



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

Service Board

BOARD MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2021 MEETING

The Marion Utility Service Board held their meeting on Thursday, December 2, 2021 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; Al Green; Von Jackson; and Herschel Lewis. Bill Dorsey was absent. Mia Erickson participated via teleconference; however, her attendance was not counted towards a quorum.

Also present at the meeting were: Chuck Binkerd, Director; Robin Shrader, Assistant Director for Operations and Maintenance; Mike Conner, Attorney; and Tiffany Snyder, Accounting/Billing Coordinator.

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 November 18, 2021 regular meeting. All board members physically in attendance voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIALS

Mrs. Snyder presented the final 2021 September Financials. Mrs. Snyder said that Wastewater saw a decrease due to a recent Long Term Control Plan pay request. The sales for Water and Sewer were slightly above the year. The sales for Storm Water and Solid Waste were consistent with the average. Mrs. Snyder did note that the expenses for all four utilities were a little high. Specifically, there were large claims for the methane sphere and increasing costs for chemicals and other supplies. Mr. Binkerd pointed out that the \$16.4 million balance, includes \$14 million for the Long Term Control Plan, and the usable cash balance totals \$2 to \$2.5 million. Mr. Logan thanked Mr. Binkerd for his clarification. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Carl, to approve the September financials. All board members physically in attendance voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS

Mr. Binkerd reported that the only project was the Valley Avenue and Jackson Avenue water main project. The project should result with better water pressure and quality. Mr. Binkerd said that the project was held up while waiting on supplies. However, those should be in and the project should begin on Monday.

2022 BUDGET APPROVAL



Mr. Binkerd reminded the Board that the 2022 Budget's had been reviewed by the committees and presented to the full board for review and approval. Mr. Logan asked if there were any questions regarding the budgets. Mr. Carl asked if the 20% for insurance costs would cover the anticipated expense. Mr. Binkerd said yes, he thought it would. Mr. Carl moved, seconded by Mr. Lewis, to approve the 2022 budgets. All board members physically in attendance voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Logan reminded that the board wages increase would begin on January 2, 2022 and not January 1, 2022 due to payroll issues, and January 1, 2022 being the last day of a pay period.

TRANSFERS & PAY REQUESTS

There was no transfer or pay requests.

LONG TERM CONTROL PLAN CHANGE ORDER

Mrs. Shrader explained that once digging began by the chlorine tanks, it was discovered that the pathway the chlorine feed lines were going to take under the road would be problematic. The solution was to take a jog in a slightly different direction. Should this have to be dug up in the future, the digging would be minimal. As a way to further mitigate any future digging, a casing pipe will be installed. Mrs. Shrader said that this was a small change order in the amount of \$862. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the change order in the amount of \$862. All board members physically in attendance voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Logan asked if the path would involve a crossing of Washington Street. Mrs. Shrader said no, it would only involve the access drive on the access drive within the Wastewater Plant.

CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE REQUESTS

Mr. Binkerd presented the Christmas Committee requests for the 2021 luncheon. The Committee requested the closing of the office from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; eight certificates for eight consecutive hours off with pay; and an appreciation bonus of \$500 per employee instead of the traditional gift card. Mr. Binkerd asked that this be offered as employees have had several challenges during COVID especially in keeping the plant up and operational during this time along with dealing with some people that that have not been very friendly or kind at all. Mr. Binkerd said that the Personnel Committee had met and agreed that a \$500 appreciation bonus would be appropriate. Mr. Logan stated that social security and Medicare should be withheld, but no federal, state, or county tax should be withheld. Mr. Binkerd said that total cost would be approximately \$44,000 total which was available in cash reserves or the budgeted payroll expense. Mr. Carl said that the Personnel Committee thought it would be appropriate for both the time and amount. Mr. Carl added that the Committee would like to keep this as a surprise until the Christmas luncheon if possible. Mr. Logan said that the employees, their hard work, and dedication are very much appreciated by the Board and the Board would like to recognize them. Mr. Lewis clarified that the appreciation bonus would be in place of the traditional gift cards. Mr. Binkerd stated that Mr. Lewis was correct. Mr. Conner stated that he would like to make a donation of \$100. Mr. Binkerd thanked Mr. Conner and said he would ask Mrs. Humphries to follow up with Mr. Conner. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Carl, to approve the closing of the office from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; eight certificates for eight consecutive hours off with pay; and an appreciation bonus of \$500 per employee. All board members physically in attendance voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS

R. Shrader, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance

Mrs. Shrader shared that the blasting was completed. The last blast caused a power outage at the plant for four hours. AEP was able to restore power to the plant. In other news, Mrs. Shrader said that

another intern was hired as a full time employee. Mrs. Shrader said that this was very exciting because it shows that the internship program is working.

C. Binkerd, Utility Director

Mr. Binkerd reported that a meeting with the Insurance Committee was scheduled for Tuesday to review the updated proposals. Anthem’s proposal resulted in a 48% due to the amount of premiums paid versus the amount of claims paid. Anthem is not willing to negotiate. United has submitted a proposal that would allow the cost to fall within the budgeted amount. Mr. Binkerd said he hopes to have everything resolved by next week. Mr. Binkerd stated that several employees have been out or are out due to COVID-19 quarantine procedures. Mr. Pinkerton and Mrs. Humphries are both quarantined but will be back soon as they both tested negative. Mr. Binkerd wanted to publicly thank those that have stepped in and filled the gaps for those that have been out.

BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

There were no board member comments at this time.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Logan thanked everyone for their attendance and reminded them of the Christmas luncheon to come.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 16, 2021. If the meeting is not needed it will be rescheduled for January.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Robert Logan, Chairman
Marion Utilities Service Board

ATTEST



Misty Humphries
Its Secretary