



## Marion Utilities

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

## Service Board

### MINUTES OF THE MARCH 5, 2026 MEETING

The Marion Utility Service Board held their meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2026 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; Isaiah Fuller, Mike Graft, Al Green, and Herschel Lewis. Kristy Barney and Jayda Monteiro were absent.

Also present at the meeting were: Robin Shrader, Director; Pat Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering & Solid Waste; Chad Guyer, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance; Kyle Persinger, Attorney; Tiffany Snyder, Accounting Billing Coordinator; Misty Humphries, Secretary; and Gary Fordyce, City Council.

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

There were none.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Reverend Green, to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2026 meeting. A roll call vote was taken. The votes were as follows: Mr. Fuller, aye; Mr. Graft, yes; Reverend Green, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; and Mr. Logan, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **FINANCIALS**

Mrs. Snyder presented the January 2026 financials. Mrs. Snyder said that overall, the utilities had a solid start to 2026 with revenues meeting expectations and expenses generally in line with prior months. Mrs. Snyder highlighted a few items that impacted January and reminded the board that financials were only for January and not a year to date, as January was the only month available. She then reported that most operating and maintenance expenses were consistent, or lower than 2025's monthly averages. A few increases occurred in water and sewer, and those being contractual services with the ongoing rate study for accounting, legal, and admin costs for water and sewer. Mrs. Snyder noted that there was an extra payroll in January which occasionally occurs. Employee benefits and taxes were lower than prior months due to both utilities receiving large insurance credits due to receiving our self-insured premium overage refund. The Water credit was about \$58,000 and the Wastewater credit was about \$90,000.

Mrs. Snyder recalled that seven months ago, the Water Utility had fully utilized its depreciation funds, leaving those balances at zero. Those funds have remained at zero. The utility had zero since that time. In September, the Wastewater Utility had loaned \$1.8 million to the Water Utility to stabilize operations. Mrs. Snyder said those loan funds remain in the Water Operating Fund. Without the loan, the Water Operating Fund balance would be approximately \$455,000, which was approximately \$200,000 less than the required two months of operating expenses balance.



Mrs. Snyder then stated that in December 2025, Wastewater issued a \$10,500,000 bond through the Indiana Bond Bank's Community Funding Resource Program. The funds for this bond issuance have been retained in the Wastewater Construction Fund. It will be used for the planned infrastructure projects.

As for Wastewater and Solid Waste, both reported a net gain for the month. Water and Stormwater reported a net loss. The Stormwater loss was primarily due to the capital purchase of a TV Inspection Unit for \$120,000.

Mr. Logan asked if there were any questions. Mr. Graft said no questions, but asked if there was a way to get the financials sooner instead of just the day. Mrs. Humphries stated that the financials were received this afternoon and were sent out then. Mr. Graft asked if there was no way to get it any sooner so that we can review it as he is busy, and it's tough to kind of digest it all. Mr. Graft said if it could be received any sooner, he'd appreciate it. Mr. Logan noted that there were two utilities in the red and two in the black so that was a positive close. Hearing no other questions, or comments, Mr. Logan called for a motion. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Reverend Green, to approve the January financials as presented. A roll call vote was taken. The votes were as follows: Mr. Fuller, yes; Mr. Graft, yes; Reverend Green, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; and Mr. Logan, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

### **UPDATE ON PROJECTS**

Mr. Pinkerton reported that materials for sanitary sewer going in at the lime sludge lagoon have been brought in. Mr. Pinkerton said he hopes to see some digging in the next week or so. The 009 CSO project had consisted mostly of approvals, schedules, traffic control approvals, erosion controls going in, and insurance submittals. They did put the silt fence out. Mr. Pinkerton and Mrs. Shrader noted that there was not a pay request at this time, but it would most likely be ready for the next board meeting. The pay request was expected to be approximately \$200,000.

### **CITY & CUSTOMER ADJUSTMENT REQUESTS**

Mrs. Humphries stated that the Water Committee met on February 20<sup>th</sup> to review two requests from the City along with another request that had been received from a customer between the last board meeting and the committee meeting.

