



**Marion Utilities**  
1540 N Washington St.  
Marion, IN 46952  
[www.marionutilities.com](http://www.marionutilities.com)

## Service Board

### **BOARD MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 19, 2023 MEETING**

The Marion Utility Service Board held their meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the L.E.A.D. Center, Building 101, at Marion Utilities, 1540 N. Washington Street, Marion, Indiana.

Roll was called and those board members present were: Robert Logan, Chairman; Doug Carl; Bill Dorsey; Al Green; Von Jackson; Herschel Lewis, and Dr. Jayda Monteiro.

Also present at the meeting were: Chuck Binkerd, Director; Pat Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering & Solid Waste; Robin Shrader, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance; Mike Conner, Attorney; and Colleen Adkins, Accounting Assistant.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS**

Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Carl, to add Litigation Matter and 11<sup>th</sup> & Adams Street Project to the agenda as Items E and F under New Business. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Dorsey moved, seconded by Mr. Carl, to approve the meeting minutes of October 5, 2023. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **UPDATE ON PROJECTS**

Mr. Pinkerton reported that the cured-in-place projects had yet to start. The cold snap and rain didn't help with the timeline.

#### **TRANSFERS & PAY REQUESTS**

There were none.

#### **WATER METER PURCHASE**

Mrs. Shrader explained that in preparation for the meter overhaul, the contractor has offered to sell available meters on their shelf at a 10% discount. This would equate to a \$40,000 savings. The meters would be part of the overhaul and needed at some point. In order to make the purchase, an additional loan would be needed from Wastewater. The purchase price is approximately \$400,000. This would be toward the \$4.6-\$4.8 million. The additional loan needed from Wastewater to Water would be \$400,000 for the meter purchase. The funds will be reimbursable once the State Revolving Fund loan comes through in the first quarter of 2024. Due to guidelines, the money will need to come from Water instead of Wastewater. Jennifer Wilson, Crowe, stated that it will look better on paper for accounting for the loan to come from Wastewater to Water for the purchase. Mrs. Shrader then presented Resolution





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9-2023 which would authorize the loan should it please the Board. The wording matched that of the Resolution presented for the August loan. Mr. Carl asked how many meters would be purchased. Mrs. Shrader said just over 700. Mr. Dorsey asked if any contracted meter readers had been displaced. Mrs. Shrader said none as of now and that would probably still be the case in six months. Mrs. Shrader said that there were only three contracted meter readers as of now due to resignations. Mr. Carl asked if the meters would be installed soon. Mrs. Shrader said that the Distribution Crew was replacing meters due to maintenance. It would make sense for the Distribution Crew to install new meters now instead of replacing them with an old model and then going back out to the same location in a matter of months to then install a new model meter. Mr. Binkerd said that because SRF is paying for the cost of the installation, it has to be bid out. The criteria were above and beyond the normal requirements so the meters being purchased would be held onto until the bidding process was completed and would then be installed on a larger scale. Mr. Carl asked how much the SRF funding was. Mr. Binkerd answered just under \$11 million. Mr. Binkerd said that the closing is at the end of February so funds would be disbursed after the closing. Mr. Carl asked if a portion had been forgiven as far as repayment. Mr. Binkerd said yes, \$1 million had been forgiven. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve Resolution 9-2023 authorizing a \$400,000 loan from Wastewater to Water for the purchase of meters. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

### **2024 BUDGET INITIAL CONVERSATION**

Mr. Binkerd reminded the Board that it was budget time. The 2024 Budgets were presented to the Board. The Water/Solid Waste and Wastewater/Stormwater Committees would meet before the next regularly scheduled meeting to review the budgets in detail. As a cursory review, Mr. Binkerd pointed out that regular salaries included a 3.2% COLA as set by the Social Security Administration. It also included 3% to cover step increases for those employees that are not stepped out. The employee health insurance reflected an 8% increase. The plan would be self-insured and insured at 120%. Mr. Binkerd noted that chemical bids will not be in until November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Those bids can be shocking. Mr. Binkerd also pointed out that capital projects are laid out on page three of the budgets. Mr. Binkerd also mentioned that he was waiting on the projected revenue figures from Jennifer Wilson. Mrs. Shrader noted that there were some figures missing on the budget for the bonds. Jennifer Wilson was going to provide those figures as well. Mr. Binkerd asked that if any board member had a question that he/she please reach out to him.

### **EMERGENCY PAVING QUOTES KEM RD WATER LEAK**

Mrs. Shrader explained that she missed the last board meeting because she was at Kem Road where there were six main breaks within a 30 hour span. Five of the breaks were on the 12" main on Kem Road and the sixth one was on a 6" line on Guinevere. The work was wrapped up shortly after the last board meeting. There was a lot of pavement damage. The last of the leaks was in someone's front yard,





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but the pavement in front of it buckled because of the volume of water. There is an 800 section of road that will need to be reworked. There were two quotes received. Mr. Pinkerton said that Mike Graft assisted with determining the needed repairs. Mr. Graft spoke to E&B and Brooks as they were the two closest companies available to perform the work. The work will include milling down 8" of asphalt, repairing the stone bedding, recompacting it, laying 6.5" of base with 1.5" of surface. The lowest quote was Brooks. Their quote was \$162,000. E&B bid \$214,389. Mr. Pinkerton said it would probably take 1-2 weeks before Brooks could start the work. Mr. Carl asked if both sides would be repaired. Mr. Pinkerton said yes, the repair would be curb to curb. The quotes also included some spot repairs. Mr. Carl asked where this would be paid from. Mr. Binkerd said it was an unbudgeted expense and would have to be paid for out of cash as an emergency repair. Mr. Green moved, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve the quote submitted by Brooks in the amount of \$162,000. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

### **LITIGATION MATTER**

Mr. Conner stated as discussed in the Executive Session, the Administrative Team has recommended that the Utilities retain Bose McKinney and Evans for the purposes of initiating litigation on behalf of the Utilities over a very large construction project which failed. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Carl, to approve the hiring of Bose McKinney and the filing of the suit on behalf of the Utilities to try to recover the costs and damages to the Utilities for the failure of the equipment. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Conner stated that further details of the litigation will come out once the complaint is filed in court as it will become a public record.

### **11<sup>TH</sup> & ADAMS STREET PROJECT**

Mr. Pinkerton said that the sewer going up the alley needs repaired as it is not flowing. Two quotes were received as Bragg did not submit a quote. Keith Sullivan was the low quote at \$52,103.50. Dave's Excavating submitted a quote in the amount of \$55,924. Mr. Pinkerton said that the cost was over \$300 per foot. In 2019, the cost would have been \$150 per foot. Mr. Logan asked if the difference was because of materials. Mr. Pinkerton said it was because of the increase in materials and labor. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the quoted submitted by Keith Sullivan. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

### **SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

#### **P. Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering & Solid Waste**

Mr. Pinkerton had nothing to report.

#### **R. Shrader, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance**

Mrs. Shrader reported that she attended WEFTEC which was very interesting to attend. She thanked the board for the opportunity.





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**C. Binkerd, Utility Director**

Mr. Binkerd had nothing further.

**BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

There were no board comments.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Mr. Logan thanked for everyone attending the Executive Session and the regular meeting. He wished everyone a good evening.

The next meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 2, 2023.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Carl, to adjourn the meeting. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 5:57 p.m.

Robert Logan, Chairman

Marion Utilities Service Board

ATTEST

Misty Humphries

Its Secretary

