

**PERU UTILITIES
MINUTES OF THE PERU UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING OF
January 19, 2022**

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, January 5, 2022. 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 Richard Donoho, Chris McKinney, Dave Van Baalen and Jami Edwards. Others present Joshua Chance, Alice Hartley, Jamin Beisiegel, Michael Biesenbach, Wayne Brindle, Joyce Shafer, Lee France, Patricia Russell-City Council Liaison and Kathleen Plothow-City Council Liaison. Absent: Mayor Miles Hewitt and Attorney Dustin Kern

1.) APPROVE BOARD MINUTES OF JANUARY 5, 2022:

Board member Richard Donoho moved that the minutes of January 5, 2022 be approved. Board member Jami Edwards seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.

2.) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

Board member Jami Edwards moved to approve the claims as presented. Board member Dave Van Baalen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

3.) NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting will be held on-site Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 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 #61 FOR THE GRISSOM WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:

The Board considered the following disbursement request #61 for the Grissom Water System Improvement Project.

Disbursement #61 to Thieneman Construction, for the period of 12/01/21 – 12/31/21 for the total amount of \$64,065.00.

Board member Chris McKinney made a motion to approve Disbursement #61 to Thieneman Construction for the sum of \$64,065.00 for the Grissom Water System Improvements. Board member Richard Donoho seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

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

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

9.) **MANAGER’S REPORT:**

COVID UPDATE:

General Manager Joshua Chance reported that eight employees have tested positive for COVID in the last 2 weeks and five employees are out sick with non-covid symptoms. Mr. Chance stated that OSHA’S (ETS) was overturned, and the Supreme Court ended a two-month battle concerning OSHA’S Emergency Temporary Standards. Mr. Chance quoted OSHA: “Regardless of the ultimate outcome of these proceeding, OSHA will do everything in its existing authority to hold businesses actable for protecting workers including under the COVID-19 National Emphasis Program and the General Duty Clause”. While OSHA does have the ability to set workplace safety standards, the Court found the ETS to go beyond that scope as it presented a “significant encroachment in the lives and health of a vast number of employees.” Mr. Chance stated this is good news for Peru Utilities.

AMEND 2022 BUDGET:

Mr. Chance stated that we need to amend the 2022 Budget. Due to recent illnesses in the accounting department the Amended Budget for 2022 has been delayed until the next board meeting on February 2, 2022.

GRISSOM WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE:

Superintendent of DWM- Mr. Beisiegel reported that the Grissom Water System Improvement Project is really close to being completed. On January 5th they had a walk through with Wessler’s electrical engineer to look over all the major systems. The clear well is in use and the SCADA system is in but has a few items to improve. Mr. Beisiegel stated he is incredibly pleased on how the project has turned out and will schedule a tour soon. Mr. Chance wanted to mention how the Grissom Water Operators have contributed to the project in the last few months in changing their schedule and the additional hours spent at the plant. Mr. Chance stated they have done an amazing job.

NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Chance reported a new 174- unit housing development will be built in Peru. The new \$20 million development is coming to Peru that will offer four different kinds of rental units along the Wabash River and mark the city’s first major housing project in decades. Mr. Chance and Mr. Beisenbach have been in contact with the developers to get more detailed information on how they will be metering the new units. Mr. Chance stated that lead times for new meters are out 6-8 months at this time. On the water/wastewater service side he has a verbal agreement with the developers that they will pay for the

complete installation -minus tap fees. He will keep the board informed as the new housing development progresses.

NEW BUCKET TRUCK:

Mr. Biesenbach inquired about a new bucket truck if it is ordered now. He said that it would not be available for delivery until the end of the 1st quarter of 2024.

NEW STATE STREET LIGHTS:

Mr. Chance reported he will be meeting with a INDOT engineer for the new streetlights being installed by the state this Friday. They will be discussing the requirements for the new streetlights. INDOT is asking to set them up as overhead. Mr. Chance stated he will be informing the engineer the only option is underground.

IMPA CONTRACT:

Councilman Kathleen Plothow inquired when the new IMPA contract will be presented to the Peru City Council. Mr. Chance stated that he will be addressing the subject in the later part of the first quarter of 2022.

PERU UTILITIES EMPLOYEE CATHY LEWIS RETIRING:

Mr. Chance announced that after 35 years of employment Cathy Lewis will be retiring on January 27, 2022, from Peru Utilities as a Customer Service Clerk. Mr. Chance stated she will be missed, especially her unique sense of humor and joyful personality. A retirement reception is planned on January 27, 2022, from 1:30 until 3:00pm in the Peru Utilities team teaching room everyone is welcome to attend.

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.

Jami Edwards, Secretary Peru Utilities Service Board