

**PERU UTILITIES
MINUTES OF THE PERU UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING OF
April 6, 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, April 6, 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, Jami Edwards, Dave Van Baalen and Chris McKinney. City Council Liaison- Kathleen Plothow was on teams. Others present Joshua Chance, Alice Hartley, Jamin Beisiegel, Michael Biesenbach, Wayne Brindle, Joyce Shafer, Catherine Neff, Sandy Chittum, Mayor Miles Hewitt, Tom Gustin-City Council Liaison and Attorney Dustin Kerns.

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

Board member Jami Edwards moved that the minutes of March 16, 2022 be approved. Board member Chris McKinney 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, April 20, 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: Miami County Chamber of Commerce 2022 Dues (\$720.00) and membership. Sandy Chittum (President of the Chamber) presented information about how the Chamber supports, promotes, sponsors, and engages the businesses and community of Miami County. The Chamber is 100% Chamber member supported.

The Chamber sends out a weekly newsletter by email to all members as well as community members and media. The Chamber updates and posts the **211 Resource Guide**. This guide includes all the information about nonprofits, service organizations, medical help and assistance, food banks, resource information, etc. The Chamber has partnered with Small Business Development. The Chamber puts on a Downtown Christmas Open House, Farmers Markets, and The Chamber/Tourism participated/sponsors and supports events, festivals, and nonprofit fund raisers. The Chamber has the Member-to-Member Discount Card.

What Peru Utilities gets out of all this is recognition in different areas, promotion and advertising in many different medias that are available to the community and local businesses. Peru Utilities customers are kept informed with updates on activities, general information, and involvement in community through events, discounts, and other incentives.

Chairperson Mary Costin stated that she does not think that Peru Utilities benefits from being a member of the chamber and using our rate payor's money to pay for chamber dues. Chairperson Costin stated that Peru Utilities provides free services hanging downtown Christmas lights and Veterans Day Banners at an expense of over \$20,000 annually. Board member Jami Edwards stated that the community benefits from the chamber but Peru Utilities as a vessel does not and the board is a gate keeper to our rate payor's money. Board member Chris McKinney stated that the Chamber provides a service to help customers with the 211 guide and information on how to get assistance to pay their utilities bills. Board Member Dave Van Baalen stated that the question is, since Peru Utilities provides \$23,000 worth of services annually can we get an Honorary Gold Membership for the Miami County Chamber of Commerce. After a lengthy discussion, and the decision of the board not to pay the chamber dues, Sandy Chittum the President of the Chamber agreed to give Peru Utilities an Honorary Gold Membership.

6.) NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Chance requested a motion to amend the agenda, to add attachment 6-G.

Board Member Richard Donoho made a motion to amend the agenda to include attachment 6-G. Jami Edwards seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

A.) APPROVE RESOLUTION 1, 2022 ANNUAL SALARY FOR THE GENERAL MANAGER:

The Board considered the following Resolution 1, 2022 approving the annual salary for Peru Utilities General Manager.

Board member Richard Donoho made a motion to approve the general managers annual salary and Resolution #1, 2022. Board Member Dave Van Baalen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

B.) APPROVE DISBURSEMENT REQUEST #65 FOR THE GRISSOM WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT:

The Board considered the following disbursement request #65 for the Grissom Water System Improvement Project.

Disbursement Request #65 to NV Grant Services, for professional services rendered for Labor Standards for \$2,200.00.

Board member Chris McKinney made a motion to approve Disbursement #65 to NV Grant Services for \$2,200.00. Board member Jami Edwards seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

C.) APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #06 TO THIENEMAN CONSTRUCTION:

The Board considered the following Change Order 06 request for the Grissom Water System Improvement Project.

Change Order 06 was for various additions and modifications to project scope. Clearwell roofing layer additions, flow switch replacements, booster station flow meter deduction, and time addition.

Board member Richard Donoho made a motion to approve Change Order 06 to Thieneman Construction for \$7,918.00. Board member Chris McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

D.) APPROVE DISBURSEMENT REQUEST #66 FOR THE GRISSOM WATER SYSTEM APPROVEMENT PROJECT:

The Board considered the following disbursement request #66 for the Grissom Water System Improvement Project.

Disbursement Request #66, Thieneman Construction, for contract construction work for the period 1/1/2022 – 2/28/2022 for \$84,772.00 and 3/1/22-3/16/22 for \$7,918.00 for the total amount of \$92,690.00 for the Grissom Water System Improvements.

