

**PERU UTILITIES
MINUTES OF THE PERU UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING OF
NOVEMBER 20, 2019**

The Peru Utilities Service Board held a meeting at the Peru office at 335 East Canal Street, Peru, Indiana, on November 20, 2019. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Akers at 4:00 p.m. pursuant to notice as required by law. Absent: M. Costin. Board members present S. Akers, D. Van Baalen, M. Burnell and J. Edwards. Others present: Attorney Dustin Kern, J. Chance, B. Tillett, J. Beisiegel, J. Clark, B. Hall, and M. Ramsey – City Council Liaison.

1.) APPROVE BOARD MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 6, 2019:

Mrs. Edwards moved to accept the Board minutes of November 6, 2019, meeting as mailed. Mr. Burnell abstained because he was not present at the November 6 meeting. Mr. Van Baalen seconded the motion. Motion carried 3-in favor 1-abstention.

2.) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

A motion was made by Mr. Burnell, seconded by Mr. Van Baalen to approve the claims for payment as presented. Motion carried.

3.) NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in the Utility Service Boardroom.

4.) PUBLIC COMMENT: None

5.) OLD BUSINESS: None

6.) NEW BUSINESS:

A.) APPROVE 2020 SERVICE BOARD MEETING DATES:

Mrs. Edwards moved to accept the 2020 Service Board meeting dates as scheduled. Mr. Burnell seconded the motion and the motion carried.

B.) APPROVE 1ST QUARTER 2020 ELECTRIC RATES – TRACKER ADJUSTMENT:

Mr. Chance asked for acceptance of the 1st Quarter 2020 Electric Rates-Tracker Adjustment. For the 1st Quarter 2020, the tracker will have an average increase in its schedule of rates for electricity sold in the amount of \$0.00242 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Residential customers will experience a decrease of \$0.722 per 1,000 kilowatts. The 1st Quarter 2020 Electric Rate Tracker filing will be on the City Council's December 2 agenda for consideration.

Mrs. Edwards moved to approve the 1st Quarter 2020 Electric Rates Tracker Adjustment. Mr. Van Baalen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C.) APPROVE PURCHASE OF ONE 2,000 KVA THREE-PHASE UNDERGROUND PAD MOUNT TRANSFORMER:

Mr. Chance explained Snavely Machine is expanding, as they need more capacity. Since time was of the essence, we were only able to secure one bid from Solomon for \$26,575.00 for one (1) 2,000 KVA underground pad mount transformer.

Mrs. Edwards made a motion to approve the purchase of one (1) 2000 KVA Three-Phase Underground Pad Mount Transformer from Solomon for the total cost of \$26,575.00. Mr. Van Baalen second the motion. Motion carried.

D.) APPROVE EMERGENCY REPAIR OF WASTEWATER CLARIFIER:

Mr. Chance and Mr. Beisiegel explained to the Board the nature of the problem pertaining to the No. 2 Clarifier at the Peru Wastewater Treatment Plant, which required Mr. Chance to preauthorize \$62,325.00 for the repair on an emergency basis. Mr. Chance asked for the Board’s approval to contract with Maddox Industrial Group to obtain a new center drive for the No. 2 Clarifier and install it for a total cost of \$62,325.00

Mr. Van Baalen made a motion to approve hiring Maddox Industrial Group to obtain a new center drive for the No. 2 Clarifier and install it for a total cost of \$62,325.00. Mr. Burnell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7.) **CITY ADMINISTRATION UPDATE:** *None*

8.) **CITY ATTORNEY UPDATE:**

Attorney Dustin Kern had received the revised water tower agreement from AT & T, he recommended a change; AT & T is now reviewing that agreement.

9.) **MANAGER’S REPORT:**

DECEMBER QUARTERLY COMMUNICATIONS BREAKFAST:

Peru Utilities December Quarterly Communications Breakfast is Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 7:30 a.m. at the Miami County 4-H Community Building. Employee service awards will be presented.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR GRISSOM WATERWORKS:

A public hearing is scheduled for December 2, 2019, at 5:45 p.m. regarding the Grissom Waterworks Rates (Ordinance 24-2019) in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 35 South Broadway, Peru, Indiana.

GRISSOM TOUR:

Mr. Chance will conduct a tour of the Grissom facility for any interested City Council Member.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & RURAL AFFAIRS (OCRA) APPLICATION:

The OCRA application will be filed this week; Grissom ratepayers were notified of the new rates via mail last Friday.

VISITOR PROCEDURES:

Mr. Chance discussed the new visitor sign-in protocol requirement with the Board. He explained that given the times we live in today’s security is of the utmost importance to keep employees, customers, and visitors safe. Mr. Chance noted that he has heard through the grapevine that some retirees have taken offense to this new procedure, and feel these measures are directed towards them. This is regrettable because nothing could be farther from the truth; we are just trying to remain compliant in today’s world.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 19:

Mr. Chance and IMPA staff attended last night’s Miami County Council meeting where IMPA and MCEDA made a presentation, which proposed a purchase of 73 acres behind Blair Ridge for Peru 2 & 3 solar parks. The property will have to be rezoned in order to receive a tax abatement. Mr. Chance pointed out that the proposed Solar Park has nothing to do with windmills or anything of that nature. This is an additional 1,200 megawatts of renewable energy for Peru; Mr. Chance felt that this is a positive selling point for the community. The intention is to break ground in 2020.

NEW LINE TRUCK:

We have just received the line truck that was approved in February. Next year the Board will be asked to approve the bidding procedure for the disposal of the old line truck.

CLAWSON COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Chance discussed with the Board the recovery of \$24,000.00 paid to Clawson Communications for work on the fiber project, which was felt unsatisfactory. Initially they have refused to reimburse us the \$24,000; however, Attorney Dustin Kern will continue to pursue the matter.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUESTS FOR FESTIVALS & EVENTS:

Mr. Chance explained to the Board that the cost and use of the equipment and electric usage for festivals and events within the City of Peru are becoming somewhat of a burden to the Utilities. While he felt that community service was important, ultimately the ratepayers absorb the costs for these types of events. He stated that the Line Department is in the process of making meter setups to measure the amount of power we are actually providing, which will give us a clear view. Mr. Chance asked the Board for their thoughts on the matter. The Board agreed that Mr. Chance should establish a budget reserved for these types of events. Mr. Chance said he plans to talk with the organizers of the festivals to come up with a plan that is reasonable for everybody.

November 20, 2019 – Cont’d.

10.) ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before the Board, Mr. Burnell made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Edwards seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned.

Matthew Burnell, Secretary Peru Utilities Service Board