



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

Service Board

BOARD MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 2023 MEETING

The Marion Utility Service Board held their meeting on Thursday, March 2, 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; Al Green; Von Jackson; and Herschel Lewis. Mia Erickson was absent.

Also present at the meeting were: Chuck Binkerd, Director; Pat Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering and Solid Waste; Mike Conner, Attorney; Tiffany Snyder, Accounting/Billing Coordinator; 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. Carl, to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2023 meeting. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIALS

Mrs. Snyder presented the financials for January, 2023. There were short gains in all of the Utilities with the exception of the Water Utility. Water expenses were greater than usual with the regulatory costs for the rate case being the biggest outlier. Mrs. Snyder said the Depreciation Fund had been totally expended and was at a zero balance. The deficiency originally in this fund before the transfers were made up with a transfer from the Equipment and Replacement Fund. The Operating Fund still maintains the two month required balance. The Solid Waste Utility has zeroed out the depreciation fund. Mrs. Snyder also reported that the balance of the Solid Waste Operating Fund was lower than the two month required balance. Mr. Binkerd added that the Solid Waste Utility made a required lease payment of \$237,000 recently which would hit the Utility very hard. Mr. Binkerd said the Solid Waste Utility was in a tight position. Conversations with City Council about the need for a rate increase have started. Mr. Logan asked if this was a scenario where a rate increase might not take effect until 2024. Mr. Binkerd said that he was working hard to put something together that could possibly take affect after May. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the January financials as presented. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.



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UPDATE ON PROJECTS

Mr. Pinkerton said that staff was still working on design for the 2023 projects. The storm sewer for the old Thompson site was getting close to a point where it could be sent out for quotes. Quotes had been taken on the two properties that needed to be demoed for the Long Term Control Plan. Mr. Pinkerton said Dave Excavating would demo the Clark Street property, and Keith Sullivan would demo the Race Street property.

ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ABONMARCHÉ

Mr. Binkerd reminded the board that a previous meeting Mrs. Shrader had presented some information about engaging with Abonmarche for a GIS system. Abonmarche had been guiding us through the process and a GIS system was developed. The next step was a larger one that would take about a year. Mr. Binkerd explained that it included developing apps and working with software to take advantage of the software which would allow staff to manage and track assets. The tasks were then listed off with their associated prices. There would be a four tiered project and the costs were as follows:

Tier One Project Management \$1,100

Tier Two Data Management \$35,400

Tier Three Programs, Training, & Documentation \$41,200

Tier Four On-Call Services \$20,000

There was a not to exceed price of \$92,900. Mr. Binkerd said he did not think that was an unreasonable cost for the services that would be received. Mr. Carl asked if this would be paid in phases and if it was a budgeted item. Mr. Binkerd said yes it would be paid in phases. He also explained that the project is budgeted; however, it was budgeted under several lines in the budget and not just one. Mr. Green moved, seconded by Mr. Dorsey, to approve the agreement. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously

CSO STORAGE TANK UPDATE

Mr. Binkerd said at the last meeting it was mentioned that some issues with the storage tank were discovered. A special structural engineer would have to get involved with the process. The consultants and attorneys were working on this. Mr. Binkerd said right now information was being collected. The item was kept on the agenda as this was an ongoing issue.

TRANSFERS & PAY REQUESTS

There was no transfer or pay requests.





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MARION BABE RUTH LEAGUE SPONSORSHIP REQUEST

Mr. Binkerd said that baseball season was upon us. The board had supported the Babe Ruth League in the past at the \$300 level. He would recommend sponsoring the League at that level again. Mr. Jackson asked if they only asked for \$300. Mr. Binkerd said that there was a tiered sponsorship program. He recommended the \$300 level because that was what the Board sponsored in the past. Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to support the sponsorship for \$300. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously

CUSTOMER REQUEST 312 TROOK COURT

Mr. Binkerd reported that Joshua Kennedy at 312 Trook Court had requested an adjustment for a large bill. Mr. Kennedy's children were playing in the sprinklers while he was out of town. The children left the spigot on and water flooded his yard. Mr. Binkerd said that our Customer Service Representative asked Mr. Kennedy to apply for ICAP funds first. If approved for ICAP assistance, the issue may be moot. If not, the request would be brought back before the board.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS

P. Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering & Solid Waste

Mr. Pinkerton presented a picture of Commerce Drive after 2.7" of rain. The whole City was stressed during this event. However, Commerce Drive was one of the worst locations. Commerce Drive runs along the west side of Ivy Tech. The water was runoff of from a farm field. Mr. Huskey called in and Mr. Binkerd along with Mr. Graft met with Mr. Huskey. The road was covered by less than a foot of water for a couple of hours. The issue occurred because when the water ran off the field, debris was brought along with it that clogged up the inlet. Mr. Huskey said he didn't remember this being an issue until just a couple of years ago. Mr. Pinkerton said that the stormwater crew would be onsite tomorrow to clear the inlets again. Mr. Pinkerton said that there had been a lot of improvements to the system which had decreased the number of calls during rain events. There were five complaint calls during the last event versus the sixty that used to occur before improvements were made. Mr. Pinkerton reported that there was another issue that occurred on State Road 18 West across from Air Products. There was steaming sewage coming from the ground. Mr. Pinkerton said that he did not believe it was a Marion forced main, but a contractor was called to look at the issue. The location of Air Product's 2" forced main and a check valve was shown along with the corp stop. Mr. Pinkerton explained that the brass fitting between the two settings disintegrated and was the reason for the sewage blow. The PVC force main was stretched or blown out. While the area was dug up, the PVC was replaced with ductile iron. Air Products wasn't discharging anything that wasn't allowed. However, their discharge can reach





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temperatures of 140 degrees which the PVC can handle but not for long. The ductile iron would take the heat, but it wouldn't take the Ph level as well as the PVC would. The ductile iron was close to cast iron. Ductile has manganese added so that it's more flexible. In addition, the ductile iron won't rust as easily as cast iron.

C. Binkerd, Utility Director

Mr. Binkerd reported that he would be out for a couple of weeks in the middle of March.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

There were no board comments at this time.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Logan wished everyone a good evening. He also reminded everyone of daylight savings time.

The next meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 16, 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 5:58 p.m.

Robert Logan, Chairman
Marion Utilities Service Board

ATTEST

Misty Humphries
Its Secretary

