

**PERU UTILITIES  
MINUTES OF THE PERU UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING OF  
July 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, July 6, 2022. Board Secretary, Jami Edwards 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 Jami Edwards. Others present Joshua Chance, Michael Biesenbach, Wayne Brindle, Alice Hartley, Acting Mayor- Patricia Russell, Tom Gustin-City Council Liaisons, Dustin Kerns-Attorney, Kathleen Plohow on teams Absent: Mary Costin, Chris McKinney and Dave VanBaalen

**1.) APPROVE BOARD MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2022:**

No quorum present.

**2.) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:**

No quorum present.

**3.) NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

The next regular meeting will be held on-site Wednesday, July 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: NONE**

**6.) NEW BUSINESS: NONE**

**7.) CITY ADMINISTRATION UPDATE:** Acting Mayor Patricia Russell stated that the Fourth of July Celebration in Maconaquah Park was an immense success.

**8.) CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE: NONE**

**9.) MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**Grissom Water Plant Tour:** Mr. Chance stated he is scheduling a tour on July 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm for Peru Utilities Board members and Peru City Council to tour the newly renovated Grissom Water Plant. Mr. Chance will notify members with an alternate date for those who cannot attend on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

**New Bucket Truck:** Mr. Chance and Mr. Biesenbach toured the UTE (Utility Truck Equipment Inc.) assembly shop and checking on the new bucket truck we ordered last June. Mr. Biesenbach stated they customized the truck for Peru Utilities with a rear entry to the bed for more accessibility and it has a smaller boom for limited areas. The bucket truck needs a special height to go through the Line Department garage doors. The cost of the bucket truck when ordered last June was \$169,000.00 and will be done mid-July.

**Duke Energy Temporary Increase:** Mr. Chance reported that the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission approved a rate increase of 16%. Duke Energy customers will pay this increase for three months-July-August and September. The higher fuel costs, supply chain issues and labor shortage in the railroad industry as the reason for the increase. That increased their rate to \$174.32 per 1000 kWh, compared to Peru Utilities rate of \$110.00 per 1000 kWh a 58% difference.

**Europe's Natural Gas Supply:** Mr. Chance shared an article from the Wall Street Journal: Russia slashes Gas flow, aiming economic weapon at Europe. Russia is the largest producer of natural gas and the third-largest producer of oil after the US and Saudi Arabia. The continent might run out of natural gas this winter after Moscow appeared to further crimp supplies. Europe is heavily reliant on Russia for its energy supply, 40% of its gas supplies are met by Russia. Europe is struggling with conditions that are very much global in nature, surging energy prices and inflation, rising geopolitical risks and uncertainty, which lead us to believe that European economies will suffer the same fate – recession- as the US.

**MISO Warnings and discussion with IMPA:** Mr. Chance explained MISO issuing warnings about this summer. MISO issues notifications to utilities in its footprint, including IMPA, regarding grid status, operations, and expected or upcoming events. Should any of those notifications indicate changes that will affect members at the retail level-whether that is asking consumers to conserve energy consumption or curtail load, or if outages are imminent-IMPA will communicate that information to members. Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), an independent, non-profit organization that operates the electrical grid through much of the middle part of the United States, has indicated it potentially does not have enough generation capacity to meet expected peak loads plus the required reserves this summer. Peru Utilities is putting a list together on who to call first City officials, hospital, large-business customers and etc.

Residential customers can do their part to help reduce their energy use, especially during peak load times. Peak load typically occurs on weekdays in the afternoon and evening hours from about 2 pm to 8 pm.

\*Air conditioners work overtime during hot summer days. Adjust your thermostat higher during peak load times to use less electricity.

\*Run large appliances at night when energy demand is lower.

\*Use fans to circulate air rather than dropping the temperature on your AC.

\*Turn off lights and electronic devices when not in use.

\*Replace the filter in your air conditioning unit so that it runs more efficiently.

**IMPA Contract:** Mr. Chance reported that he signed the IMPA Contract and there are still 3 communities that has not, and they have until July 20<sup>th</sup> to sign. IMPA is going out for a 100-million-dollar bond for more solar and operational cash. Anderson is one of the largest communities that has not signed so they would have to make up 6 to 8 million dollars extra since they would only have 10 years left on their contract.

**Transformers and Electric Poles:** Mr. Chance stated that we received the transformers we ordered last year. Mr. Biesenbach stated when he placed the order the transformer cost was \$87,000.00 but the time, they got here the cost was \$117,000.00. He recently ordered a years' worth of wood utility poles from (Stella-Jones) one of our suppliers who had extra inventory.

**Meeting with Square D:** Peru Utilities will meet with Square D again, about their ground water contamination. We have supplied them with mapping to help them with their boring and testing.

**Miami County Republican Party Meeting:** Mr. Chance spoke at a Miami County Republican Party Meeting last night about Peru Utilities rates, long-term control project and the good people that work here. He will also be speaking at a Rotary Club meeting in September.

**Fiber Update:** the final piece of our fiber update is occurring on July 27<sup>th</sup>. All the fiber that comes into the building at Peru Utilities, affects the county buildings, 911, our phone system, internet, alarm system for water and wastewater system and our billing system will be down. The business office will be closed that day and the employees will be working on special projects.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

No quorum present.

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Jami Edwards, Secretary Peru Utilities Service Board

