

**PERU UTILITIES
MINUTES OF THE PERU UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING OF
August 4, 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, August 4, 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 Mr. Dave Van Baalen, Mrs. Jamie Edwards, Mr. Richard Donoho, and Mr. Chris McKinney. Others present Attorney Dustin Kern, Mr. Josh Chance, Mr. Michael Biesenbach, Mr. Jamin Beisiegel, Ms. Joyce Shafer, Mayor Miles Hewitt and Mrs. Patricia Russell-City Council Liaison.

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

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

2.) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

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

3.) NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting will be held on-site Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in the Team-Teaching Room. Teams Meeting video conferencing is available for the public.

4.) PUBLIC COMMENT: None

5.) OLD BUSINESS: None

6.) NEW BUSINESS:

A.) APPROVE SRF DISBURSEMENT REQUEST #46, AND SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT FOR THE GRISSOM WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT:

The Board considered the following disbursement request #46 and supplemental grant for the Grissom Water System Improvement Project.

Disbursement #46, to Wessler Engineering, professional services for period 6/1/21-6/30/21 for the total amount of \$3,678.00 and a supplemental draw no.5 to Wessler Engineering for additional professional services for the period 6/1/21 to 6/30/21 for the total amount of \$6,898.75.

Mr. Donoho made a motion to approve Disbursement Request #46 to Wessler Engineering for the sum of \$3,678.00 for professional services and for the sum of \$6,898.75 for additional professional services for the period 6/1/21 -6/30/21 for the Grissom Water System Improvements. Mr. Van Baalen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

B.) APPROVE NEW AUTHORIZED AGENT FOR THE INDIANA PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM STATE FORM (54190):

The Board considered the PERF retirement authorization change. The document authorizes the new Commercial Bookkeeper, Payroll/HR Benefits Coordinator (Wayne Brindle) to perform any necessary duties to complete the payroll processing of Peru Utilities PERF contributions to the employee's retirement fund.

Mrs. Edwards made a motion to approve the PERF retirement authorization change to the new Commercial Bookkeeper, Payroll/HR Benefits Coordinator (Wayne Brindle). Mr. Donoho seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

7.) CITY ADMINISTRATION UPDATE:

Mayor Hewitt stated that Peru City Circus Festival 2021 was a big success, and the attendance was very good even with less vendors. The Peru Municipal Airport Open House 2021 had a record attendance. Mrs. Russell volunteered at the Peru Municipal Airport Open House 2021 she stated that it was a great success. Mayor Hewitt reported that work has begun at the Peru Public Library for the placement of a statue of one of the area's leading suffragists (Marie Stuart Edwards). The statue will be unveiled on Aug. 26th during a ceremony that begins at 11:30.

8.) CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE:

Attorney Kern stated he has been looking into the bucket truck accident on State Road 19 and 500 south. Attorney Kern contacted the at fault party's insurance company and has sent them additional information that they requested but they have not responded. Mr. Chance stated that the insurance company is not very cooperative, and he has asked Attorney Kern to check into the claim.

9.) MANAGER'S REPORT:

RATE STUDY REQUEST IN JANUARY 2022:

Mr. Chance stated to keep up with inflation and maintain the integrity of our infrastructure, we will be requesting a rate study in January of 2022. Last electric increase was in 2012, and an electric rate decrease in 2015 from decommissioning the Power Plant. Overall net revenue went up 0% in 2012, there was a 3% electric rate increase for the residential customers and a 7.5% electric rate decrease for the commercial customers. The infrastructure, transformers, electric poles, and equipment is our largest expense. Mr. Chance reported that Peru Utilities has been losing operating income and revenues have not increased since 2006 that is why we need to base our rate study on a long-term plan. There was a lengthy discussion concerning a Peru Utilities electric rate increase.

RIVER CROSSING PROJECT UPDATE:

Mr. Chance reported that the river crossing pipe has been installed. Atlas Contracting will take a week or two to connect the pipe. Mr. Chance will update the board on the progress at the next PUBS meeting.

69KV PROJECT UPDATE:

Mr. Chance stated that the project is almost complete. There are 1 or 2 more poles to be replaced on North Broadway to finish the project.

SMITHFIELD FOODS ELECTRIC OUTAGES:

Mr. Chance reported that he met with Tony White, Smithfield Foods new plant manager on Monday and again on Tuesday including engineers from Smithfield Foods. Dave Woessner and Catherine Neff from the Peru Utilities Engineering Dept. attended the meeting presenting much needed information about Smithfield's transformers. Results from the meetings are that Smithfield Foods will make some electrical changes to keep up with their demand and Peru Utilities will install another transformer on the other side of the building. Peru Utilities Line Dept. Superintendent, Mr. Biesenbach, Peru Utilities Engineering Dept. Mr. Woessner and Ms. Neff will be working closely with Smithfield Foods engineers on their updates.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Jami Edwards, Secretary Peru Utilities Service Board