



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

Service Board

BOARD MINUTES OF THE JUNE 1, 2023 MEETING SUBJECT

The Marion Utility Service Board held their meeting on Thursday, June 1, 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; Von Jackson; and Herschel Lewis. Al Green was absent.

Also present at the meeting were: Chuck Binkerd, Director; 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

Mr. Jackson moved, seconded by Mr. Dorsey, to add Financials as Item V and move all subsequent items down the agenda. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Dorsey, to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2023 meeting. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIALS

Mrs. Snyder presented the April financials. She explained that most of the Utilities' sales and expenses were trending with prior year averages. The one exception was Water revenues which were lower than average and expenses were higher than average. Mrs. Snyder stated that the higher than prior year average on the expenses was not contained to only one area. Overall, the Water expenses were trending \$60,000 higher a month in 2023 as compared to 2022. Contractual services were approximately \$20,000 of the monthly increase. Mrs. Snyder said that the Water Utility had been able to maintain two months of expenses within the operating balance, but the depreciation funds were depleting. As for the Wastewater and Solid Waste Utilities, Mrs. Snyder reported that the cash balances for Wastewater decreased as it loaned \$250,000 to the Solid Waste Utility. The loaned amount for Solid Waste was residing in the operating fund and would be utilized over the year. Mr. Logan noted that without the loan, the Solid Waste Utility would be in the negative. Mr. Carl asked what the majority of the increase to Water expenses originated from. Mrs. Snyder answered contractual services mostly related to the Water Rate Increase case. Mr. Carl moved, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve the April financials. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.



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UPDATE ON PROJECTS

Mr. Binkerd reported that the South Adams Storm project was on hold. There were some developments with the property that needed to be worked out before work could proceed. Mr. Binkerd also reported that the potential for a sewer extension to the airport was back on the table and being discussed. Other reporting included that some cured-in-place pipe projects for 2023 were being finished. Mr. Carl asked if anyone knew what was going in across from McDonalds south. Mr. Binkerd said he thought it was a medical clinic or office.

TRANSFERS & PAY REQUESTS

There were none.

MANOR DRIVE STORM SEWER QUOTES

Mr. Binkerd said that the subdivision between Manor Drive and Robert Avenue had some construction that eliminated a swail. This has caused some storm water to back up to the houses. A small project budgeted at \$70,000 was designed to assist with this. Quotes were requested from Keith Sullivan, Dave's Excavating, and Bragg Excavating. Sullivan and Dave's Excavating provided quotes. Dave's Excavating was the low bidder at \$107,078.75. Mr. Binkerd stated that the quote was more than the budgeted amount. However, there were some projects where money could be shifted. The South Adams project was one for example. Mr. Carl noted that there seemed to be some disparity between the quotes for PVC and backfill. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Carl, to approve the quote. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

VEHICLE DONATIONS TO THE CITY

Mr. Binkerd said that between the four utilities four new vehicles have been purchased this year. There were a couple of older vehicles that have been lingering in inventory. There was a 2013 F150 Ford pick-up and a 2006 Ford Taurus that the City was interested in. Mr. Binkerd said for several years, the City had looked at our inventory and would let us know if they were interested in acquiring. Mr. Binkerd asked for the Board's permission to transfer the two vehicles to the City. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Dorsey, to approve the transfer of the two vehicles to the City. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 4-2023 TRANSFER STATION FEES

Mr. Binkerd stated the Mr. Pinkerton had been keeping everyone apprised of the costs associated with the Solid Waste Utility. This would be the third increase in fees since the inception of the Utility. Mr. Binkerd clarified that these charges were not related to the \$13.80 monthly cost for residential pick up. These were ancillary fees such as dumpster rental, additional large item fees, or fees for Solid Waste brought into the Transfer Station. Mr. Binkerd asked that the increase become effective on July 1, 2023. Mr. Jackson asked if the fee increase would be advertised. Mr. Binkerd answered yes and explained that the increase would be posted on social media, the website, and customers that used the Transfer Station frequently





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would be notified directly. Mr. Carl moved, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve Resolution 4-2023 Transfer Station Fees as presented. All board members in voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS

R. Shrader, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance

Mrs. Shrader reported that the Wastewater Maintenance Technician opening had been posted several times. There has not been tremendous success with the posting. A candidate was interviewed and offered the position. The candidate declined the offer though. In other news, Mrs. Shrader said the big crane was coming back to lift the digester lid and parts of the crane were on site. Mr. Lewis asked if there was a reason why the job opening was attracting a lot of attention. Mr. Binkerd said that it was just the market unfortunately. Mrs. Shrader said this was the longest open posting that she has experienced.

C. Binkerd, Utility Director

Mr. Binkerd stated that there was an application before the City Council for the open board position.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Conner said that he was visiting his grandson and went to a Touch-A-Truck event in the Lagrange, Illinois. Mr. Conner asked if this would be offered at the Earth Day event. Mrs. Shrader said Touch-A-Truck would not at the Earth Day event, but it would be available at the Open House event in August. Mrs. Shrader also stated that there were two groups that would reach out annually for our trucks to participate in their Touch-A-Truck events.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Logan thanked everyone for their attendance.

The next meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 15, 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 6:02 p.m.

Robert Logan, Chairman
Marion Utilities Service Board

ATTEST

Misty Humphries
Its Secretary

