



Marion Utilities

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

Service Board

Memo To: All Utility Board Members
From: Bob Logan, Chairman
Date: February 14, 2020
Re: Agenda for February 20, 2020 Utility Board Meeting

Dear Board Member:

This is to inform you of our Board Meeting to be held Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Training 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. Regular meeting of February 6, 2020
- V. **FINANCIALS**
 - A. January, 2020
- VII. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Update on Projects – Pinkerton
 - B. 3545 S. Boots Street Request- Water Committee
 - C. 725 W. 10th Street Request- Water Committee





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VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Transfers & Pay Requests - Senior Leadership Team
- B. Recycling Recommendation- Solid Waste Committee

IX. SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS

- A. Assistant Director for Engineering & Solid Waste- P. Pinkerton
- B. Utility Director- C. Binkerd

X. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

XI. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

XII. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Robert Logan, Chairman
Marion Utility Service Board

cc: News Media
City Administration/Council
Department Heads





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Service Board

BOARD MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2020 MEETING

The Marion Utility Service Board held their meeting on Thursday, February 20, 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; Mike Barney; Doug Carl; Al Green; Von Jackson; and Herschel Lewis.

Also present at the meeting were: Chuck Binkerd, Director; Pat Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering and Solid Waste; Brad Luzadder, Council Liaison; Mike Conner, Attorney; Misty Humphries, Secretary; Mark Theel, Marion Utilities; and Troy Phillips, Marion Utilities.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

There were no additions or deletions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Carl moved, seconded by Mr. Barney, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of February 6, 2020. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIALS

Mr. Binkerd presented the January 2020 financials. The Water Utility had an overall loss of \$20,000 due to the 2019 year-end 2020 beginning year transition where some of the claims for 2019 transition to being paid in 2020 if the invoices are not received before year end. There was \$35,000 of unusual cost due to this. The minimum operations balances are low in the Water and Wastewater Utilities. The low balances will be addressed under Transfer and Pay Requests. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Carl, to approve the financials as presented. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS

Mr. Pinkerton reported that most of the projects are still in design. The 1300 Building Floor Project is underway. Hopefully, this will be completed before the weather breaks so that it can be usable soon.

3545 S. BOOTS STREET REQUEST

Mr. Binkerd explained that the Water Committee had some discussion regarding this request. Mr. Conner was asked for his opinion regarding this request. Mr. Conner stated that he was asked to look at this request because of a transfer of property by tax deed. Mr. Conner said that Allied Indiana LLC became the owner of the property on January 11, 2018. Mr. Rogers is responsible for the charges up to the date of the transfer but not charges after the property transfer because Mr. Rogers remained the owner until the tax deed was filed. Mr. Binkerd said based upon Mr. Conner's assessment the total due



by Mr. Rogers would be \$82.93 after a \$21.00 write-off. Mr. Binkerd said he would recommend collecting the \$82.93 bill. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the recommendation of the Water Committee resulting in Mr. Rogers being responsible for \$82.93. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

725 W. 10th STREET REQUEST

Mr. Binkerd said that there were some mitigating circumstances regarding this request. Mr. Binkerd said that this was reviewed by the Water Committee. However, it is really a Storm Water Committee issue. Mr. Logan re-assigned the request to the Storm Water Committee for review.

Transfers & Pay Requests

Mr. Binkerd presented a funds transfer for the Water and Wastewater Utilities. Both Operations accounts should have over \$600,000. Mr. Binkerd asked for a transfer from the Water Construction account to the Water Operations account in the amount of \$250,000. Mr. Binkerd then requested a transfer of \$200,000 from the Wastewater Long Term Control Plan Cash Reserves to Wastewater Operations to meet the minimum balance requirement. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Barney, to approve the transfer requests. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

