



## Marion Utilities

1540 N Washington St.  
Marion, IN 46952  
[www.marionutilities.com](http://www.marionutilities.com)

## Service Board

Memo To: All Utility Board Members  
From: Bob Logan, Chairman  
Date: March 15, 2022  
Re: Agenda for March 17, 2022 Utility Board Meeting

Dear Board Member:

This is to inform you of our Board Meeting to be held Thursday, March 17, 2022 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. Meeting of March 3, 2022
- V. **FINANCIALS**
  - A. Revised December, 2021
  - B. January, 2022
- VI. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. Update on Projects – P. Pinkerton





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### VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Transfers & Pay Requests - Senior Leadership Team
- B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Property Acquisition- P. Pinkerton
- C. Tobacco Use Policy Update- C. Binkerd

### VIII. SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS

- A. Assistant Director for Engineering & Solid Waste- 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, April 7, 2022**

Robert Logan, Chairman  
Marion Utility Service Board

cc: News Media  
City Administration/Council  
Department Heads





### **BOARD MINUTES OF THE MARCH 17, 2022 MEETING**

The Marion Utility Service Board held their meeting on Thursday, March 17, 2022 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: Bob Logan, Chairman; Doug Carl; Bill Dorsey; Mia Erickson; Al Green; and Von Jackson. Herschel Lewis was absent.

Also present at the meeting were: Chuck Binkerd, Director; Pat Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering and Solid Waste; Robin Shrader, Assistant Director for Operations and Maintenance; Mike Conner, Attorney; Misty Humphries, Secretary; and Mark Theel, Marion Utilities.

#### **CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS**

Mr. Logan moved, seconded by Doug Carl, to add Change Order as Item D under New Business. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Carl moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2022 regular meeting. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **FINANCIALS**

Mr. Binkerd explained the December financials would have to be revised after closing years 2020 and 2021 in the accounting software. This was because upon closing some of the bottom lines changed slightly. Jennifer Wilson was able to provide the raw numbers on the balance sheet and income statements which were presented to the Board. Mr. Binkerd said that the finalized and official reports would be presented at the next meeting.

#### **UPDATE ON PROJECTS**

Mr. Pinkerton reported that the Valley Avenue Water Main Project was complete and had passed the second bacteriological test. The line was placed in service as well.

#### **TRANSFERS & PAY REQUESTS**

Mrs. Shrader presented pay request number eight on the Long Term Control Plan to Jackson Construction in the amount of \$584,459 which represented 50.3% of the contracted amount. Mr. Pinkerton presented the first pay request on the Valley Avenue Water Main Project to Keith Sullivan in the amount of \$46,621.15 with \$3,846 in retainage. Mr. Green moved, seconded by Mrs. Erickson, to approve the pay requests as presented. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> STREET PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

Mr. Pinkerton said the future Long Term Control Plan projects has the Senior Leadership Team looking at properties for acquisition. Mr. Pinkerton presented a map with several color coded properties. He explained



that the two blue properties were currently owned by the Utility Service Board. The orange property was in the process of being turned over to the City. The red property was the item under discussion now. Mr. Pinkerton said the owner has two renters in the property now. The owner originally wanted \$50,000 for the property. The owner was willing to sell now for \$25,000. Mr. Pinkerton by the time the eminent domain process was completed there would be approximately \$25,000 or more in legal fees. Mr. Pinkerton recommended purchasing the property for \$25,000. Mr. Dorsey moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to approve the property purchase for \$25,000. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

### **TOBACCO USE POLICY UPDATE**

Mr. Binkerd presented a redline version of the Tobacco Use Policy for updating. The changes were noted in red. Mr. Binkerd said that the only thing really changing was the addition of vaping to the policy. Mr. Conner was asked to review the policy. Mr. Conner said the policy was fine as written. Mr. Dorsey asked if the Utility had a smoking cessation program. Mr. Binkerd stated that there was a smoking cessation program included with the healthcare policy. Mrs. Humphries added that the Safety Coordinator was also a member of the Grant County Smoking Cessation Program. Mr. Dorsey noted that the second paragraph states that a smoking or vaping area would be designated. Mr. Binkerd stated that the Utility Management could determine where those areas were, and the areas were located at least 20 feet from the doors which are marked. Mr. Dorsey asked if there was enforcement for the contractors that are out working on the property. Mr. Binkerd said that contractors are expected to comply with our policies as well and project managers would oversee compliance. Mr. Dorsey asked when the policy was first approved. Mr. Binkerd answered 2014. Mr. Dorsey moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the updated policy and to make it effective immediately. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