The first request was from the City of Marion Street Department. They had an outside water line for the wash bay with a bad shutoff. The Street Department repaired the shut off valve, and they requested an adjustment. The Committee's recommendation was to grant an adjustment in the amount of \$252.99.

The second request came from the Parks Department. This request was the second leak within a 12 month period for this account, and so whenever that happens, it is always brought to the Board for review. Mrs. Humphries explained that this particular break was three feet down and required 30 feet of water line to be repaired, along with the shutoff and a new PVC connection. The leak was between December 28, 2025 and January 5, 2026 so it spanned two billing cycles. Mrs. Humphries said the previous adjustment was in May, and while it was the same line, it was in a different location. The adjustment would be \$248.26. The Committee's recommendation was to grant an adjustment.

The third request received and reviewed was from a mobile home community. The property manager called in on July 25, 2025 regarding the Community's high bill. Mrs. Humphries stated that one of the CSRs notified him (Property Manager) that there had been efforts to reach out regarding high water usage and a possible leak as they have a new smart meter, but no one answered. The property manager stated he had a few units with running

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toilets that had since been fixed. He stated that he would look around to make sure there were no other issues. CSRs then notified the Property Manager again on January 20, 2026 of a leak alert received, and he said that the tenants just use a lot of water. An invoice from Bright's was received and indicated that they fixed a leak on January 8, 2026 along with the property manager's request to adjust the last six months which would be a \$10,000 adjustment. Mrs. Humphries explained that the Board's policy has been that once a customer was notified or aware of a leak, they are responsible for charges incurred from that point moving forward. If an adjustment were to be made, it would be for the usage before the property manager was aware of the leak. Additionally, because there is no way to tell what portion of the bill was due to the leaking toilets, due to the leak, and due from the tenants using a lot of water, the Committee's recommendation was to not grant an adjustment. Mrs. Humphries noted that she had also reviewed the mobile home community's latest billing statement that went out on February 17<sup>th</sup>, and the usage has still not decreased. Again, the Property Manager was contacted in February about high usage, and the response was again that he wasn't worried about it as people out there just use a lot of water so nothing has changed as far as usage. Mr. Lewis asked what was meant by they just use a lot of water. Mrs. Humphries said she took it to mean that the tenants have a lot of toilets, washing machines, or turn on their faucets a lot. Mr. Lewis asked what the adjustment amount would have been. Mrs. Humphries answered \$10,000. Mr. Logan asked if the mobile home community had paid their bill on time. Mrs. Humphries said the community was paying on time and in full. The account balance was \$2,467 as of that afternoon. Mr. Graft moved, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve the recommendations of the Water Committee. A roll call vote was taken. The votes were as follows: Mr. Fuller, yes; Mr. Graft, yes; Reverend Green, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; and Mr. Logan, yes. Motion carried unanimously.

### **TRANSFERS & PAY REQUESTS**

Mr. Pinkerton presented a pay request to Inliner Solutions out of Orleans, Indiana for the cured-in-place liner at Lincolnshire, Brandon, and Wilno. It was the release of retainage in the amount of \$5,134. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Graft, to approve the pay request. A roll call vote was taken. The votes were as follows: Mr. Fuller, yes; Mr. Graft, yes; Reverend Green, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; and Mr. Logan, yes.

### **SPONSORSHIP REQUESTS**

Mrs. Humphries shared a little background on this item. She said on March 5, 1985, the City Council passed General Ordinance 5-1985, establishing an account for the promotion of the City of Marion, Indiana by the Marion Utility Service Board for promoting the betterment of the City. There were five subsections of expenditures listed, and the sponsorships and donations fall under subsection (E) which were purposes that directly related to promotional or betterment of the City. She added that since there were not a lot of guidelines listed in the ordinance, on April 22, 2021, the Utility Service Board approved a Sponsorship/Donation policy in order to establish parameters and guidelines for considering those requests. Mrs. Humphries said that there was one sponsorship request and one donation request which met the parameters and guidelines of that policy.

