



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

**Service Board**

## **BOARD MINUTES OF THE JULY 20, 2023 MEETING**

The Marion Utility Service Board held their meeting on Thursday, July 20, 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; Reverend 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 and Solid Waste; Robin Shrader, Assistant Director for Operations and Maintenance; and Misty Humphries, Secretary.

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

There were no additions or deletions.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2023 meeting. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

### **FINANCIALS**

Mr. Binkerd presented the May 2023 financials. The Water Utility experienced a loss. Mr. Binkerd said this was due to the project at Cherry Street & Nelson that was approximately \$43,000. Mr. Binkerd said that the Water Utility has been in the red for a while and that was why a rate increase was necessary. Mr. Binkerd added that a loan would be discussed at the next board meeting. He noted that the ending balance has not been below \$1 million in 25 years. The loan would come from the Wastewater Utility as there was almost \$4 million in the Long Term Control Plan fund. The Stormwater Utility expenses were slightly up, but revenues were average. Other than that, there were no unusual occurrences. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Reverend Green, to approve the financials. Dr. Monteiro abstained as this was her first board meeting. All other board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

### **UPDATE ON PROJECTS**

Mr. Pinkerton reported that the Manor Drive storm sewer easement had been worked on by Dave's Excavating the last couple of weeks. It should be complete by Monday. Mr. Pinkerton reminded the board that there was a lot of other utilities in the area, and there was a lot of additional work involved because of those utilities.



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### **TRANSFERS & PAY REQUESTS**

Mr. Pinkerton presented the second and final pay request to Keith Sullivan for the water project at Horton Street, Morton Street, & Harrison Street. The amount payable was \$17,950.70. Mr. Pinkerton also requested the release of retainage in the amount of \$3,570. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Carl, to approve the pay request and release of retainage as presented. Dr. Monteiro abstained as this was her first board meeting. All other board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

### **MARION GIANT BOOSTER SPONSORSHIP REQUEST**

Mr. Binkerd explained that a sponsorship request from the Marion Giants Booster Club was received as well as a sponsorship request from Gilead Ministries that came in this week. The Marion Giant Booster Club has asked for a sponsorship, and there are varying levels. Mr. Binkerd reported that the Board previously sponsored the Boosters at a \$200 level and recommended they do so again. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Carl, to approve a \$200 sponsorship. Dr. Monteiro abstained as this was her first board meeting. All other board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Binkerd said that the Gilead Ministries' sponsorship request was for care cancer patients. The Board sponsored Gilead last year at the \$100 level. Mr. Binkerd recommended that same sponsorship level again. Mr. Dorsey moved, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve the \$100 sponsorship request. Dr. Monteiro abstained as this was her first board meeting. All other board members present voted aye. Motion carried.

### **CUSTOMER REQUESTS: 31<sup>ST</sup> STREET, JEFFRAS AVENUE, 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

Mr. Binkerd said that there were several customer requests, and each one was a little different. Mr. Binkerd asked that the items be assigned to the Water Committee or review. Mr. Logan assigned those items to the Water Committee as requested.

### **SUCCESSION PLANNING UPDATE**

Mrs. Shrader explained that in 2017, she began looking at employee demographics. Mrs. Shrader then presented several slides. She explained that the first slide represented the generations working at Marion Utilities. The Boomer generation had a decline. Gen X was growing in terms of employee population. The Millennial generation had grown as well. Mrs. Shrader pointed out that there was now another slide for Gen Z. Mrs. Shrader said that the part-time employees were included in the demographics. Mrs. Shrader noted that the numbers also included some retirees that have come back as part-time employees. Mr. Dorsey asked if there were any staffing issues as he knew that some positions had to be posted more than once. Mrs. Shrader said no. There was some reshuffling this week, but when paperwork was returned everything would be taken care of. Mrs. Shrader then reviewed the retirement eligibility and explained that the data was determined by using the rules of 85, 65+10, and 60+15. Mr. Binkerd said that this was a better outlook than in past years. Mr. Jackson asked how many of those





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### **SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

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

Mr. Pinkerton reported that for Solid Waste June was another record month There were 1,075 tons of waste brought in which averaged 59.72 tons/day and resulting in 99 trips to landfill which was another record. 117 tons were drop offs to Transfer Station. People were bringing in load after load to the Transfer Station. Mr. Pinkerton said we'll see how the new rates affect numbers. There were a lot of contractors coming in as well. Mr. Jackson asked if the contractors were from the area or out of the area. Mr. Pinkerton said that a lot of them were local, but there were also some from neighboring counties. Mr. Jackson asked if there were records for those coming from out of the area. He also asked if those dropping off had to present an id. Mr. Pinkerton said that identification was not required. Mr. Pinkerton said he also keeps graphs of other data that could be shared.

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

Mrs. Shrader reported that there was one month from the Open House. It was scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mrs. Shrader said that the Open House was being staffed a little differently. The week prior to the event, supervisors were going to reschedule work time. Employees will receive time off during the week so that the Open House time will be paid time without incurring overtime.

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

Mr. Binkerd provided an update on the State Revolving Fund financing and rate case. It was determined that the median household for the City was \$50,000. This was because Shady Hills was considered part of the City. The median household was actually \$37,000. Mr. Binkerd said he was hoping and pushing for some grant funding. Mr. Binkerd shared that the rate would be





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#### **BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

There were no board comments at this time.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Mr. Logan thanked everyone for their attendance. Mr. Logan shared that Mr. Conner had an accident and subsequent health scare. Mr. Logan extended a welcome to Dr. Jayda Monteiro.

The next meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 3, 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 6:03 p.m.

Robert Logan, Chairman  
Marion Utilities Service Board

ATTEST

Misty Humphries  
Its Secretary





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