3 to 4-day delay and Daystar Drilling will be installing the pipe next week. Atlas Excavating will be connecting the poly pipe to the new HDPE pipe to complete the project.

**69 KV TRANSMISSION LINE STRUCTURE REPLACEMENT DELAY:**

L.E. Myers was contracted to replace poles. The materials were ordered in February but is still back ordered delaying the project. Peru Utilities will be on L.E. Myers schedule for mid-July if materials have been received.

**GRISSOM WATER PROJECT UPDATE:**

Mr. Chance updated the Board with pictures on the recent progress of the Grissom Water System Project. The spiral staircase has been removed and the contractor will be installing a new aluminum staircase. Mr. Beisiegel reported a new switch gear has been installed and final checks of the SCADA System will be completed tomorrow.

**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN:**

Mr. Chance discussed with the Board the allocation of the American Rescue Plan money. He plans to meet with the City in June, his feeling is that Peru Utilities should be eligible for some of the money.

**ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS:**

Mr. Chance reviewed the most recent expiration of the Governors Executive Order on electronic attendance of public meetings as stated in the amendment to IAC SECTION 5. IC5-14-1.5-3.5. All public meetings are to go back to normal physical attendance for Board Members but will allow the use of electronic attendance for the public. If a Board Member wishes to attend electronically, they will not be allowed to participate in voting without a special written policy establishing procedures of attendance and participation. The board elected to continue to function without a special policy and resume in person meetings for the future. Mr. Chance stated that the amendment is subject to change and will revisit it in the future.

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING:**

Mr. Chance stated that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2021 Electric Rates -Tracker Adjustment is on the City Council Meeting Agenda for Monday, June 7, 2021. Mr. Chance will be attending the meeting in person.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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Jami Edwards, Secretary Peru Utilities Service Board