



Marion Utilities

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

Service Board

Memo To: All Utility Board Members
From: Bob Logan, Chairman
Date: September 14, 2021
Re: Agenda for September 16, 2021 Utility Board Meeting

Dear Board Member:

This is to inform you of our Board Meeting to be held Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the L.E.A.D Center Building 101 at Marion Utilities, 1540 North Washington Street, Marion, Indiana.

The following will be the agenda:

I. **ROLL CALL**

II. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

III. **CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS**

IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Regular meeting of August 19, 2021

V. **FINANCIALS**

A. 2021 May Financials

VI. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Update on Projects – P. Pinkerton

B. Extension of EPSLA (Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act)- C. Binkerd





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VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Transfers & Pay Requests - Senior Leadership Team
- B. 1532 W. 38th Street Request- C. Binkerd
- C. Valve & Hydrant Quote- R. Shrader
- D. Approval of O&M Quotes- R. Shrader
- E. Resolution 2-2021 Acceptance of Quitclaim Deeds- P. Pinkerton
- F. Sponsorship Requests- C. Binkerd
- G. Lab Coordinator Placement- R. Shrader

VIII. SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS

- A. Assistant Director for Engineering- P. Pinkerton
- B. Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance- R. Shrader
- C. Utility Director- C. Binkerd

IX. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

X. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

XI. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, October 7, 2021

Robert Logan, Chairman
Marion Utility Service Board

cc: News Media
City Administration/Council
Department Heads





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Service Board

BOARD MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 MEETING

The Marion Utility Service Board held their meeting on Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the L.E.A.D. Center, Building 101, at Marion Utilities, 1540 N. Washington Street, Marion, Indiana.

Before the meeting began, a moment of silence was recognized in honor of Herschel Lewis' mother; Martin Lake, a former board member's husband; and Kelly Combs, a long-time employee, who all passed away recently.

Roll was called and those board members present were: Bob Logan, Chairman; Doug Carl; Bill Dorsey; Al Green; Von Jackson. Mia Erickson 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; Tiffany Snyder, Accounting/Billing Coordinator; and Misty Humphries, Secretary.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

There were no additions or deletions at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Dorsey moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 19, 2021. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIALS

Mrs. Snyder presented the May financials. There were three utilities that experienced a loss. The losses were attributed to the annual insurance payments of general liability, property, inland marine, and vehicle insurance. Solid Waste also had a lease payment of \$20,000; and the Storm Water Utility paid several large project claims. Mrs. Snyder stated that she and Jennifer Wilson are working on the June and July financials. Mr. Carl moved, seconded by Mr. Dorsey, to approve the financials as presented. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Update on Projects

Mr. Pinkerton said that projects were slow. The request for quotes on the Valley Avenue project were out. He then reported that a small directional drilling project was underway in Brinker Heights. The area had some original swales that had been filled in or had yard barns sitting on them which resulted in standing water. The only solution was to do a 8" directional drilling project. In closing, Mr. Pinkerton stated that the larger projects for the year had been completed with the exception of the Long Term Control Plan project.



Extension of EPSLA (Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act)

Mr. Binkerd said at the last meeting, the Board was asked to reinstate the Extended Paid Sick Leave Act which they graciously agreed to reinstate. At the time, picking up from the original 80 hour bank was discussed. Mr. Binkerd said that he didn't realize the new strain was contagious enough that people that had COVID before would be able to get it again. Mr. Binkerd asked that the previous approval be amended to give employees a new bank of 80 hours. Mr. Jackson asked if Mr. Binkerd had seen in his research, language stating that there might be a difference in hours offered between those that are vaccinated and those that weren't. Mr. Binkerd stated that his research did not mention a comparison of hours for those that were vaccinated and those that weren't. Mr. Carl asked how long the EPSLA was extended. Mrs. Humphries answered through the end of the year. Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mr. Dorsey, to approve a new bank of 80 hours for employees. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Transfers & Pay Requests - Senior Leadership Team

Mr. Pinkerton presented the Certificate of Completion and release of retainage payable to Insight Pipe Contracting in the amount of \$14,800. Mrs. Shrader presented the second payment request for the Long Term Control Plan project in the amount of \$339,055 to Jackson. Mr. Carl moved, seconded by Mr. Dorsey, to approve the pay requests as presented. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

1532 W. 38th Street Request

Mr. Binkerd presented a request from a customer residing at 1532 E. 38th Street. The customer was asking for consideration on a sewer bill. Mr. Binkerd stated that the request was brought before the board as the issue was a little bit different. Policy states that a customer erroneously charged for services may be reimbursed or refunded for one year of charges. The customer here was asking for reimbursement from 2017 to 2021. Mr. Logan assigned the issue to the Storm Water/Wastewater Committee for review.

Valve & Hydrant Quote

Mrs. Shrader said M.E. Simpson identified five fire hydrants that needed replacement along with five valves also needed replacement or needed repair. Dave's Excavating and Culy Contracting were asked to provide an ala carte price. Dave's Excavating had the best price on fire hydrants at \$12,380; and Culy Contracting had the best prices on valves at \$23,225. The price included labor, installation, and digging. Mrs. Shrader said that Marion Utilities' staff would assist on some of the work to ensure it was done to our specification. Mr. Carl asked if the locations were throughout the city. Ms. Shrader answered yes. Mrs. Shrader then said the work would be covered by the budget. Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mr. Carl, to approve the replacement of fire hydrants by Dave's Excavating and the replacement of valves by Culy Contracting. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Dorsey asked what the reasons were for fire hydrant replacement. Mrs. Shrader said a lot of the hydrants here had been hit. The valves often need replacement because they age out. While the valves are turned on a schedule, there are so many valves that it is not done as often as desired. Mr. Dorsey asked if the valves could be repaired like meters. Mrs. Shrader answered unfortunately, no valves could not be rebuilt like crews were able to do with meters. Mrs. Shrader added that sometimes the soil is corrosive which results in a need for valve replacement.

