



Marion Utilities

1540 N Washington St.
Marion, IN 46952
www.marionutilities.com

BOARD MINUTES OF THE MAY 19, 2022 MEETING

The Marion Utility Service Board held their meeting on Thursday, May 19, 2022 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: Bob Logan, Chairman; Doug Carl; Bill Dorsey; Al Green; Von Jackson; and Herschel Lewis. Mia Erickson participated via teleconference.

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; Mike Conner, Attorney; Tiffany Snyder, Accounting/Billing Coordinator; Misty Humphries, Secretary; Mike Flynn, City of Marion Chief of Staff; James Loftis, City of Marion Citywide Maintenance Superintendent; Julie Fauser, City of Marion Parks & Recreation Program & Events Director; Taylere McCoy, City of Marion Parks & Recreation Maintenance & Operations Assistant; and Dr. Moore City of Marion Parks & Recreation Board.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Dorsey moved, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2022 regular meeting. All board members physically present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIALS

Mrs. Snyder presented the March, 2022 financials. Water and Wastewater had a loss for March due to capital spending. Water's cash declined due to payments on the meter pilot study and the Valley & Jackson water main project. Wastewater's cash declined due to a payment on Phase 2 of the Long Term Control Plan. The team at Crowe provided line graphs so that a story of sales could be viewed. Water sales were just below average while Storm Water's was above. Solid Waste sales were just at average. Wastewater sales were about \$60,000 higher than average. This didn't result in additional cash since accounts receivable increased by \$70,000. The increase in sales may be due to the timing of when the annual rate increase and change in rates was implemented. Mrs. Snyder called the board's attention to Page 10 which showed the operating expenses. She stated that Water, Sewer, and Storm were at or just below average. Solid Waste's expense was approximately \$5,000 lower. Mr. Logan noted that the Wastewater cash looked as though there was as substantial balance however it was earmarked for the Long Term Control Plan and the Construction fund for projects. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to approve the March financials. All board members physically present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Logan thanked Mrs. Snyder for her work on the financials.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS

Mr. Pinkerton said the Cured-in-Place Lining Projects for this year would be sent out for advertisement tomorrow. The bids would be brought back to the board for review and approval in a couple of meetings.

TRANSFERS & PAY REQUESTS

Mrs. Shrader presented pay request number 10 in the amount of \$768,695.35 payable to James S. Jackson. Mrs. Shrader said that this payment would equate to 70.7% of the contract completion. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the pay request. All board members physically present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

MATTER PARK POND RENOVATION PRESENTATION

Mr. Binkerd welcomed Ms. McCoy and everyone from the City as well as the Parks & Recreation Board and Department. Ms. McCoy stated that a project was being worked on at the fishing pond. The pond has been utilized by many organizations including Marion Utilities. Ms. McCoy explained that the pond was a system with a south and west inflow stream and an outflow system. The pond has been used for catch and release. However, there is a desire to expand the pond. She presented some images of the area along with the different wildlife there. Ms. McCoy said unfortunately, the area has degraded over the years. In 2019, Mr. Garland helped to clean up the outflow; but he wanted to take this project farther. The Parks Department and Board would like to expand the project as well and do a major cleanup and renovation. The Parks Department worked with EcoSystems Connections Institute on a feasibility study. When the study was completed, it was found that approximately six feet of sediment was present. The project plan described was a multiphase plan which included dredging the pond and renovate the pond, making the pond more accessible to public; renovate the two inflow streams to help with leave control on the west stream and to make the south stream more natural looking; and restocking of the bond with native fish. Ms. McCoy also stated that if enough funds were raised, the Parks & Recreation Board and Department would also like to renovate the artisan well. The project would be important not only to the Parks Department and Board, but to the Community as a whole. Ms. McCoy said that the Parks Department & Board would welcome to opportunity to partner with organizations like Marion Utilities, Marion Health, and the local school districts. Ms. McCoy said that the project was budgeted at \$160,000. A matching grant has been awarded through the Community Foundation where crowd funding of \$20,000 will be matched. They have also applied for grants from the Department of Natural Resources' Enhancement Program and the Boren Foundation in Upland. Ms. McCoy said that she believes the project would be able to receive full funding by utilizing crowd funding and the grants. Mr. Binkerd added that there has been nothing but a great relationship and partnership with the Parks Board, department, staff, and crew. Mr. Binkerd said that the project fits within the scope and purpose of Marion Utilities which includes environmental stewardship. Mr. Binkerd said he would certainly support this project. Mr. Carl asked how much was being applied for under the Department of Natural Resources' grant. Ms. McCoy answered \$50,000 and added that there was a 20% match under that grant. Having the crowd funding with the Community Foundation would make the project more competitive for the Department of Natural Resources' grant. Mr. Binkerd said he would recommend supporting this project in the amount of \$2,500. Mr. Carl asked if this would be matched by the Community Foundation. Ms. McCoy stated yes. Mr. Logan said he would like to see the board partner at that level as well. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve supporting the project in the amount of \$2,500. All board members physically present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Dorsey asked where the funds would come from. Mr. Binkerd stated that the Wastewater and Storm Water Utilities would be able to cover the donation. Mr. Dorsey asked if this would fall under the Donation and Sponsorship Program.

