



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

Service Board

BOARD MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2023 MEETING

The Marion Utility Service Board held their meeting on Thursday, December 7, 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; Von Jackson; Herschel Lewis, and Dr. Jayda Monteiro. Doug Carl was absent.

Also present at the meeting were: Pat Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering & Solid Waste; Robin Shrader, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance; Tiffany Snyder, Accounting/Billing Coordinator; Mike Conner, attorney; and Misty Humphries, Secretary.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2023 meeting. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIALS

Mrs. Snyder presented the financials for October, 2023. Mrs. Snyder said she knew it was concerning when everything was in the red. However, she shared that the Water sales were up 19.6%her than October sales in 2022 and 2021. The increase was due to rate increase. The increase was not seen in cash though because the accounts receivable increased and there were some capital expenditures in October. Mrs. Snyder explained that the Wastewater operating expenses appeared low because some expenses that were shown as operating in earlier months were moved to capital in October. This offset the actual expenses by \$200,000. Stormwater cash was negative because of the capital expenditure and contract services had two months of expenses. Mrs. Snyder said she hoped that November would look a little different. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the financials. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS

Mr. Pinkerton shared that the sewer cured-in-place projects awarded a couple of months ago would be starting soon. The 11th & Adams Street sewer project awarded to Keith Sullivan was completed. However, it would be spring before the asphalt was put in. Mr. Pinkerton said this shouldn't be a big deal since the project was in the alley. Mr. Logan commented that the paving on Kem Road looked very good.





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2024 BUDGETS

Mrs. Shrader and Mr. Pinkerton said that nothing on the budgets had changed since the budget committee meetings nor were there any questions. Mr. Logan asked if there were any questions at that time. There being no questions, Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve the 2024 budgets. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Logan thanked everyone for their hard work in preparing and reviewing the budgets.

TRANSFERS & PAY REQUESTS

There were none.

BOSE PUBLIC AFFAIRS GROUP AGREEMENT

Mrs. Shrader said there was a growing PFAS, polyfluorinated substances, concern. These were known as the forever substances like waterproofing substances and substances used to create nonstick pans. Mrs. Shrader explained that there were some large companies that had worked to develop these substances. Those same companies were now undergoing litigation because the chemical was everywhere including some water systems, and the compounds were extremely difficult to breakdown. As a result, there were some class action lawsuits filed. The Bose Public Affairs Group has been putting together a group of similar government entities within the State of Indiana to protect them against litigation that could come due to PFAS in the water. Mrs. Shrader said that so far there have been two sets of tests for PFAS in our water that have come back as non-detect which was good news and puts us in a safe zone for the moment. However, it is only a matter of time before the water industry was targeted heavier for this. Mrs. Shrader presented an agreement with Bose to join this group with a cost not to exceed \$5,000 for the entire year. Mr. Dorsey asked where the money would be found. Mrs. Shrader said that it wasn't included specifically in a budget line, but this would be money well spent versus some other expenses. Mr. Logan agreed that this was an important issue. Mrs. Shrader said that it was only a matter of time before the issue touched us as our source of water comes from other places. Mrs. Shrader added that this was a coalition much like the one that was formed to fight the electric company on rate increases. Mr. Conner asked if the goal was to get legislation passed to create immunity for government entities. Mrs. Shrader said yes. Mr. Conner said that would be nice to have. Mr. Dorsey moved, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve the Bose Agreement for an amount not to exceed \$5,000. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

2023 CHRISTMAS PARTY REQUESTS

Mr. Pinkerton presented the requests from the 2023 Christmas Party Committee. The requests included the closing of the offices from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; \$100 gift cards for employees; two \$25 gift cards for interns; and eight certificates for a day off with pay. Mr. Pinkerton said that the luncheon costs were included in the budget. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the requests as presented. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.





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MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT

Mrs. Shrader explained that there was an employee dependent facing some serious medical concerns and costs. The dependent was eligible for Medicare. The question was whether the board would agree to reimburse the employee for Medicare costs including a supplement should the employee dependent move to Medicare now instead of staying on the plan and increasing costs for everyone. Mrs. Shrader said that there was a precedent set approximately 10 years ago. The term of that reimbursement was 1 year. Mr. Green moved, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve the reimbursement of Medicare costs including the cost of a supplement for 1 year should the employee dependent move to a Medicare plan at the beginning of 2024. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS

P. Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering & Solid Waste

Mr. Pinkerton reported that the SRF project was progressing through the steps slowly. SRF has approved the front end documents which would allow bids to be taken. Mr. Pinkerton listed some of the projects which included two distribution water main replacements, lead service line replacements, two water tank rehab projects, and the meter replacements. Mr. Pinkerton said that notices would run in the Chronicle on December 12th & 19th. There was a pre-bid meeting scheduled for December 21st. Bids would be opened January 10th & 11th. The closing was for February 27th.

R. Shrader, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance

Mrs. Shrader reminded the Board of the sludge pudding issue. There were three different companies that responded with proposals. Merrell Brothers was the only company that provided an option to just get rid of it. Mrs. Shrader said the option to just get rid of it was the best option as time was of the essence. The price tag was dependent upon how long it would take to get rid of it. The price was \$8,248 for mobilization; \$7,367 was the daily rate for equipment and crews; and \$0.25 per gallon to haul offsite. Mrs. Shrader said there would be a couple of additional fees if vac trucks and a settling tank were needed. The good news was that Merrell Brothers didn't feel like they would have to add as much water to the pudding as the other companies did so this would reduce the overall quantity. Mrs. Shrader said it was somewhat of a wait and see process. The start date should be before the end of the year.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

There were no comments at this time.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Logan thanked everyone for their attendance. He also reminded everyone that it was Pearl Harbor Day. Mr. Logan thanked those who have served.





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The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, December 21, 2023 and would typically be held at 11 a.m. before the Christmas party.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Robert Logan, Chairman
Marion Utilities Service Board

ATTEST

Misty Humphries

Its Secretary

