

**PERU UTILITIES
MINUTES OF THE PERU UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING OF
May 3, 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, May 3, 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 Richard Donoho, Jami Edwards, Chris McKinney, and Dave Van Baalen. Others present Joshua Chance, Alice Hartley, Jamin Beisiegel, Michael Biesenbach, Tom Gustin-City Council Liason, Mayor Miles Hewitt, and Dustin Kern-Attorney. Absent: Kathleen Plothow-City Council Liason

1.) APPROVE BOARD MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2023:

Board member Chris McKinney moved that the minutes of April 19, 2023 be approved. Board member Dave Van Baalen 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, May 17, 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: Mr. Donoho wanted to commend Mr. Chance on his fine presentation of the electric rate increase he presented at the city council meeting. Mr. Donoho stated that Mr. Chance did a marvelous job and should be commended for his presentation.

6.) NEW BUSINESS:

A.) APPROVE RESOLUTION #8 (PER) FOR THE CSO STORAGE PROJECT:

The Board considered Resolution #8 (PER) Preliminary Engineering Report for CSO Storage Project acceptance dated April 2022, that was prepared by the consulting firm of Lochmueller Group Inc.

Board member Chris McKinney made a motion to approve Resolution #8 Preliminary Engineering Report for CSO Storage Project prepared by the consulting firm of Lochmueller Group, Inc. and has been presented to the public at a Public Hearing held April 25, 2023. Board member Richard Donoho seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed unanimously.

B.) APPROVE RESOLUTION #9 (PER) FOR THE CSO 011 SEPARATION PROJECT:

The Board considered Resolution #9 (PER) Preliminary Engineering Report for CSO 011 Separation Project acceptance dated April 2022, that was prepared by the consulting firm of Lochmueller Group Inc.

Board member Richard Donoho made a motion to approve Resolution #9 Preliminary Engineering Report for CSO 011 Separation Project prepared by the consulting firm of Lochmueller Group, Inc. and has been presented to the public at a Public Hearing held April 25, 2023. Board member Jami Edwards seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed unanimously.

C.) APPROVE RESOLUTION #10 (PER) FOR THE PERU UTILITIES WWTP PROJECT:

The Board considered Resolution #10 (PER) Preliminary Engineering Report for Peru Utilities Wastewater Project acceptance dated January 7, 2023, that was prepared by the consulting firm of Hazen and Sawyer, Inc.

Board member Jami Edwards made a motion to approve Resolution #10 Preliminary Engineering Report for WWTP Project prepared by the consulting firm of Hazen and Sawyer, Inc. and has been presented to the public at a Public Hearing held April 25, 2023. Board member Chris McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed unanimously.

D.) APPROVE RESOLUTION #11 (PER) FOR THE MISSISSINEWA LAKE DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS:

The board considered Resolution #11 (PER) Preliminary for the Mississinewa Lake Drinking Water Infrastructure Improvements dated March 23, 2023 that was prepared by the consulting firm of Hazen and Sawyer, Inc..

Board member Richard Donoho made a motion to approve Resolution #11 Preliminary Engineering report for Mississinewa Lake Drinking Water Infrastructure Improvements prepared by Hazen and Sawyer, Inc. and has been presented to the public at a Public Hearing held April 25, 2023. Board member Chris McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

E.) APPROVE RESOLUTION #12 (PER) FOR THE MISSISSINEWA LAKE WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS:

The board considered Resolution #12 (PER) Preliminary for the Mississinewa Lake Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements dated March 23, 2023 that was prepared by the consulting firm of Hazen and Sawyer, Inc.

Board member Jami Edwards made a motion to approve Resolution #12 Preliminary Engineering report for Mississinewa Lake Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements prepared by Hazen and Sawyer, Inc. and has been presented to the public at a Public Hearing held April 25, 2023. Board member Richard Donoho seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

F.) APPROVE AMENDMENT TO LOCHMUELER ENGINEERING AGREEMENT:

The board considered the proposed amendment that would add basic engineering, design, review, permitting, and bidding for the CSO 011 separation portion of the LTCP (south side of the Wabash River).

Board member Chris McKinney made a motion to approve the amended Lochmueller Engineering Agreement. This amendment will increase the original contract amount by \$248,900.00 too and not to exceed cost of \$319,600.00. Board member Richard Donoho seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

G.) APPROVE BID FOR REPLACEMENT TRANSFORMER FOR SMITHFIELD:

The board considered the recommended bid for 3750kVA transformer for the Smithfield Foods expansion project from Mattox in the amount of \$118,845.00.