The sponsorship request was from the Babe Ruth Softball and Baseball League. For the last four years, the board had sponsored a baseball team in the amount of \$300 each year. Mrs. Humphries said there was a listing of different sponsorships that were available on the second page of the request. Mr. Graft asked what the budgeted amount was. Mrs. Humphries said it was \$2,500 a year which covered both sponsorships and donations, and no sponsorships or

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donations had been made this year. Mr. Logan asked how many years a team sponsorship had been done. Mrs. Humphries answered four years. Mr. Logan said that was a promotion to get Marion Utilities' name in the community and provided good community service.

Mrs. Humphries said the second item was a donation request. It was the first time that this request had been received. It was from the American Legion for their Stand Down event. Mrs. Humphries called the board's attention to the detailed request before each of them. The donations go for emergency housing needs, transportation, employment, and vital utilities which would help pay their water and electric bills as well as health and wellness. Mr. Logan asked how much the donation request was for. Mrs. Humphries said a specific amount was not requested, but she was sure they would appreciate anything should the board decide to give. Mr. Logan asked if a limit of \$200 or \$250 in had been exercised if an amount was not requested. Mrs. Humphries said the board had done both amounts.

Mr. Logan asked for any thoughts on the sponsorship request and the donation. He said that he was sure the Babe Ruth League was getting ready to gear up and start practices. He also explained that in looking at these the board reviews what the organization does, what the purpose was, and any thoughts with those. Reverend Green verified that these were the first requests of the year. Mrs. Humphries said yes. Mr. Graft asked if anything had ever been done with the PAL Club. Mrs. Humphries said that the PAL Club had never submitted a request which was surprising. Mrs. Humphries said that her son played in the PAL program so she knew it was a big program. Mr. Graft said that he had sat on the board for many years so it was surprising they hadn't reached out. Mr. Graft said as he understood, the Grant County Veteran's Service was for Grant County as a whole or at least that was written on the request. Mr. Graft asked if Mrs. Humphries knew if the donation would stay in Marion or if it would go into Grant County or even beyond. Mrs. Humphries said unfortunately, she didn't have that information. Mr. Logan asked if the board was concerned, would they want to approve on and table one to find more information about the request for the Grant County Veterans Service Office. Mr. Graft said he would like to know what the minimum is and whether they can confirm that it stays in Marion proper since the utilities weren't really out in the county much. Mr. Graft said he wanted to make sure that it doesn't go beyond the limits of...Mr. Lewis interjected that the request read Grant County so the donation would cover more than Marion. Mrs. Humphries said she could reach out to Mr. Kilgren and bring it back. It wasn't a problem. Mr. Logan asked if anyone wanted to make a motion to approve the \$300 sponsorship to Babe Ruth and continue what had already been established. Mr. Logan said that more information could be gathered on the other request and brought back. Mr. Lewis said he did not see the difference if it was Marion or Grant County as they're veterans. Mr. Lewis said that to him, it shouldn't just be Marion. Mr. Logan commented that he thought there were some water lines that go outside the city limits. Mr. Logan asked if that was correct. Mr. Pinkerton said there were some. Mr. Logan said whether we're trying to limit it to customers only or just within the city, we serve the county. Mr. Logan clarified that they're not all customers of Marion Utilities, but they're within the very short parameters of this area.

Mr. Logan asked if there were any other thoughts. He asked if the board wanted to approve that one as well subject to a dollar amount based upon what information was found. Reverend Green asked Mr. Graft what he wanted to know specifically. Mr. Graft said he just wanted their minimum as there wasn't a number on the request. Mr. Lewis said that was what the board would decide. Mr. Lewis added if the board wanted to give them \$100, the board could give \$100. Mr. Graft said he would give them \$100, and he knows that the board was really early in the season and mid and late was when the board really started getting hit, and he didn't want to

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run out of funds. Mr. Logan said the board also knows the trend of what requests were submitted each year and when those would come down. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Graft, to sponsor the Babe Ruth League at \$300 and donate \$100 to the Grant County Veterans Service. A roll call vote was taken. The votes were as follows: Mr. Fuller, yes; Mr. Graft, yes; Reverend Green, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; and Mr. Logan, yes. Mr. Logan stated that this helps to put the board as good stewards, and it was a way to thank all the veterans for all their great service to the community when they get in need. They helped us when they supported our Country, and now it's our turn to turn around and help them. Mr. Lewis said he had a soft spot and thought it was great. Mr. Graft added that he was a vet so he also has a soft spot, but he was also community minded.

