



Marion Utilities

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

Service Board

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2024 MEETING

The Marion Utility Service Board held their meeting on Thursday, January 11, 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; Doug Carl; Bill Dorsey; Al Green; and Herschel Lewis. Von Jackson and Jayda Monteiro were absent.

Also present at the meeting were: Pat Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering & Solid Waste; Robin Shrader, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance; Tiffany Snyder, Accounting/Billing Coordinator; Mike Conner, attorney; and Misty Humphries, Secretary.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

ELECTION OF 2024 CHAIRMAN & VICE-CHAIRMAN APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Carl moved, seconded by Mr. Lewis, appoint Bob Logan as the 2024 Chairman. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Logan appointed Doug Carl as the 2024 Vice-Chairman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2023 meeting. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIALS

Mrs. Snyder presented the November, 2023 financials. Mrs. Snyder explained that all of the Utilities experienced a hefty increase in insurance expenses due to the additional payments made in order to set up the self-insured fund. The Water expense was \$30,000 higher than usual; Wastewater was \$55,000 higher; Stormwater was \$14,000 higher; and Solid Waste was \$14,500 higher. Mrs. Snyder added that Water also paid several invoices due to the main breaks on Kem Road. These expenses with the capital outlay of \$151,000 reduced the cash balances for Water. Mrs. Snyder also noted Water began funding the debt service reserve according to the bond settlement agreement. Mr. Logan asked if the bond was through the SRF funding. Mrs. Snyder answered yes. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Carl, to approve the November, 2023 financials. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS

Mr. Pinkerton reported that the contractor was in town prepping the sewers for the cured-in-place lining. This was a 2023 project that would be completed in 2024.





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Today, a lot of bids were opened for projects that fall under the SRF funding. There were three bidders on the distribution projects. The bids ranged from \$3.1 to \$4.8 million. The two tank projects had seven bidders. The Butler tank had base bids ranged from \$572,000 to \$1.6 million. There was only one contractor at \$1.6 million price, and everyone else was comparable. Mr. Pinkerton said the Meridian Street tank also had seven submittals. The base bids ranged from \$563,000 to \$1.6 million. The same contractor from the Butler tank was at \$1.6 million for the Meridian Tank. Mr. Carl asked if 26th Street tank was close to \$1 million. Mrs. Shrader said yes, and added that it was twice the size of these tanks. Mr. Pinkerton said that bids on the system-wide meter replacement were also opened. The physical labor only had one bidder at \$1.47 million. The bidder was Core & Main. The last bid was for the Lead Service Line replacement. Mr. Pinkerton explained that since the funding was coming from SRF, we would have to go into the house. There were three bidders with the bids ranging from \$2 to \$4.6 million. Mr. Pinkerton said that the bids would be reviewed, tabbed, and brought back to the next meeting for approval. Mr. Carl asked how much funds from SRF were received. Mr. Pinkerton said there was a \$10 million loan and \$1 million grant. Mr. Dorsey asked why crews would have to go into the house for the lead service line replacement. Mr. Pinkerton said that was a condition since SRF funds were being used. Mr. Pinkerton was not sure why SRF made that a condition. Mr. Dorsey asked if that would be expensive. Mr. Pinkerton said that it would be expensive and some other issues would be presented. Some of those issues were getting permission to enter the home, some houses have electrical grounded to old water line which would require an electrician; and it will open the Utility to potentially new issues and possibly problems. Mr. Carl asked why the area from 20th Street to the Cardinal Greenway and Nebraska to Adams Street was selected. Mr. Pinkerton said the SRF required socio-economics be taken into account and that area met the requirements. Mr. Pinkerton added that eventually the whole city would have to be done, but this was the first area. Mr. Dorsey asked if the bidder was known. Mr. Pinkerton stated that not much was known about the low bidder. It appeared that he would be directional drilling everything. Mr. Pinkerton said in his opinion, directional drilling was good because yards could be torn up. Mr. Carl asked if the lead pipe went to the house but not inside. Mr. Pinkerton said if the pipe was galvanized from the house to the curb, then the state considers it galvanized lead and would have to be replaced. If the pipe is PVC or copper, it wouldn't have to be replaced. Mr. Pinkerton said it would be a busy two years.

TRANSFERS & PAY REQUESTS

There were none.

240SOLUTIONS/BLUE ORG AGREEMENT

Mrs. Shrader explained that in 2023, 240Solutions worked with us on leadership training and training all employees. 240Solutions have rebranded to BlueOrg over the holidays. Mrs. Shrader said leadership would like to ask the Board to continue the contract in 2024. This would not be as extensive as it was last year. BlueOrg would take culture surveys, hold quarterly workshops for those that supervise three people or more, and provide new employees with the Working Genius workshops. The total price for 2024 was \$40,000 made over quarterly payments. Mr. Carl if this training was with Adam Binkerd. Mrs. Shrader answered yes. Mr. Carl asked if the Leadership Team was happy with the program. Mrs. Shrader said yes and added that BlueOrg had developed a rapport with employees. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve



the 2024 contract with BlueOrg in the amount of \$40,000. All board members voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

504 W GARDNER COURT

Mrs. Shrader presented a request from a customer at 504 W Gardner Court. Through a series of events, our staff made some mistakes. A customer moving in to one residence was moved into another within the software system. The customer physically living there didn't receive a bill in her name due to the improper move in. The customer physically living there paid through ACH until she was erroneously moved out of the location in the software system. The water was shut off under the incorrect customer's name because the bill wasn't paid. The customer physically living there called a plumber, the plumber found no issues, and sent her down to us. The customer physically living there paid the past due bills without issue. She was now asking that we pay her plumber bill in the amount of \$122.84. Mr. Logan assigned the request to the Water Committee.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS

P. Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering & Solid Waste

Mr. Pinkerton said that he was looking at the year-end numbers for Solid Waste. It was not the biggest year which was 2021. It was 32 tons less than 2021. Mr. Pinkerton said the drop offs at the Transfer Station accounted for \$140,000 in revenue which was good. Mr. Pinkerton reported that he would have more details to share at the next meeting.

R. Shrader, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance

Mrs. Shrader stated that she had spent a lot of time working on year-end data as well. As for the sludge pudding, Merrill Brothers had been onsite and working diligently to remove it. There were some ammonia levels in the sludge pudding that was interesting. Mrs. Shrader said that crews had also been dewatering biosolids due to molybdenum issues.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Carl asked that everyone keep Mr. Binkerd and his wife in their prayers.

Mr. Lewis stated that his door was tagged indicating that there was an issue, and he might want to call a plumber to see if he had a leak. Mr. Lewis said he called the after-hours number and someone came out. Mr. Lewis expressed his appreciation for someone coming out so quickly. It was almost instantaneous. Luckily, no leak was found.

Mr. Logan asked if there were any updates on the lawsuits that had been filed. Mr. Conner answered not yet.

Mrs. Humphries added that several employees and especially Dennis Watson had expressed their appreciation and thankfulness to the Board for the gift cards and wanted to again say thank you.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Logan stated that former Director Owen Gilbert had passed away. Mr. Logan spoke to Mr. Gilbert's son who was very appreciative of the sympathy gift and kind words. Mr. Logan echoed Mr. Carl's thoughts of sending prayers to the Binkerd family.

The next meeting was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 1, 2024.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Robert Logan, Chairman
Marion Utilities Service Board

ATTEST

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

Misty Humphries
Its Secretary