Board member Chris McKinney made a motion to approve the recommended bid for the Mattox transformer based on price for \$118,845.00. Board member Richard Donoho seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

H.) APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR USE OF PROPERTY FOR THE CIRCUS FESTIVAL PARADE:

The board considered the request of use of Peru Utilities property east of the switching station as a temporary assembly site for horse teams participating in the annual Circus City Festival Parade.

Board member Richard Donoho made a motion to approve the use of property east of the switching station for the Circus City Festival Parade. Board member Chris McKinney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

7.) **CITY ADMINISTRATION UPDATE:** Mayor Hewitt reported the municipal primary election results last night we only had one Republican incumbent that won (Pete Sahaidachny) by one vote. Mayor Hewitt stated it looks like we are going have a brand-new city council come January 1st. Mayor Hewitt wishes them all the luck in the world and hopes everyone treats them with respect. Mayor Hewitt will be out of town for the next scheduled board meeting on May 17th.

8.) **CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE:** Mr. Kern stated as the mayor reported the Primary election was held yesterday and it is going to be a huge change for the city council. Mr. Gustin's name was not on the ballot for re-election, and it has been a pleasure working with him.

Mr. Kern reported that the Peru City Council unanimously approved the increase in utility rates and thanked the council for their support. Peru Municipal Electric Utility schedule of proposed rates, charges, and service conditions will begin on June 1, 2023.

9.) MANAGER’S REPORT:

PERU CITY COUNCIL MEETING: Mr. Chance stated that he appreciates the Peru City Council, Mayor Hewitt’s support and Mr. Kern’s help with the new electric rate increase. Mr. Chance reported that the residential rates will go up 7.5 percent for residential and commercial will go up from 11.5 to 15 percent effective June 1, 2023.

ORIENTATION FOR NEW CITY COUNCIL: Mr. Gustin suggested scheduling an orientation meeting with the new city council members sometime in January. He thought it would help familiarize the new members with the functions and responsibilities of Peru Utilities.

CASS STREET PUMP: Mr. Chance reported that in January of 2022 the board approved the refurbishing of the Cass Street Lift Station Pump, and we received it approximately 2 weeks ago. We hired BBC Pump and Equipment to refurbish the old pump for \$50,101.00. Mr. Beisiegel stated that we have three large pumps in the station and are each capable of pumping 6 million gallons per day and are approximately 7 feet tall.

EAST MAIN STREET LEAD LINE REPLACEMENTS: Mr. Chance reported that DWM is still doing the lead line and meter pit replacements on East Main Street. Monday, they came in early to have holes dug on East Main St./Benton and had to wait on the boring company to show up because of the rain. Mr. Chance wanted to acknowledge what an excellent job the crews are doing replacing the old lead lines and meter pits.

CALIFORNIA POWER COMPANIES ROLL OUT FIXED-RATE BILL PROPOSAL: Mr. Chance reported three major state utility companies are proposing a new way to charge their residential customers, and part of the billing for electricity would be based on income. PG&E, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric filed a joint proposal with the state Public Utilities Commission seeking to add a fixed monthly charge for services, based on household income levels. Households with annual income from \$28,000-\$69,000 would pay \$20 a month in Edison Territory, \$34 a month in SWG & territory and \$30 a month in PG&E territory. Households earning from \$69,000-\$180,000 would pay \$51 a month in Edison and PG&E territories and \$73 a month in SDG&E territory. Those with incomes above \$180,000 would pay \$85 a month in Edison Territory, \$128 a month in SDG&E territory and \$92 a month in PG&E territory. The California Public Utilities Commission would have to approve the proposal and make a final decision by mid-2024. If that happens, changes to bills could be seen as soon as 2025. Mr. Chance stated that they would have to verify income every year and the payroll cost to track that information would be outrageous.

BEYOND PLASTICS & PVC PIPES: Mr. Chance reported that he saw a report warning cities against the use of PVC pipes in water systems. Spearheaded by the nonprofit Beyond Plastics, the 56-page report raised concerns about the health consequences of chemicals in PVC pipe leaching chemicals into drinking water, as well as the environmental impact of their production. Representatives of several trade groups claimed falsehoods and fearmongering littered the report that a coalition of U.S. environmental advocacy groups released last month. Industry leaders told USA Today there is no credible evidence that PVC pipes, which have been used for decades, are unsafe for use in drinking water systems and that multiple studies have shown they are more environmentally friendly than metal pipes. Mr. Beisiegel stated that Peru Utilities installs PEX or copper for service lines and does use PVC pipes for some things.

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

