



Marion Utilities

1540 N Washington St.

Marion, IN 46952

www.marionutilities.com

Service Board

BOARD MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 1, 2024 MEETING

The Marion Utility Service Board held their meeting on Thursday, August 1, 2024 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; Kristy Barney; Doug Carl; Bill Dorsey; Isaiah Fuller; and Herschel Lewis. Al Green was absent

Also present at the meeting were: Robin Shrader, Director; Tiffany Snyder, Accounting/Billing Coordinator; Mike Conner, Attorney; Misty Humphries, Secretary.

Mr. Logan welcomed Kristy Barney and Isaiah Fuller to the Board.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

There were no additions or deletions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Carl, to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2024 meeting. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIALS

Mrs. Snyder presented the June 2024 financials. She explained that Water sales continued to show growth since 2023 which was attributed to the rate increase. Wastewater, Stormwater, and Solid Waste sales showed marginal growth. Mrs. Snyder stated that on the expense side, Operations & Maintenance expenses remained flat for all utilities except for Solid Waste. Wastewater paid the annual debt service payment of approximately \$1 million which resulted in a negative cash out-flow. Mrs. Snyder said that on a positive note, Stormwater had a positive cash in-flow for the month of June. Mr. Carl moved, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve the financials as presented. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS

Mrs. Shrader said VTF Excavating was working on the Lead Service Line. They started mobilizing this week for the Lead Service Line replacement. Mrs. Shrader stated that VTF would start with potholing and verifying services next week. The anticipated start date to begin replacing services was August 12th. Watson Excavating had been working on main replacement projects for the Distribution Projects. Watson finished the state road boring across 7th Street bringing the total main replacement to 5,300 feet with an 8" main. There was still 2,000 feet left to go. Watson had completely finished all of the service installations on Mason Boulevard from 16th to 11th Street and 10th Street to Terrace. Mrs. Shrader reported that Brooks Paving began milling Mason today and would start paving tomorrow. Brooks anticipates being done Monday or Tuesday.



Watson planned to continue on 7th Street toward Western Avenue. Western would be closed for safety reasons per the City until the installation was completed on Western & 11th. Mr. Logan stated that he noticed a lot of work being done on Western Avenue with gas projects underway as well. Mrs. Shrader also shared some pictures of the Butler Street tank projects. The interior work had progressed a lot quicker. There was some buckling on the exterior that caused some delay. It was predicted that by the end of August or beginning of September, the Butler Street tank would be back in service. Mrs. Shrader said that the crews would then move to Meridian Street to begin work there after it was verified that the Butler Street tank was back in service without issue. Mr. Dorsey asked what the approved project amount was. Mrs. Shrader answered \$12 million and that was being funded by the SRF loan. Mr. Fuller asked if the loan was covering all of the \$12 million. Mrs. Shrader explained that the SRF funding was covering all five projects which included the two tank projects, main replacement projects, the lead service line, and meter replacement projects. Both of the tank projects were just shy of \$1 million each. The water meter replacement project was the lion's share of the costs. Mrs. Shrader added that the distribution crew had been working on meter replacements and have installed an extra 500 meters. This would save money on the backend with the contractors.

TRANSFERS & PAY REQUESTS

There were no transfers or pay requests.

VEHICLE AUCTION

Mrs. Shrader stated that there was one remaining navy blue pickup truck left in inventory. The final blue pickup truck had more than ran its lifespan. Often vehicles were transferred to the City. Mrs. Shrader said that she was not sure what life was left in this truck so she would recommend not transferring it to the City. The other method for removing vehicles from inventory has been to auction them on eBay. This would allow anyone interested to submit a bid and would provide us with the needed paperwork for State Board of Accounts. Mrs. Shrader asked for permission to auction the truck on eBay. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Ms. Barney, to approve the auctioning of the truck on eBay. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF GENERATOR PURCHASE

