

**PERU UTILITIES
MINUTES OF THE PERU UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING OF
September 7, 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, September 7, 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 Chris McKinney, Richard Donoho, Dave VanBaalén, Others present Joshua Chance, Michael Biesenbach, Wayne Brindle, Alice Hartley, Jamin Beisiegel, Tom Gustin-Council Liaison and Dustin Kern-Attorney
Absent: Acting Mayor Patricia Russell, Kathleen Plothow, and Jami Edwards

1.) APPROVE BOARD MINUTES OF AUGUST 17, 2022:

Board member Chris McKinney moved that the minutes of August 17, 2022 be approved. Board member Dave VanBaalén seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.

2.) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

Board member Richard Donoho made a motion 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, September 21, 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 SRF DISBURSEMENT #70 FOR THE GRISSOM WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS:

The Board considered the following Disbursement request #70 for the Grissom Water System Improvement Project.

SRF Disbursement #70 to Wessler Engineering for professional services for the period 4/1/2022 to 4/30/2022.

Board Member Chris McKinney made a motion to approve SRF Disbursement request #70 to Wessler Engineering for professional services for the sum of \$619.00. Board member Richard Donoho seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

B.) APPROVE BAD DEBT WRITE-OFFS JANUARY 1, 2022, THROUGH MARCH 31, 2022

	<u>Peru</u>	<u>Grissom</u>	<u>Total</u>
Electric	\$20,265.93	-	\$20,265.93
Water	\$1,883.40	\$1,407.65	\$3,291.05
Wastewater	\$631.59	-	\$631.59
Stormwater	\$70.00	-	\$70.00
Trash	\$153.30	-	\$153.30
Total	\$23,004.22	\$1,407.65	\$24,411.87

The bad debt write-offs from January 1, 2022 – March 31, 2022, reviewed and request permission to write-off the delinquent accounts. YTD 2021 Bad Debt/Write off Recoveries as 12/31/21 was 0.117% out of a 33 million dollars’ worth of revenue. Typically, the standard write-off is 2.0% and it is a standard procedure that we write off bad debts after trying to collect them.

Board Member Richard Donoho made a motion to approve the 3rd Quarter 2022 Electric Rate Tracker adjustment. Board member Chris McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

7.) **CITY ADMINISTRATION UPDATE:** Acting Mayor Patricia Russell was absent, and Mr. Gustin had nothing to report.

8.) **CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE:** Mr. Kern stated that Mr. Biesenbach reported that there was several meter tampering’s in the last week and complaints from downtown businesses. Mr. Kern reported that there were charges filed today on an individual. The person accused of the tampering has a mental illness and was charged with criminal mischief.

Mr. Kern stated that he is still researching TREC’s the Association of Indiana Counties Tax Refund Exchange and Compliance System a local government debt setoff clearinghouse enabling counties to submit debts for potential offset against state personal income tax refunds. Mr. Kern has sent emails to the state and has not received a response. Mr. Kern stated TREC’s state web site has 8 entities using it and four come from Cass County and there is an application process to participate in TREC’s. Mr. Chance has reached out to Logansport Municipal Utilities who uses the TREC’s collector and has not received a response.

9.) **MANAGER’S REPORT:**

MAJOR STORM DAMAGE: Mr. Chance reported last Monday’s storm damaged homes and businesses in Miami county, and we had 2,200 meters out. The Oakdale area of Peru had heavy damage to several residences. Many residents throughout the Miami County area

spent several hours Tuesday cleaning up after a line of storms created havoc the night before. Peru Utilities Line Department assessed the situation Tuesday morning and electricity had been restored to all but 400 customers. Line Superintendent, Michael Biesenbach, Dave Woessner and Catherine Neff from the engineering department created a plan to repair electric lines and reconnect residents of Miami County. Mr. Chance stated that Peru Utilities employees did an amazing job on Monday after the storm and on Tuesday to get our customers back in service. The office staff answered 551 phone calls in 3 hours during the major outage. Mr. Biesenbach conducted an After-Action meeting with the staff to review the major electric outage event for the purpose of re-assessing decisions and considering alternatives for future reference. Mr. McKinney commented on the communication through social media after the storm. He stated that it was well updated and saw very few negative comments during the outage and commended the employees for a job well done.

METER TAMPERING: Mr. Chance reported that a man has made aggressive comments to Peru Utilities employees. It is reported he is capable of violent episodes. Employees have been notified if he enters our facilities, consider him hostile. Field crews should be alert and aware of their surroundings.

3RD QUARTER ELECTRIC TRACKER: Mr. Chance stated that there is a Peru City Council meeting on Monday, and he will be presenting the 3rd quarter electric tracker to the council. Mr. Chance announced Duke Energy applied for another 7% electric increase that makes their rate at \$181.00 for 1,000kWh energy. REMC rate is \$144.55 for 1,000kWh energy and Peru Utilities rate is \$110.20 for 1,000kWh energy.

UNION AGREEMENT: Mr. Chance reported we have tentative Union Contract agreement they are finalizing on agreed language, and it will be voted on at the end of the month.

SMITHFIELD SEWER LINE: Mr. Beisiegel reported that Smithfield was shutting down for the holiday weekend, they ran a large cleaning and clogged up the 2 ½ mile wastewater line. On Tuesday when Smithfield started up again the line from the facility to Peru Utilities gravity lift station was plugged. In the past we have used a hot water flush to clear the line, but it is still not cleared. Mr. Beisiegel stated today they were pumping hot water in the line and that was not working, so they decided to try to close a valve to hook up high-pressure air. A Peru Utilities DWM maintenance employee was in the confined space, there was a mechanical error, and one of the pipes broke and shot hot water onto the employee causing third degree burns to his arm. All safety precautions were followed before the incident. The employee was taken to the hospital, treated, and released to follow-up with a burn specialist in Fort Wayne on Monday. Mr. Beisiegel reported that they have contacted a contractor to help us because they have jet trucks that can reach further than our truck. The earliest the contractor will be here is Monday, but we will keep trying to clear the line. Armor is hauling their waste to our facility until the line gets cleared.

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

