

**PERU UTILITIES
MINUTES OF THE PERU UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING OF
October 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, September 20, 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, Dave Van Baalen and Jami Edwards. Others present Joshua Chance, Alice Hartley, Michael Biesenbach, Tom Gustin-City Council Liason and Dustin Kern-Attorney. Absent: Board Member-Chris McKinney, Mayor Miles Hewitt, Jamin Beisiegel and Wayne Brindle On teams: Kathleen Plowthow-City Council Liason

1.) APPROVE BOARD MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2023:

Board member Richard Donoho moved that the minutes of September 20, 2023 be approved. Board member Jami Edwards seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.

2.) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

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

3.) NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting will be held on-site Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Team-Teaching Room.

4.) PUBLIC COMMENT: None

5.) OLD BUSINESS: None

6.) NEW BUSINESS:

A.) INTRODUCTION TO THE PERU MUNICIPAL SEWAGE WORKS PRELIMINARY RATE ANALYSIS:

Mr. Chance presented the Peru Municipal Sewage Works Preliminary Rate Analysis to the board members and will be presented to the Peru City Council in November. The analysis was formulated by Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, an accounting firm from Indianapolis, IN. The schedules presented were unaudited and limited information for the purpose of discussion and consideration by the appropriate officer, officials, and advisor of the Peru Municipal Sewage Works. The analysis contained comparison of fund balances with minimum balances recommended, schedule of estimated project costs and funding, schedule of amortization of proposed sewage works revenue bonds and schedule of present and proposed rates and charges-preliminary and subject to change.

Mr. Chance explained that there will be four phases in the proposed rates and charges, Phase I represents a 41.1% across-the-board increase in present rates and charges, Phase II a 41.1% across-the-board increase in Phase II rates and charges, Phase III represents a 25.5% across-the-board increase in Phase II rates and charges, Phase IV represents a 20.7% across-the board increase in Phase III rates and charges. Mr. Chance stated that surrounding communities are experiencing similar increases to keep up with the sewer separation requirements. Mr. Van Baalen suggested that Peru Utilities needs to inform the public by mailers and public meetings to ensure that the customers of Peru Utilities are aware of the LTCP requirement increases and the new requirements. Ms. Edwards suggested a question and answers for the public and to share that information on the Peru Utilities website. Mr. Chance said he plans on informing the residents through mailers, social media, and Public Meetings to be scheduled in November with Baker Tilly Advisors and the engineers with Hazen and Sawyer present for the LTCP public information.

7.) **CITY ADMINISTRATION UPDATE:** Mayor Hewitt-absent

8.) **CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE:** Mr. Kern stated he had nothing to report at this time.

9.) **MANAGER’S REPORT:**

Receivership/Bourne End Trailer Court:

Mr. Chance has asked Mr. Kern the city attorney to pursue receivership of the Bourne End Trailer Court, Peru IN. A receivership is a court-appointed tool that can help creditors to recover funds they’re owed. Mr. Chance stated that the Bourne End Trailer Court owes Peru Utilities \$61,000.00 on their last month’s bill.

Dodge Ram 5500 Truck Purchase:

Mr. Chance clarified the purchase of a 2024 Dodge Ram 5500 truck and the longevity of that model. Mr. Chance stated that they do look at recall and statistics on the vehicles before they purchase them for the utilities and wanted to assure the board of the purchase.

EPA PFAS Testing Results:

Mr. Chance reported we tested for PFAS in the Peru water, collection date in July and we received the results back in August. The report stated that Peru Water Department detected **no samples** above EPA health advisory. Peru water has no harmful chemicals like perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooactane sulfonate (PPFOS) and PFAS in our drinking water.

2023 Lead and Copper Testing:

Mr. Chance reported that the Federal and State government mandates that we test water for lead and copper annually. Mr. Chance stated that Peru Utilities received the results and the lead parts per billion action level is 15 and our level was 7, less than half. The copper testing action level is 1.3 parts per million and Peru Utilities water was .16 for the copper level. Mr. Chance stated that Peru Utilities was well below the action level for lead and copper in Peru Water for 2023.

Annual Budget:

Mr. Chance stated that the superintendents are working on next year’s budget, and he will be presenting it to the board in November. We are looking at an upgrade to INCODE 10 software for the billing and payroll system, it has a lead time of 12 months. Mr. Chance reported that it will be presented to the board in November and will be added to next year’s budget.

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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