### **SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

#### **M. Humphries, Executive Assistant/Administrative Manager**

Mrs. Humphries thanked the board for completing the information sheets at the last meeting so the IURC pages could be completed.

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

Mr. Pinkerton reported that in February, 682 tons came through the Transfer Station for an average of 42.6 tons per day which was not bad. The bad news was that the compactor in the Transfer Station was down for about a week. The trash couldn't be compacted and had to be sent to the landfill in collection trucks. Mr. Pinkerton said the good news was that it wasn't near the trip that it would have been a year ago. The loads could be run to Wabash which was exactly what they did for a few days until the compactor was repaired. Reverend Green asked if the compactor was large. Mr. Pinkerton said yes, and that it was housed inside the Transfer Station. Mr. Pinkerton added that public drop offs had to be limited because they could be inundated sometimes. Mr. Graft said he appreciated the release of information. He saw it several times to let everyone know so they didn't drive all the way in. Mr. Logan hoped it wasn't a major or costly repair to get it back in operation. Mr. Pinkerton said the issue was a PLC so it shouldn't have been a huge amount.

#### **C. Guyer, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance**

Mr. Guyer said it was good to report the emergency work slowed down so the Distribution crew was able to return to a Habitat for Humanity project on 3617 South Atlanta Street as they had been waiting on us. Mr. Guyer said the crews were able to go down and locate the sewer for them, put a new tap in, and run a new line to a meter setting so they could finish the project. Mr. Pinkerton and Mr. Guyer also reported that they were able to get rid of a lead service line as well. Mr. Logan said that was another good entity to help support the community here as Habitat does a lot for the benefit of people around here.

#### **R Shrader, Director**

Mrs. Shrader said she had two things to report. The first concerned safety training. Last week on Wednesday and Thursday, the regular spring safety training sessions were held. Mrs. Shrader said there was one session in the spring and another in the fall. Robert Yeary from IPEP (Indiana Public Employers' Plan, Inc.) led all of the sessions on both days and was a free service IPEP provided and allowed everyone to hear from a safety expert. Anyone on a night shift or approved leave was required to watch recorded sessions that were missed.

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The second item was an update on the water rate case. Mrs. Shrader spoke with Jennifer Wilson at Crowe earlier this afternoon. She had finished all of the year-end reports and shared those with Baker Tilly. Additionally, Mrs. Wilson had repackaged the initial request of 39.21% and compared it side-by-side with what she felt should be the minimum request...assuming the City followed through with the \$1.8M gift. That was also being shared with Baker Tilly. Mrs. Shrader said next Wednesday, there would be another meeting with Baker Tilly, Crowe, select Council members, Mayor Morell, our attorneys, and herself...the same group that met on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The hope for that meeting would be for everyone to reach a final agreement about what the final number would be as we head into the next Council meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>. In the interest of trying to minimize the possibility of confusion and misunderstanding, Mrs. Shrader stated she would refrain from sharing any specific numbers publicly until said agreement had been reached. That said, unless something significant transpired, the board could expect to hear the next update from her on this in about a week.

**BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

There were none.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Mr. Logan nice to see everyone. Mr. Logan noted that when the meetings start it was now much lighter. He closed by thanking everyone for their attendance.

The next meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2026.

There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Graft, to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was taken. The votes were as follows: Mr. Fuller, yes; Mr. Graft, yes; Reverend Green, yes; Mr. Lewis, yes; and Mr. Logan, yes. Motion carried by majority.

Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Robert Logan, Chairman  
Marion Utilities Service Board

ATTEST



Misty Humphries, Its Secretary

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