

**PERU UTILITIES
MINUTES OF THE PERU UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING OF
September 15, 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, September 15, 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, Mr. Richard Donoho, Mr. Chris McKinney and Mrs. Jamie Edwards on Team viewer. Others present Attorney Dustin Kern, Mr. Josh Chance, Mr. Michael Biesenbach, Ms. Joyce Shafer, Mayor Miles Hewitt and Mrs. Patricia Russell-City Council Liaison.

1.) APPROVE BOARD MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2021:

Mr. Van Baalen moved that the minutes of August 18, 2021, be approved. Mr. McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.

2.) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

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

3.) NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting will be held on-site Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. in the Team-Teaching Room. Teams Meeting video conferencing is available for the public.

- 4.) PUBLIC COMMENT:** On Team viewer-Steven Ray the Executive Director of the North Central Indiana Regional Planning Council. Mr. Ray said NCIRPC is a non-profit agency serving the communities throughout Cass, Clinton, Fulton, Howard, Miami, and Tipton Counties. Mr. Ray explained that NCIRPC serves local communities with the purpose of building stronger local community's and regional economies by enhancing the quality of life throughout the region. Mr. Chance asked Mr. Ray if he had any information regarding grants that would help Peru Utilities with the long-term control plan. Mr. Ray stated that he would be glad to work with Peru Utilities on future projects. Mr. Chance will be in contact with Mr. Ray to discuss long-term projects and potential resources.

- 5.) OLD BUSINESS:** None

6.) NEW BUSINESS:

APPROVE BID FOR POTENTIAL TRANSFORMERS AT SUBSTATION 2:

The Board considered the following bid for potential transformers at Substation 2. It is recommended to accept the bid from Bankcroft, as they meet all requirements at a considerably lower cost.

Mr. McKinney made a motion to approve the bid to Bankcroft in the amount of \$27,690. Mr. Donoho seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

7.) CITY ADMINISTRATION UPDATE:

Mayor Hewitt reported that the group called the Guardian Warriors hosted a remembrance Event Saturday at the Miami County Fairgrounds to remember the Sept. 11th tragedy. He said that there was a small group attended the event. Mayor Hewitt reported that the Wayne Street bridge is shut down for demolition and rebuild until next spring. Mayor Hewitt stated that INDOT is replacing sidewalk ramps through out downtown Peru to be ADA compliant.

8.) CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE:

Mr. Kern reported that the federal government is mandating employers with 100 or more employees will be required to have their employees either be fully vaccinated or get tested weekly to come to work. OSHA, the Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration, would implement the requirements. Federal workers and employees of contractors that do business with the federal government will be required to be vaccinated. Companies are awaiting more details in a formal rule to be issued in coming weeks.

9.) MANAGER’S REPORT:

ASSISTANCE OFFICE POSITION:

Mr. Chance reported that the assistant office manager position has been filled by Wayne Brindle. Wayne has been employed by Peru Utilities for seven years. Mr. Chance stated with that change it leaves a Commercial Bookkeeper position open and we will be interviewing for that position by the end of next week.

4TH QUARTER TRACKER:

Mr. Chance reported that the Peru City Council passed the 4th Quarter 2021 Electric rates - tracker adjustment at their meeting on September 13, 2021.

MAINTENANCE OF TORNADO SIRENS:

Mr. Chance stated that the county and city are agreeable to each paying one-half (1/2) of the costs charged by Utilities for maintaining the Sirens. Mr. Chance will present the interlocal agreement to the Peru Utilities Service Board at the Oct. 6, 2021, meeting.

LEANING ELECTRIC UTILITY POLE DOWNTOWN PERU:

Mr. Chance reported that the decision was made to replace a 40-year-old electric pole on Monday, Sept. 20, 2021, in the alley behind local businesses. Mr. Chance received several emails and phone calls complaining about local businesses being with-out electricity on a Monday. The Line Department Superintendent choose Monday to perform the work because it had the least impact on the businesses, as some are closed on Mondays. The decision to schedule the pole replacement on a Monday was to save Peru Utilities expense in labor cost rather than having the line crew work after hours or on the weekend. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to replace the electric pole on a Sunday in October to avoid inconveniencing the local businesses in the downtown area.

WABASH RIVER CROSSING PROJECT UPDATE:

Mr. Chance updated the PUBS on the Wabash River Crossing Project. Mr. Chance reported that Atlas Excavating has had a few delays but that the installation and excavation of our water main should done in the next few weeks.

UNION CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS:

Current contract effective January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2021. Mr. Chance stated that he is currently in negotiations with the Union AFMCE-Local 1030 to revise the contract that expires on Dec. 31, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Jami Edwards, Secretary Peru Utilities Service Board