Mrs. Shrader said during preventative maintenance last month, the generator at the northeast wellfield failed again. Previously, there was a fuel spill with the generator that was able to be repaired. However, the generator was 30-35 years old and lived its fullest life. Mrs. Shrader said an opportunity came up last week to purchase the unit that was needed while it was in stock when we were previously told that there was a 6 month waiting period. Mrs. Shrader spoke with Mr. Logan and Mr. Carl, made the purchase, and was now coming to the full board for final approval. The purchase price was \$130,458 for a McAllister generator. Mrs. Shrader said it had been ordered but not yet arrived. The purchase was not budgeted. Mrs. Shrader said that cash reserves would have to be used. She also stated that this equipment would be the saving grace if the Utilities were to be without power and would allow water to continue to be pumped. Mr. Dorsey asked if bids were taken. Mrs. Shrader said that they searched for the unit with other vendors without luck. Mr. Lewis asked what this meant. Mrs. Shrader explained that the northeast wellfield served four of the largest wells. If the north wellfield had a power outage, the north wellfield could not be used. The northeast wellfield could be used to get water to the plant. The generator system at the plant would be used to send the water to the system and to the overhead tanks. The water would then be gravity fed from the overhead tanks. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Carl, to approve the

purchase of the generator for \$130,458. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

LITTLE CRANE POND DITCH TRANSFER

Mrs. Shrader reported that the Grant County Drainage Board had requested a transfer of jurisdiction on the Little Crane Pond Ditch transferring maintenance from them to the Utilities. Mrs. Shrader asked that it be moved to the Stormwater Committee. Mr. Carl asked why they wanted the Utilities to take it over. Mrs. Shrader said she was not sure. Ms. Barney asked if it was at Chapel Pike. Mrs. Shrader had a legal description of the area but not the general description. Mr. Carl asked if those charges used to be on tax bills. Mrs. Shrader said she was not sure. Mr. Logan said that the Committee would be able to investigate and find a lot of answers, and assigned the Stormwater Committee to review the issue.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS

R. Shrader, Utility Director

Mrs. Shrader stated that after the job description was reposted there were three applications received. One internal and two external applications were received. The posting would remain posted externally for 30 days because that was how the national groups handle postings. Mr. Stout had requested that he remain on the list for consideration. Mrs. Shrader reported that the IWEA Annual Conference would be held from August 13th to August 15th in Indianapolis. 13-14 employees would be attending the conference. Mrs. Shrader also reminded the Board that there were some outstanding customer requests that needed to be reviewed and brought back to the Board. In other news, Mrs. Shrader said that the Wastewater plant was having some minor upsets. There was a consultant in Ohio that had been working with staff. The rogue element had been identified. The total suspended solids and phosphorus numbers exceeded the monthly limits. This triggered a mandatory reporting. Lastly, Mrs. Shrader said that the City had requested that we investigate assisting with River Rocks and alley projects in some capacity. Mrs. Shrader said that she shared with the Mayor that we would be glad to have conversations about what that might look like. Mr. Dorsey asked what those projects were. Mrs. Shrader said that the River Rocks project was apartments and/or flats for living quarters in the riverfront district. The alley project would clean up, maintain, and pave alleys.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Kristy Barney said she was grateful and happy to be back on the board. She also thanked City Council. Mr. Fuller said that he was experiencing a learning curve and would be more vocal as he moved but was also happy to serve.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Logan thank everyone for their attendance. Mr. Logan welcomed Ms. Barney and Mr. Fuller.

Mr. Logan explained the Personnel Committee, Water/Solid Waste, Wastewater/Stormwater, and Long Term Control Plan Committee roles.

Mr. Dorsey followed up on the social media advertising of the LEAD Service Line abatement. Mrs. Shrader said that there was an assessment survey that had to be done by October 16th but that was for the broader City and not just the area being working on currently. Mr. Dorsey asked if there was any liability on our part by us not going into the house. Mrs. Shrader answered no as long as

we have documented and shown our efforts in reaching out to the owners. Mrs. Shrader added that Ms. Kayla Johnson was diligently working to reach owners and was thoroughly documenting all of the different attempts at communicating with owners along with the dates of the communication. Mr. Fuller said that as long as the Utilities were taking the necessary steps to contact the owners, there was no further obligation or liability upon the Utilities. Mr. Fuller stated that he would imagine some of the owners were either located elsewhere or perhaps were snowbirds. Mrs. Shrader stated that letters have been sent, phone calls made, emails sent, and doors physically knocked on, and tagged. All of the efforts have been made more than once and have been documented.

Mr. Logan stated that the next meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 22, 2024.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Robert Logan, Chairman
Marion Utilities Service Board

ATTEST

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Misty D. Humphries". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Misty Humphries
Its Secretary