

**PERU UTILITIES
MINUTES OF THE PERU UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING OF
January 4, 2023**

The Peru Utilities Service Board held a meeting at the Peru office at 335 East Canal Street, Peru, Indiana, and through video conferencing via Teams Meeting, on Wednesday, January 4, 2023. 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 Van Baalen and Jami Edwards. Others present Joshua Chance, Alice Hartley, Jamin Beisiegel, Michael Biesenbach, Wayne Brindle, Lee France, Tom Gustin-City Council Liason, Kathleen Plothrow-City Council Liason , Dustin Kern-Attorney and Mayor Miles Hewitt

1.) APPROVE BOARD MINUTES OF DECEMBER 21, 2022:

Board member Richard Donoho moved that the minutes of December 21, 2022 be approved. Board member Chris McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.

2.) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

Board member Chris McKinney made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Board member Jami Edwards seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

3.) NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting will be held on-site Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 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.) ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Board member Richard Donoho made a motion to elect the officers for 2023. Board member Chris McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed. Board member Chris McKinney made a motion to nominate Ms. Costin as Board Chairperson for 2023, and Jami Edwards Board Secretary for 2023, seconded by Dave Van Baalen. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

B.) APPROVE REVIEW OF PERU SERVICE BOARD POLICY STATEMENT CONCERNING BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS:

Board member Richard Donoho made a motion to review the Peru Service Board Policy statement concerning board responsibilities and functions. Board member Dave Van Baalen seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

Board member Chris McKinney made a motion to approve the current policy. Board member Richard Donoho seconded the motion. The vote was not unanimous, the motion did not pass.

Board member Jami Edwards made a motion to amend the Peru Service Board Policy statement concerning Board responsibilities and functions. To add to #13. (conduit) Serve as the **conduit** and body of appeal for persons and groups who desire to be heard on matters under consideration by the Board or on questions arising from the Utilities’ policies, operations, rates, or action of employees. Board member Chris McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

- 7.) **CITY ADMINISTRATION UPDATE:** Mayor Hewitt stated he has nothing to report at this time. Kathleen Plothow-City Council Liaison asked when the long-term control plan will be presented to the city council. Mr. Chance stated that he does not have a date and we are still waiting on the PER plant portion of it from Baker Tilly. Mr. Chance will ask for the board’s approval for the electric rate study in February. Kathleen Plothow-City Council Liaison stated that she had talked to a prominent person in the community this morning and they were very complimentary about Mr. Chance and Peru Utilities. Mr. Chance stated that his role is just a conduit to all the employees that work at Peru Utilities.
- 8.) **CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE:** Mr. Kern stated that there is no pending litigation or outstanding claims at this time and hopes we all have a good year. Mr. Kern reported Susan Rylands City of Peru, Clerk Treasurer resigned as of 12-31-22 and the republican party will meet Saturday, January 7th and the precinct committee members will vote to nominate a new Clerk Treasurer to finish out the term.

9.) **MANAGER’S REPORT:**

OCTOBER FINANCIALS:

Mr. Chance stated that the Board has the financial reports for October in their board packets and asked for any questions. November financial reports will be in next board packet. December financials will take a little longer to complete because of year end.

WINTER STORM:

Mr. Chance reported there were electric outages (80 to 100 customers) during the winter storm with wind gusts of 50-55 mph. The frigid air was a major concern with wind chills of -15 to -30 degrees. Grissom customers had several frozen and broken pipes throughout the holiday weekend. Peru Utilities employees were working out in single digits and below zero wind chills. The employees are supplied with the appropriate freezing weather gear and advised to take breaks to stay warm. Mr. Chance stated how great our employees are to be working out in such harsh conditions to supply service to Peru Utility customers.

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GRISSOM WASTEWATER INSPECTION:

Mr. Chance reported that Grissom Wastewater passed inspection by IDEM on December 21, 2022. It is difficult to get a perfect score from IDEM and we have scored a 3 on a scale of 1 to 5. Mr. Beisiegel stated that the inspection is for the entire year and there are weather events that typically put us over the limit for the day, however we remain in compliance for weekly or monthly averages set forth by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management for our NPDES permit.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Jami Edwards, Secretary Peru Utilities Service Board

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