

**PERU UTILITIES  
MINUTES OF THE PERU UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING OF  
November 17, 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, November 17, 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 Dave Van Baalen, Richard Donoho, Chris McKinney, and Jami Edwards. Others present Joshua Chance, Alice Hartley, Jamin Beisiegel, Michael Biesenbach, Wayne Brindle, Joyce Shafer, Mayor Miles Hewitt and Patricia Russell City-Council Liaison. Absent: Attorney Dustin Kern

**1.) APPROVE BOARD MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 3, 2021:**

*Board member Chris McKinney moved that the minutes of November 3, 2021, be approved. Board member Jami Edwards seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.*

**2.) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:**

*Board member Richard Donoho moved to approve the claims as presented. Board member Chris 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, December 1, 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 DISBURSEMENT REQUEST #55 AND #56 FOR THE GRISSOM WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:**

The Board considered the following disbursement request #55 and #56 for the Grissom Water System Improvement Project.

Disbursement #55 to NV Grant Services, for professional services rendered for Labor Standards \$1,100.00. Disbursement #56 to Thieneman Construction contract construction for the period 10/01/2021 – 10/30/2021 for the total amount of \$64,305.00.

*Board member Jami Edwards made a motion to approve Disbursement #55 to NV Grant Services for the sum of \$1,100.00 and to approve Disbursement #56 to Thieneman Construction, for the sum of \$64,305.00 for contract construction work for the period 10/01/2021-10-30-2021 for the Grissom Water System Improvements. Board member Chris McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.*

**B.) APPROVE THE CHANGE ORDER NO. 5 FOR THE GRISSOM WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS:**

The Board considered Change Order No. 5 for the Grissom Water System Improvements.

The net change in the contract amount for the items identified in the Change Order No. 5 is an increase in the amount of \$50,305.00- and 140-day extension for the Grissom Water System Improvement Project.

*Board member Chris McKinney made a motion to accept Change Order No. 5 for the sum of \$50,305.00 to Thieneman Construction and a 140-day extension for the contract construction completion of the Grissom Water System Improvement Project. Board member Richard Donoho seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.*

**C.) APPROVE 1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER 2022 ELECTRIC RATES- TRACKER ADJUSTMENT:**

Mr. Chance stated that the 1st Quarter Tracker residential customers will experience a decrease and commercial customers will have an increase. He asked for acceptance of the 1st Quarter 2022 Electric Rates-Tracker Adjustment.

<b>Rate Class</b>	<b>Jan. 2022 Adj. Rate per kWh</b>	<b>Increase or (Decrease) Per kWh</b>
Residential Service (RS-1)	\$0.034332	\$(0.000603)
General Service (GSA-1)	\$0.034164	\$0.002523
Power Service (PS)	\$0.032893	\$0.005506
Security Lighting Service (SL-1)	\$0.014281	\$0.004950
Municipal Street Lighting Service (MSL-	\$0.013562	\$0.001835
Traffic Signal Service (TL)	\$0.017210	\$0.006136

The above factors represent an average increase in its schedule of rates for electricity sold in the amount of \$0.002783 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Residential customers will experience a decrease of \$0.61 per 1,000 kilowatts. Commercial customers will experience an increase of \$2.52 per 1,000 kilowatts.

*Richard Donoho made a motion to accept the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2022 Electric Rates- Tracker Adjustment. Chris McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.*

**D.) APPROVE LTCP WASTEWATER PLAN EVALUATION AND PER:**

The Board considered the contract for professional engineering services between Peru Utilities and Hazen and Sawyer, the engineer will provide services related to development of a WWTP Improvement Plan for the Peru Wastewater Treatment Plant. Hazen and Sawyer tasks: Establish Design Criteria, Evaluate WWTP condition and capacity, Analyze/Cost Alternatives and develop CIP plan and preliminary engineering report with a total project fee of \$306,662.00.

*Richard Donoho made a motion to accept the LTCP Wastewater Plan Evaluation and PER. Chris McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.*

**E.) APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO.1 FOR THE WABASH RIVER WATER MAIN CROSSING:**

The Board considered the following change order No. 1 for the Wabash River Water Main Crossing.

Change order No. 1 includes adjusting the contract price based on compensation for domestic fittings, time and materials for additional work that was not included in a bid item and adjusted final quantities. Revised final contract price results in a decrease of \$37,304.28. Jamin Beisiegel stated that he wanted to commend Peru Utilities, Project Engineer- Mike Walsh and DWM Foreman- Bob See for keeping the project under budget.

*A motion was made by Jami Edwards to accept the change order No.1 to Atlas Excavating, Inc. in a decrease of \$37,304.28. Chris McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.*

**7.) CITY ADMINISTRATION UPDATE:**

Mayor Hewitt announced that the Downtown Peru Christmas Open House, will be on Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, shopping, prizes, food sampling starts at 6:00pm downtown Peru. Due to inclement weather the Christmas parade is rescheduled for Saturday, November 20, 2021, at 6:00pm.

**8.) CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE: Absent**

**9.) MANAGER’S REPORT:**

**SUPPLY CHAIN SHORTAGES:**

General Manager Joshua Chance stated we have posted information on the Peru Utilities website about the recent material shortages. The shortages are expected to continue into 2022 and will impact material and equipment sales well beyond that. To continue to provide for new commercial and residential development, storm damage, and inevitable equipment failure, Peru Utilities will be suspending converting existing overhead lines to underground as the materials required to install underground services have been the most impacted. We are seeing the prices of materials increasing at an astonishing rate.

Developers and customers should also be prepared for potential delays and higher-than-usual costs associated with new construction. We are doing everything possible to mitigate these issues and will continue to work diligently to meet the needs of our customers.

**COVID 19 VACCINE UPDATE:**

General Manager Joshua Chance reported that we recently had three employees out with COVID 19 and 1 is hospitalized. Mr. Chance stated the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit blocked Biden’s executive order requiring companies with over one hundred workers to mandate vaccination for their employees after temporarily staying it on November 12<sup>th</sup>. The court ordered that OSHA take no steps to implement or enforce the vaccine mandate until further court order.

**COMCAST INTERNET INTERRUPTION:**

Mr. Chance stated last week the outage appeared to center on the Comcast Xfinity network, with customers reporting loss of service in cities across the nation. The interruption affected Peru Utilities internet and phone system. All indications are that Comcast got hacked. Peru Utilities Network Systems Technician Matthew Svantner was closely monitoring our network and disconnected Comcast before the system went down. Mr. Svantner connected Peru Utilities to our back up feed and Comcast was back up the next day.

**2022 BUDGET (PRELIMINARY):**

Mr. Chance presented the preliminary 2022 budget to the board. Our managers have worked diligently on this. While we base our budget on history and plans, it also reflects our best forecast of trends and outside forces. Each Board member is asked to carefully review the budget packet before the December 1<sup>st</sup> Utility Service Board Meeting so feedback and concerns can be addressed before final passage of the budget.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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Jami Edwards, Secretary Peru Utilities Service Board