Approval of O&M Quotes

Mrs. Shrader presented a picture of one of the tops of the digesters. She explained that the tall black pipe was part of the methane collection and that one of the two replaced. National Machinery & Conveyor was the only one to respond with a quote. The quoted price was \$14,800. The second quote requested was for the lining of the influent channel in the south plant. Two quotes were received. Advanced Rehabilitation Technology quoted \$33,000; and Conco Spray Solutions quoted \$69,460. Mrs. Shrader recommended Advanced Rehabilitation Technology. She stated that she had not worked with Advanced personally, but they had lined a couple of manholes. Advanced Rehabilitation had also worked with Fort Wayne and Bluffton. They were also well known throughout the mid-west. Mrs. Shrader said that the quoted price was within the budget. Mr. Jackson asked how often the areas were rehabbed. Mrs. Shrader said that the first parts were put in during the 1940s and others were rehabbed during the 1960s. Mr. Jackson added that one of his first summer jobs was here in 1984, and he could remember the scrubbers. Mr. Green moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to approve the quote of Advanced Rehabilitation Technology in the amount of \$14,800. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 2-2021 Acceptance of Quitclaim Deeds

Mr. Pinkerton explained that Resolution 2-2021 and Quitclaim Deeds were for the six properties that were gained through the tax sale. Mr. Conner said the last step was for him to file the quiet title action after the passage of Resolution 2-2021. He continued that once the court signs the documents, the property belongs to the Board. Mr. Carl moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to approve Resolution 2-2021. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Sponsorship Requests

Mr. Binkerd presented two sponsorship requests. He reminded the board that \$2,500 was allocated for 2021. \$1550 has been given out thus far. The first request was from Marion Athletic Boosters requested for a \$1000 full package. Unfortunately, this would not be feasible given the annual allotment. Mr. Binkerd said that he would recommend a \$200 package which included signage, the availability to purchase IHSAA presale tickets, hospitality passes, and a mention on the arena screen. The second request was from Gilead Ministries for fundraising events in the amount of \$200. Gilead was providing support for those with cancer or long term illnesses. Mr. Binkerd recommended supporting them at the \$200 level which would still allow the board to consider other requests as they come in through the end of the year. The Utilities would receive recognition on social media and at fundraising events. Mr. Green moved, seconded by Mr. Dorsey, to approve the two sponsorship requests at \$200 each. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Lab Coordinator Placement

Mrs. Shrader stated that a candidate for the open Lab Coordinator position has been selected. The candidate would come from an environmental lab that services industrial factories. The candidate comes with a great deal of experience and was very familiar with IDEM. Mrs. Shrader asked to bring the candidate in at Range 14 Step 7 which was \$25.47/hour or \$52,977.60 annually. Mr. Dorsey asked what the candidate's previous salary was. Mrs. Shrader stated approximately \$51,000. Mr. Jackson questioned where the candidate would be coming from. Mrs. Shrader answered Peru which was about 30 miles. Mr. Carl moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the hiring of the candidate at Range 14 Step 7. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS

P. Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering

Mr. Pinkerton reported that Solid Waste had averaged 61 tons per day which was a new record. He said so far, every month has been a new record. However, August was back to normal at only 55 tons a day which was still a lot. Mr. Logan said the recycling center was always busy when he had been there. Mr. Pinkerton said agreed and added that by June of this year the weight of recycling had met the weight of blue bags for a year.

R. Shrader, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance

Mrs. Shrader said that there had been quite a bit of internal movement due to retirements and resignations. She happily reported that one employee was able to move from a high school placement to long term employee. Mrs. Shrader said that the programs were doing what they were intended to do by reading those for full time employment. She also reported that the new Long Term Control Plan chlorine tank was going in. On the south side of the plant, another hole was being dug and dynamite blasting would be done in October. Mr. Dorsey joked that it would be a blast.

C. Binkerd, Utility Director

Mr. Binkerd reported that sadly, Kelly Combs had passed away after a very long and hard fight with cancer. Mrs. Combs was a wonderful customer service representative that had been with the Utilities for 22 years. Her viewing was scheduled from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Raven Choate next Wednesday. A Celebration of Life was scheduled to begin immediately following the viewing at 6 p.m. Mr. Binkerd said a lot of customers only wanted to work with Kelly. Kelly would work with customers and give so much patience.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Jackson thanked the team for going back to revisit offering a new 80 hour bank. He said it meant a lot and shows that the team was taking care of and thinking of employees. Mr. Binkerd thanked Mr. Jackson and the rest of the board for their support.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Logan said he often takes walks and noticed some freshly painted hydrants. He also noted that the street sweeping had been done and the streets looks great. He wanted to thank the crews for their hard work.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 2021.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Robert Logan, Chairman
Marion Utilities Service Board

ATTEST



Misty Humphries
Its Secretary