Mr. Binkerd said this would fall outside of that program. Ms. McCoy expressed many thanks from the Parks & Recreation Board and Department. Chief of Staff Flynn thanked the board on behalf of himself and the Mayor as well.

QUOTES TO RECOAT THE EXTERIOR OF DIGESTERS 3 & 4

Mrs. Shrader explained that Digesters three and four are some of the oldest structures. The digesters have been coated with brick; however, the brick has been failing for quite some time. In the best interest of maximizing dollars, the crews have removed the brick as it did not serve a functional purpose. Mrs. Shrader said that there is some rippling on the digesters. Quotes were sought to help smooth out the concrete, finishing the concrete, and coating it with a substance that would outlive everyone in the room. Mrs. Shrader received two quotes. Conco Spray Solutions quoted \$114,000. Advanced Rehabilitation Technology quoted \$185,000. Mrs. Shrader said that \$600,000 was budgeted. Mrs. Shrader recommended Conco Spray Solutions as they had the low quote. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Carl, to approve the quote of Conco Spray Solutions in the amount of \$114,650. All board members physically present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMONWEALTH ENGINEERING

Mr. Binkerd said that the Long Term Control Plan has been worked on for many years. Part of the work has been to develop relationships with engineers that could be trusted. Mr. Binkerd stated that Lawson Fisher has been working on the project for its duration. Jeff McKean has been the primary contact and lead engineer for the majority of the time. There have been some changes at Lawson Fisher. Jeff McKean has left. Jeff McKean's predecessor, Randy Lindley, has also left. Mr. Binkerd said he would like to keep working with Lawson Fisher moving forward, but engage with Commonwealth in order to keep Jeff McKean involved since he was the engineer on the project. Mr. Binkerd explained that Mr. McKean would work much as Judy Cleland did for the past 10 years before she retired and provide general oversight for the other engineers. Mr. Binkerd presented a Standard hourly Rate & Reimbursable Expenses Schedule. He stated that nothing on the schedule seemed out of line. Mr. Dorsey asked if there was a timeframe for the contract. Mr. Binkerd said it would be a year. If further assistance was needed, the contract would be brought back annually for review. Mr. Dorsey moved, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve engaging with Commonwealth Engineering. All board members physically present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