Board member Chris McKinney made a motion to approve Disbursement #66 to Thieneman Construction for \$92,690.00. Jami Edwards seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

E.) APPROVE PERU UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD RESOLUTION #2, 2022:

The Board consider the following Resolution #2, 2022, a resolution establishing the policy by which members of the Board may participate by electronic means of communication. *Allows all participating members of the governing body to simultaneously communicate with each other; and *Except for a meeting that is an executive session, allows the public to simultaneously attend and observe the meeting.

Board Member Richard Donoho made a motion to approve Peru Utilities Service Board Resolution #2, 2022. Board member Chris McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

F.) APPROVE TRENCHER REPLACEMENT:

The Board consider the Trencher Replacement from MacAllister CAT, they can place orders and expect to be able to make delivery by August of this year. Mr. Biesenbach recommends accepting their Sourcewell bid of CAT 289D3 with bucket, auger, drive, and 60” trenching blade: \$93,950.00 and No-Ramp U24 Flatbed Utility Trailer: \$17,820.00 for a total of \$111,770.00.

Board Member Jami Edwards made a motion to approve the Trencher Replacement for \$111,770.00 to Sourcewell. Board member Richard Donoho seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

G.) APPROVE SUB #4 MAINTENANCE:

The Board considered Sub #4 Maintenance: Sub #4 is now over 20 years old. To get the full potential life out of our equipment at this substation, we have budgeted for preventative maintenance and testing. This includes maintenance on the transformers and LTCs, testing and exercising the breakers, testing relays, and replacing parts on the two circuit switchers. Catherine Neff, SCADA Tech./Engineering Tech. recommended RFQ bid for High Voltage Maintenance (HVM) at \$42,545.00.

Board member Richard Donoho made a motion to approve the Sub #4 Maintenance for \$42,545.00. Board member Jami Edwards seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

7.) **CITY ADMINISTRATION UPDATE:** The city hired another firefighter he was sworn in this morning. Mayor Hewitt announced he has copies of the City of Peru Newsletter with the highlights, Celebrating Easter with an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 16th at the Lower Maconaquah Park. Mayor Hewitt had the pleasure of participating in the groundbreaking ceremony of the Wabash River Commons and the 1st Annual Community Yard Sale at the Civic Center will held Saturday, May 7th 9:00am until 1:00pm at 225 E Riverside Dr., Peru. City Liaison- Tom Gustin and Kathleen Plothow has nothing to report currently.

8.) **CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE:** Mr. Kerns has nothing to report currently.

9.) MANAGER’S REPORT:

HOUSE BILL ENROLLED ACT NO. 1002:

General Manager Joshua Chance reported for purposes of computation of the utility receipts and utility services use taxes (IC 6-2.3 before its repeal by this act.). For taxable years that include June 30, 2022, the tax imposed under IC 6-2.3 must be computed based on the taxable receipts of the taxpayer received before July 1, 2022. Peru Utilities paid \$358,871.00 last year to the state from our rate payors. The 1.46% tariff that Peru Utilities collects and is built into to our rate, will need to be adjusted and presented to the city council meeting in June. Mr. Chance stated we will be working on the rate reduction and Baker Tilley will be consulted in the reduction calculation.

BAKER TILLEY ELECTRIC RATE STUDY MEETING:

General Manager Joshua Chance reported management had a kickoff meeting with Baker Tilley. They discussed security lights and the cost associated with installation and maintenance of the lights. There are currently six kinds of security lights, and we are transitioning them to LED bulbs which are more expensive to purchase. Mike Walsh (Planning Engineer) has spent the last few years updating an inventory of the security lights. Now would be a suitable time to review the list and update maintenance fees associated with the security lights. Mr. Chance stated that there was also discussion to review and update Peru Utilities fees, for example meter test fees, disconnect and reconnect fees, disconnects at the pole fees, bad check fees, customer charges, and festival charges are fees that need to be reviewed and increased. Baker Tilley will be using 2021 as a test year and we are in the first steps of the rate study.

ELECTRICAL SUPPLY SHORTAGE:

Mr. Biesenbach reported the difficulty of getting electric equipment and supplies and how utilities are adapting to supply chain issues. Equipment shortages have become a challenge for public power providers all over the country. Lead time for a new transformer goes from a few months to a year, and a bucket truck now takes twice as long to acquire. Several circumstances are driving the shortages, from a bad hurricane season to Russia being a big supplier of metals and the United States not buying raw materials from Russia. For example: Peru Utilities had enough supplies in their inventory until the new housing and campground development started this year. Soon Peru Utilities will have to prioritize projects due to the shortage in supplies. (Overhead electric verses Underground)

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Jami Edwards, Secretary Peru Utilities Service Board

