



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

**Service Board**

## **BOARD MINUTES OF THE JUNE 15, 2023 MEETING**

The Marion Utility Service Board held their meeting on Thursday, June 15, 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; Bill Dorsey; Al Green; and Von Jackson. Doug Carl and Herschel Lewis were absent.

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

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

Mr. Dorsey moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to add Juneteenth Contribution the agenda under New Business. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Dorsey moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2023 meeting. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

### **UPDATE ON PROJECTS**

Mr. Pinkerton reported that the Manor Drive Storm Sewer project was scheduled to start the next week. The project was going to be challenging as there were a lot of utilities in the area.

### **TRANSFERS & PAY REQUESTS**

There were none.

### **HIGH STRENGTH WASTE CONTRACT APPROVAL**

Mr. Binkerd explained that a lot of work has been done to produce as much methane gas as could be done onsite over the last few years. From time to time, private company waste loads have been brought in as well. Pam Kirklin has been working with a company called Nutrition 101. Nutrition 101 hauls waste product from organizations that process food products. This type of waste serves as a beneficial feedstock for the plant. Mrs. Kirklin has been running some experiments to determine how those loads effect the plant. The experiments have been successful. Mr. Binkerd said he would like to enter into a longer term agreement (12 months) in order to receive more loads. Mr. Conner said he had looked at the agreement and suggested changes had been made to his satisfaction. Mr. Binkerd said the biggest item for the Board's



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consideration was the fee charged. The current fee is \$0.09 per gallon. Because of the extreme value of the material, Mr. Binkerd recommended charging Nutrition 101 \$0.06 per gallon. This price would still cover the cost of operations and would realize a \$213,000 savings that could be reinvested into the plant as the plant could run 100% on methane gas. Mr. Binkerd said he thought this was a great situation and opportunity. Mr. Jackson clarified that the agreement was only for 12 months initially. Mr. Binkerd said Mr. Jackson was correct. Mr. Jackson asked if data would be shared. Mr. Binkerd said that there was a nondisclosure agreement that Mr. Conner had reviewed, but data could be shared with Nutrition 101 and vice versa. Mr. Dorsey asked if loads could be received 24 hours a day. Mr. Binkerd said yes. Mr. Dorsey asked about the smell. Mrs. Shrader explained that the smell was being worked on. For instance, a lid was being looked at for the tank. Mr. Jackson asked if there had been any complaints. Mr. Binkerd answered no. However, this is a wastewater treatment plant and while everything was being done to control any odor there is only so much that can be done. Mrs. Shrader said that this was not a new process either. Since the inception of this plant, methane has been produced. Mr. Logan asked if the loads would be delivered in such a fashion that it would not create any additional burdens by multiple loads being delivered at the same time. Mrs. Shrader said that there were safe guards in place, and the plant would not be overburdened. Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the contract. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **APPROVAL TO PURCHASE 2120 S. HOME AVENUE**

Mr. Pinkerton said the property at 2120 S. Home Avenue was a property that would be beneficial to purchase for the Combined Sewer Overflow projects. Resolution 5-2023 would provide for the purchase of the 2120 S. Home Avenue. Mr. Pinkerton said that he had previously approached the owner about purchasing the real estate. The owner was not interested at that time, but he was interested in selling now. The purchase price is \$15,000 and the lot size was 2/3 of an acre. Mr. Conner had the title researched. There was a lien that would be coming off of the purchase price, and the owner has been notified of that. Mr. Conner stated that he would write up a purchase agreement, a check would be issued to the closing agent, the lien would be paid, the owner would receive the balance after all costs were paid, and the Board would receive the deed. Mr. Dorsey moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to approve the purchase of 2120 S. Home Avenue as detailed in Resolution 5-2023. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **3301 S ADAMS STREET ADJUSTMENT REQUEST**

Mr. Binkerd stated 3301 S. Adams Street was the former Thomson Facility. The City has been trying to redevelop the property. There has been a deal struck with Land Resources and Royalties LLC, and they were the deeded owner according to the County GIS. The City was trying to clean up any issues associated with the property. The City pays stormwater fees and fire protection fees in the form of sprinkler head fees. The City was current on the bill. The City realized that they have been paying sales tax on the sprinkler head fees as well as some penalties. The City was asking for an adjustment in the amount of \$2,602.68 for taxes and \$1,778 for penalties for a total of \$4,380.68. Mr. Binkerd said that he thought the adjustment



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was reasonable. Mr. Dorsey moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the adjustment request. All board members in attendance voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

### **JUNETEENTH CONTRIBUTION**

Mr. Binkerd said that the Juneteenth celebration was coming up. The Board has historically supported the celebration at the \$250 level. Mr. Binkerd recommended supporting the celebration in the same amount this year. Mr. Dorsey moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to approve the sponsorship at the \$250 level. Mr. Logan, Mr. Dorsey, and Mr. Jackson voted aye. Mr. Green abstained as he served on the Juneteenth Committee. Motion carried by a majority of votes.

### **SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

#### **P. Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering**

Mr. Pinkerton reported that May was another heavy month for solid waste. There were over 59 tons per day and over 89 trips to the landfill. Mr. Pinkerton said May was the third heaviest month on record. Mr. Pinkerton said that the increased Transfer Station fees went into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup> so he was curious to see how those would affect loads.

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

Mrs. Shrader reported that a week ago the digester lid was removed and went very smooth. The lid had been cut up and hauled off for scrap. Mrs. Shrader happily stated that someone had been hired for the Wastewater Maintenance Technician position.

#### **C. Binkerd, Utility Director**

Mr. Binkerd provided an update on the rate increase. There was a settlement reached with the OUC. The IURC was scheduled to hear the settlement next Friday. Everyone was ready to move forward should the IURC approve the settlement. Mr. Binkerd said that there was an application submitted for State Revolving Funding through the Indiana Finance Authority. There were 52 applicants. Marion Utilities was in the 24<sup>th</sup> position. Mr. Binkerd said that funding would either be in this fiscal year or the next fiscal year which would be 2024.

### **BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

There were no comments.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Mr. Logan thanked everyone for their attendance and reiterated the importance of attendance. Mr. Logan also thanked Ms. Adkins for her attendance and help this evening.

The next meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 20, 2023 due to the holiday.





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

Meeting adjourned 6:02 p.m.

Robert Logan, Chairman  
Marion Utilities Service Board

ATTEST

Misty Humphries  
Its Secretary



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