

**PERU UTILITIES
MINUTES OF THE PERU UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING OF
March 2, 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, March 2, 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 and Dave Van Baalen. Chris McKinney and Jami Edwards was present on teams. Others present Joshua Chance, Alice Hartley, Jamin Beisiegel, Michael Biesenbach, Wayne Brindle, Joyce Shafer, Lee France, Mayor Miles Hewitt, Patricia Russell-City Council Liaison and Kathleen Plothow-City Council Liaison

1.) APPROVE BOARD MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2022:

Board member Richard Donoho moved that the minutes of February 16, 2022 be approved. Board member Dave Van Baalen 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 Dave Van Baalen seconded the motion. Three board members voted nay; the motion did not pass.

Board member Richard Donoho made a motion to pay the claims as presented except for the payment to the Miami County Chamber of Commerce for 2022 Membership Dues-\$720.00, 2021 Annual Safety Certificates-\$980.00 and 4th Quarter 2021 Safety Certificates-\$1,100.00, total check for \$2,800.00. Dave Van Baalen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed. The Board will address the Miami County Chamber of Commerce dues payment of (\$720.00) at the next Board meeting scheduled for March 16, 2022

3.) NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting will be held on-site Wednesday, March 16, 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 BAKER TILLY AGREEMENT-PERU ELECTRIC RATE STUDY:

The Board considered the Baker Tilly agreement to furnish and perform services in respect to the Electric Utility Cost of Service study. Analysis of Costs and Revenues (Rate Analysis) (Municipal Advisory, Consulting and Compilation Accounting Services) not to exceed Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) without further authorization from the Client.

Board member Dave Van Baalen made a motion to accept the Baker Tilly Agreement for the Peru Electric Rate Study. Board member Richard Donoho seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

B.) APPROVE BAKER TILLY AGREEMENT-SEWAGE LONG-TERM CONTROL PLAN:

The Board considered the Baker Tilly agreement to furnish and perform services with respect to the financial studies conducted for the Sewage Works. Analysis of Costs and Revenues (Rate Analysis) (Consulting Services) not to exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) without further authorization from the client.

Board member Jami Edwards made a motion to accept the Baker Tilly Agreement for the Sewage Long-term Control Plan. Board member Richard Donoho seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

C.) APPROVE TRENCHER REPLACEMENT:

Michael Biesenbach, Transmission & Distribution Superintendent recommended selecting the bid from TTG Equipment for (\$96,055)- John Deere 331G Compact Track Loader, an auger drive and 18” heavy duty difficult ground auger, a 60” trenching blade, and an EZ Spot UR ZE-HD08 pole handler. Their bid comes in \$9,575 higher, but MacAllister cannot supply a pole handling attachment (approximate value \$11,000 -\$14,000). We have allocated \$125,000 for this project, but we will need to source a new equipment trailer as this machine with its attachments will be too heavy for our current trailer. Upon receipt of the new equipment, or existing skid steer and ride on trencher will be traded/sold.

Board member Richard Donoho made a motion to approve the trencher replacement bid to TTG Equipment for \$96,055-a John Deere 331G Compact Track Loader, an auger drive and 18” heavy duty difficult ground auger, a 60” trenching blade, an EZ Spot UR ZE-HD08 pole handler. And the disposal and sale of the skid steer and ride on trencher. Board member Chris McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

D.) APPROVE 2022 TREE TRIMMING BID:

The Board considered the bids for 2022 tree trimming system. Mr. Biesenbach recommended accepting the bid from Asplundh for \$255,780.83, as we stand to save \$26,715.17 over using Williams. We have allocated \$400,000 for this project, but due to the current market we have had to reduce the number of circuits to be trimmed from 4 to 2.

