Marion Utilities
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BOARD MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 1, 2020 MEETING

The Marion Utility Service Board held their meeting on Thursday, October 1, 2020 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; Mia Erickson; Al Green; Von Jackson; and Herschel Lewis. Doug Carl and Bill Dorsey were 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; Brad Luzadder, Council Liaison; Misty Humphries, Secretary; and Mark Theel, Marion Utilities.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

There were no additions or deletions at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the regular meeting of the September 17, 2020 meeting. All board members in attendance voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIALS

Mr. Binkerd provided an update on the status of the financials. He explained that there was a software malfunction causing the link between the two software platforms to break. The developers have not been able to fix the link as of yet. However, the developers were able to come up with a temporary fix last week. This temporary fix allowed Jennifer Wilson, Crowe, to develop a preliminary financial for July which is being presented now. Mr. Binkerd said that the Board would notice a new format to the financials. This is not the final draft as several items are still being worked on. As far as financial information, there was a large project that was erroneously paid for out of Storm Water rather than Wastewater. A correcting entry will be made. Storm Water will show a positive balance and Wastewater will show a loss of approximately $130,000. Mr. Binkerd also reported that Tiffany Snyder has been selected as the new Accounting Billing Coordinator and will be starting on Monday. Mrs. Snyder will be coming to us from TLC.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS

Mr. Pinkerton reported that the Phase III Cured-in-Place project was awarded at the last meeting. The contractor will be in within the next three weeks to begin the project. Mr. Pinkerton said that he anticipates that the projects will move along quickly.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Mr. Binkerd said this item has been left on the agenda for updating purposes. Mr. Binkerd said that the Utilities have been lucky in that no employees have tested positive for COVID-19. Thankfully, any employee family members that were positive have recovered and are doing well. Mr. Binkerd said that he would update the Board should anything change.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION UPDATE

Mr. Conner stated that he was pleased to announce that the property transfer was on the Commissioner's agenda for their October 5th meeting. The title search has also been completed. Mr. Conner stated that he has a resolution prepared for the Commissioners and a sister resolution for the Board of Works to sign off on.

CARES ACT REIMBURSEMENT UPDATE

Mr. Binkerd stated that this item was also a place holder. A reimbursement claim for a little over $21,000 was submitted to the City today. The claim would cover needed security updates that were needed.

TRANSFERS & PAY REQUESTS

There was no transfer or pay requests at this time.

APPROVAL OF TRI-AXLE VEHICLE QUOTES

Mrs. Shrader reported that the Water Utility budgeted for a new tri-axle dump truck this year. Four quotes were submitted, but only three quotes met the specification. Had the fourth quote met the specification, it still would have been higher than the lowest quote. Mrs. Shrader noted that two dump trucks will be traded in for the purchase of this vehicle. Stoops offered $4,000 for the trade and VoMac offered $12,650. The quotes were as follows: 2022 Freightliner from Stoops did not meet the specs; 2020 Freightliner from Stoops $136,356; Western Star from Stoops $131,661; and the 2020 Mack from VoMac $127,250. VoMac was recommended as the low quote. Mrs. Shrader said that the bonus was that this truck was setting on the lot. The budgeted amount was $170,000. This purchase would be well below the budgeted amount. Mr. Logan asked where VoMac was located. Mrs. Shrader said was in Seymour. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the quote submitted by. All board members in attendance voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF 2021 BUDGETS

Mr. Binkerd presented the 2021 Budgets. He explained that the Budget Committees had met earlier this week. Mr. Binkerd said he was not asking for approval, but was presenting all of the budgets so that the members of the other committees could see the other budgets. Mr. Binkerd said COLA was looking like it would be a 1% to 1.5% increase. COLA was built into the budget at 1.2% as are the 3% increases for those still working through the steps of the compensation plan. Mr. Binkerd said that health insurance was looking like it would only see a 5% increase as we had an exceptional claims year. Mr. Binkerd said that across the board supplies, materials, consulting fees, and other similar items did not change much. Chemicals is a big item that looks pretty static. Projects are large items for the budgets. There will be some movement on the Long Term Control Plan. A presentation on the Long Term Control Plan will be planned for the October 15th meeting. A 10 million bond issue will be needed. This is not built into the Wastewater budget as presented. There is a separate cash account for the bond. The bond will be presented and passage asked separately from the budget. Mr. Binkerd also stated that the Water Utility Depreciation fund shows $1 million in the cash account. Mrs. Shrader said the projects will include

process improvements such as a new slaker for $500,000 along with rehabilitation to aeration towers and a meter project. The meter project would allow for upgrades to the metering system and a pilot project. Mr. Binkerd said he would give the board time to digest the information. He asked if there were any questions or concerns, that the board please contact him.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS

P. Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering & Solid Waste

Mr. Pinkerton stated that he didn't have a report, but he did want to show what it was like to drive a solid waste vehicle. Mr. Pinkerton played a video from the dash cam of a Solid Waste Truck. A car pulled out in front of the truck during the video. Mr. Pinkerton remarked that Mr. Watson was driving and has to stay alert at all times. Mr. Pinkerton also stated that it was a miracle that Mr. Watson got stopped so quickly.

R. Shrader, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance

Mrs. Shrader shared that crews have been hauling lime and bio-solids. Water and Wastewater have been working very well together to get the residuals to farmers' fields. There were also some needed updates to SCADA.

C. Binkerd, Utility Director

Mr. Binkerd stated that he had no report at this time.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

There were no Board comments at this time.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Logan thanked everyone for attending. He asked that if any of the board members had a question or thoughts about the budgets that they please reach out to Mr. Binkerd. The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the L.E.A.D. Center at Marion Utilities.

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

Meeting adjourned at p.m. 5:56 pm

Robert Logan, Chairman
Marion Utilities Service Board

ATTEST

Misty Humphries
Its Secretary