MS4 UPDATE

Mr. Pinkerton presented a MS4 update to the board. He started by explaining that MS4 stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. The State handed down regulations approximately 15 years ago to make the communities look at what was being discharged to the rivers, streams, and creeks through the storm sewers. Mr. Pinkerton said that the City, Marion Utilities, and Indiana Wesleyan University partner together on this issue. There are two required meetings annually to update the public. This will count as one of those meetings. Mr. Pinkerton explained that the state came up with six minimum control areas or Best Management Practices. The first two Public Education & Outreach and Public Participation/Involvement are handled by the City. The third, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, was being solely taken care of by the Utility's Sewer Maintenance workgroup. The fourth and fifth best practices, Construction Site Runoff and Post Construction Runoff Control, were headed up by the City. The sixth and last best practice Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping, was being addressed by everyone. Any City owned property must pay attention to facilities management. Mr. Pinkerton shared that in 2021, Sewer Maintenance cleaned 3,790 inlets, televised 3,726 feet of storm sewers, and swept 1,480 tons of debris from the street. Solid Waste collected 11,258 tons of municipal solid waste, picked up 2,661 large items; and recycled 103 tons of materials. Mr. Pinkerton said that last year not much was able to be done as far as public outreach due to COVID. However, some of the events where the Utility was able to share the MS4 program have included

Earth Day, Community day, Utility Open House, Neighborhood Association Meetings, pamphlets in Customer Service, and through social media. Public participation has usually done through neighborhood cleanups. IWU has used student projects to clean up the river and neighborhoods.

Mr. Pinkerton concluded by discussing future changes. Those included:

- Information regarding the water quality of the receiving streams. If the EPA establishes a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) for the receiving stream then the community may have to implement additional measures to address those pollutant levels.
- IDEM expects MCM #5 to include an ordinance that requires all new development to include storm runoff detention that will not allow the peak runoff rate to exceed the 2/10/100 year storm events
- The community will have to demonstrate that the BMP's achieve an 80% reduction in TSS

Mr. Binkerd said that the environmental resources group do some work on the MS4 as well as inspectors in Mr. Pinkerton's workgroup. Mr. Jackson wanted to know if Homeland Security would get involved with this program. Mr. Binkerd said he doubted it, but who knows what would happen in the future.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS

P. Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering & Solid Waste

Mr. Pinkerton reported that the Solid Waste group handled 54.9 tons of trash daily in April. He also reported that the landfill was going to start applying a 5% surcharge due to fuel prices. Mr. Binkerd added that the ordinance allows the board to implement a tracker as well. It has never been implemented before, but if fuel prices keep sky rocketing, it may have to be implemented. Mr. Logan said the cost of diesel was going up from the costs originally budgeted.

R. Shrader, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance

Mrs. Shrader said that on April 29th 5:45 a.m. she received a call from the operator that there was a water pipe in administration building next to electrical panel on the first floor that broke. The break took out the fire alarm system, drywall in several areas along with baseboards, furniture, and several items related to the computer systems. Stanley Steamer was called out twice. Once to help with water removal and again to do a deep clean. Mr. Binkerd added that there are some areas that were still wet. Mrs. Shrader said on a more fun note, Anastasia Rosenow, the Laboratory Services Coordinator, participated in the Wastewater Challenge. It was incredibly fun but challenging experience. Mrs. Shrader also shared last Wednesday through Friday she was fortunate enough to spend time at the WEFMAX conference.

C. Binkerd, Utility Director

Mr. Binkerd shared that Mrs. Shrader was featured in The Digester Magazine. Mr. Binkerd stated that Mrs. Shrader had been instrumental in the state organization developing the Leadership Development Institute. Mr. Dorsey asked that the article to be shared with the Board. Mr. Binkerd also reported that the rate case is still being worked on. Right now, data collection and management processes were being poured over. Mr. Binkerd said that as far as COVID 19, it has happily slowed down a lot. The newer variants seem to be spread easily but are not as deadly. The COVID-19 leave benefit had been extended several times by the board. Mr. Binkerd said he would not ask for any further extension of the leave benefit.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

There were no board member comments at this time.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Logan thanked everyone for their attendance. Mr. Logan said he knows that it was a longer meeting, but he was thankful for all of the information shared.

The next meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 2, 2022.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Robert Logan, Chairman
Marion Utilities Service Board

ATTEST



Misty Humphries
Its Secretary