Board member Jami Edwards made a motion to approve the 2022 tree trimming bid from Asplundh for \$255,780.83. Board member Chris McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

- 7.) **CITY ADMINISTRATION UPDATE:** Mayor Hewitt reported he attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Miami County YMCA on the 26th. The YMCA is now open and is a remarkably busy place and they have received more applications for memberships than the prior month.
- 8.) **CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE:** Mr. Kerns has nothing to report currently.
- 9.) **MANAGER’S REPORT:**

ANNUAL SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES BY DEPARTMENT – 2021

General Manager Joshua Chance reported the yearly summary of activities by department for 2021 highlighting just some of the Peru Utilities Managers and employees accomplishments through the year of 2021: Customer Service employees processed: Check Transactions-48,349, Online Transactions-39,142, Cut Offs-2,228 and Incoming calls to customer service 12,592 Office and Accounting: Payroll Processed-1,640 pays, including taxes and deductions for a total gross payroll of \$3,969,156 Accounts Payable processed-2,276 payments totaling \$37,353,560 of 4,598 invoices. Office/Finance Manager: Bookkeeping for 3 projects at a time (River Crossing, Bottleneck, and Grissom Water Project). Transmission and Distribution, Engineering continued working towards converting switching stations to substations; engineered and ordered material for conversion, replaced 11 transmission 69KVA poles via Le Meyers. Division of Water Management: DWM Combined performed more than 7,500 tests at Peru WWTP Lab, responded to more than 2,500 requests for locates, cleaned 22,477 feet of sewer line and customer service tested 545 meters as part of our routine meter testing. Peru drinking water treated 531,200,000 gallons of water. Peru Wastewater treated 1,900,000,000 gallons of sewage, removed 760,000 pounds of solids from the wastewater. Grissom drinking water treated 175,800,000 gallons of water and 95% completion of the Grissom Water Plant Upgrade Project. Grissom wastewater treated 287,000,000 gallons of sewage and removed 472,000 pounds of solids from the wastewater. Stormwater organized and conducted a River Cleanup with 45 participants, removed 9 yards of trash from the riverbanks. Safety, Health, and Risk Assessment reported work hours for all department 104,274.95 and one employee experienced recordable injury. Experience modification rate (EMR): Peru Utilities is 0.71 reducing our workman’s comp premium by \$20,000. Pandemic/COVID related procedures and guidance. Mr. Chance stated these are just the highlights of Peru Utilities employee’s accomplishments last year and he is immensely proud of everyone.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY ON MARCH 7TH:

Mr. Chance stated that IMPA will present the Third Amendatory Agreement to Power sales Contract Between Indiana Municipal Power Agency and City of Peru. Mr. Chance will present the Rate Tracking factor for the City of Peru Municipal Water Utility, Rate Tracking factor for the City of Peru Municipal Water Utility located at the Grissom

Aeroplex Service Area and Rate tracking factor for the Municipal Electric Utility of the City of Peru.

NEW IMPA PRESIDENT AND CEO:

Indiana Municipal Power Agency announced the selection of Jack Alvey as IMPA’s new President and CEO. Alvey will assume the role following the retirement of longtime President and CEO Raj Rao on April 5, 2022. He previously served in the United States Navy’s nuclear power field before entering the public power sector. Currently, Alvey is IMPA’s Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer overseeing IMPA’s generation operations, transmission joint ownership, electrical facilities, construction, safety, and environmental and reliability compliance. Mr. Chance stated that Jack Alvey is the right individual to lead IMPA into the future, especially with his generation experience and institutional knowledge of IMPA. Mr. Chance reported that he was asked to be on the IMPA’s Executive Committee, and he accepted with the Board’s approval. It is a 3-year term, and it will require him to travel to Indianapolis 2 to 3 time a month.

DWM LAB TECHNICIAN (JOE ECKELBARGER) RETIREMENT:

Mr. Beisiegel announced the retirement of Joe Eckelbarger Peru Utilities DWM part-time lab technician after fourteen years of employment with Peru Utilities. He will be missed, and we wish him the best in his retirement.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Jami Edwards, Secretary Peru Utilities Service Board

March 2, 2022 – Cont'd.