### **CHANGE ORDER**

Mrs. Shrader shared that there was another soil issue. The soil where the electrical building would be planted was discovered to be unsuitable for supporting the weight of the building. To correct the problem and put in the appropriate materials, the price was \$11,742. Mrs. Shrader said while this was a small issue it was unforeseeable. Mrs. Erickson moved, seconded by Mr. Carl, to approve the change order. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

### **SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

#### **P. Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering and Solid Waste**

Mr. Pinkerton reported that the street sweepers were out. They swept the bypass and Chapel Pike today. Mr. Pinkerton said as long as the weather holds out, the street sweepers would be coming to a street near them. Mr. Carl asked if there was an issue with the metal recycling plant and the street sweeper as the metal shavings had to be taken out of the brushes the other day or at least this is what was reported on the radio the other morning. Mr. Pinkerton said he had not heard of an issue, but he would follow up with Mr. Simpkins.

#### **R. Shrader, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance**

Mrs. Shrader said that progress was continuing on the Long Term Control Plan. The first section for the walls on the big tank had been poured. Mrs. Shrader stated that chlorination season would soon be upon Wastewater Operations. As far as the Water Utility, the slaker project was making headway and would be ready for start-up soon. The meter pilot study looks like it would be ready for installation the week of April 11<sup>th</sup>. They are ultrasonic so there are no moving parts. Notification would be sent out to the property owners receiving the new meters detailing the project, what to expect, and contact information for any questions. Mrs. Shrader said that the hardest to reach areas would be tested first. These areas

would include the south side of town like the VA, the housing addition behind Meijer, and then heading out 18.

### **C. Binkerd, Utility Director**

Mr. Binkerd reported that the State Legislature has repealed the Utility Receipts Tax. This would effective before the ending of May. He said that everyone was scrambling as this requires a rate adjustment to be done. This means the Board would have to make a recommendation, the Council would have to have two public readings and approve it all by the end of May. The attorneys at Bose McKinney were asking the IURC if we could set those funds aside as we move forward towards a full rate case. Mr. Binkerd said he was hopefully for a favorable answer, but he didn't know and neither did the attorney. Mr. Binkerd said if the answer was not favorable, staff would move forward to be in compliance. Mr. Binkerd shared that he was told most communities were not going to do a rate adjustment until the IURC came knocking at their door. Mr. Binkerd reiterated that the attorneys and Jennifer Wilson were looking at this along with the Senior Leadership Team to figure out what it would take to do something that made sense. Mr. Binkerd said the adjustment would affect customers by less than \$0.40 per month. As far as the full water rate case was concerned, Mr. Binkerd had been having conversations with the attorneys and financial advisors. During those conversations, it was discovered that there has not been a Cost of Service Study done since 1992. When the water rate was increased in 2004, a study was not done. Mr. Binkerd said that given that our demographics had changed since 1992, he thought it would be important to have a Cost of Service Study done. The study may cause the rate case to take longer, but it was the right thing to do for the community according to Mr. Binkerd. The Solid Waste rate increase should be much simpler. The needed increase only had to be recommended by the Utility Service Board and approved by the Council. Mr. Binkerd said that the Senior Leadership Team was working hard to ensure that the proposed increase would make sense.

### **BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

There were no comments at this time.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Mr. Logan wished Mr. Lewis a speedy recovery and hoped to see him soon.

The next meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 7, 2022.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Robert Logan, Chairman  
Marion Utilities Service Board

ATTEST



Misty Humphries  
Its Secretary