RECYCLING RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Binkerd said that recycling has been a topic of discussion lately. Mr. Binkerd said he spoke about the recycling program with several neighborhood associations over the last few months and again at the State of the City Address this week. China was the largest single receiver of comingled recyclable goods in the world. China was sorting the materials and would replace some of the raw materials needed for their economy. In 2018, China decided that they had enough of comingled recyclables due to the degree of contamination which then compromised their goods. Comingled recyclables have been sent to the landfill when contamination is present. This is a growing answer. Mr. Binkerd said that in the United States there are several communities that are stopping their recycling program all together. Indianapolis for example is facing recycling fees that have doubled due to the increasing costs. Mr. Binkerd said that recycling is the right thing to do and wants to see it continue but perhaps in a different manner. He explained that the County has a nice and very well-run facility on Garthwaite Road. The County does not accept any comingled goods whatsoever. There is an attendant present to ensure that recyclables are clean and sorted properly. Currently, Marion Utilities pays \$750 per ton to dispose of recycling versus the \$150 per ton for solid waste to go to the landfill. There are a few items that may be of small value as in a few cents per pound not per ton. Mr. Binkerd said that there are communities that were making tens of thousands of dollars that are now facing rising costs due to the changes made in the recycling market. Mr. Binkerd said that several discussions have been had with the County regarding recycling. Mr. White has been very accommodating. Mr. Binkerd said that the thought is that a recycling center could be located in the west side of the 1300 building. Customers could enter the building off Washington Street, loop through the building, drop their recycling off, and then exit back onto Washington Street. Items accepted would include paper, cardboard, aluminum, tin and steel (mostly food containers), glass (mostly food containers), and plastic #1-#7 (no plastic bags). Mr. Binkerd said that the Utilities does not want to be in competition with the County. Mr. Binkerd recommended the Utilities' Recycling Center open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday and Friday for acceptance of recycling. The County is open on the other days, and this schedule should not impose a hardship upon the County. Mr. Pinkerton said in the future he would like to improve the traffic flow by adding two more garage doors- one on the north side and one on the south side of the building. The entrance would be off the north side of Washington Street, cars could then split into multiple lanes within the building, and then exit onto Stephenson which runs on the south side of the 1300 building. Mr.

Pinkerton said that Transfer Systems had been contacted. This is the same company that the County uses. The company would provide large cardboard boxes to use as receptacles and then pick those up when full. Transfer System would charge \$200 to pick the boxes up when full. Mr. Pinkerton said that currently Republic Services charges \$350 for coming to pick up the hopper plus an additional \$45 per ton in tipping fees. Mr. Binkerd said that people that are truly interested in recycling know and understand the increasing costs of recycling. There will be some people that will be upset over not getting the blue bags and essentially eliminating curb side recycling. Mr. Binkerd said the goal for the Utility is to truly achieve the goals for recycling. As of now, recyclables are contaminated, and they are in the end being taken to the landfill because of this. Mr. Binkerd said that there are some communities that have already made changes to their programs and those programs are running successfully. Mr. Binkerd said that the Leadership Team thinks this is the best solution for our community. Mr. Barney asked if the County attendants would still be asked to man the recycling center. Mr. Binkerd said that we would be interested if the employees are interested. The attendants are part time employees and are well trained in this area. Mr. Carl asked how this would be communicated to the community and when would be the start date. Mr. Binkerd said that our Communication Specialist, along with Layla Price Botkin, and Kayla Johnson are scheduled to meet the first week of March to start a campaign. Mr. Binkerd said he is also scheduled to be on the Tim George show next Tuesday. Mr. Carl said that he liked that this could be done without a rate increase. Mr. Barney asked if there was a current employee that would be in-charge and a part of this change. Mr. Binkerd said that Pam Kirklin would be the lead and point person. Mr. Binkerd said that Mrs. Kirklin would ensure that the hired attendants whether from the County, new part-time employees, or current members of the Solid Waste workgroup were trained properly. Mr. Pinkerton said the start date for the new program would be April 6th and that blue bags would be accepted and sorted until April 30th to allow an overlap of the current program with the new program. Mr. Logan asked if Monday and Friday would be enough time for people to come out and complete their recycling. Mr. Logan will go to the County facility and at any time there can be 2-5 cars. Mr. Binkerd said that he thought Monday and Friday is a good start. He anticipates that there will be a discovery period where it is determined if additional days or hours will be needed. Mr. Binkerd said he thinks that eventually some growth and expansion may be needed. Mr. Jackson asked if data would be collected in order to make decisions. Mr. Binkerd said that he doesn't know if hard data would be gathered, but it might be rather a feeling. Mr. Jackson asked if the County had any hard data. Mr. Pinkerton said that the County has some rough data but it is not exact as they would not know if every person is a single visitor or if it is the same visitor multiple times. Mr. Pinkerton said as Neighborhood Associations get involved there would be some suggestions and some efficiencies learned. Mr. Jackson said it would be helpful to have the Neighborhood Associations trained and involved with the Recycling Center. Mr. Binkerd said that he thinks having Layla Price Botkin and Kayla Johnson involved will be key. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Barney, to approve the change to the recycling program as presented. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS

P. Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering & Solid Waste

Mr. Pinkerton reported that for Solid Waste the month of January and February are trending much like 2019 did and 2019 was a record setting year.

Utility Director

Mr. Binkerd thanked the Board for their attendance at the State of the City Address. Mr. Binkerd reported that there is some proposed legislation that could affect the Utility. House Bill 1165 says that the owners of properties could not be held responsible for the outstanding bills of their renters. The House passed the bill and it is now going before the Senate. A vote was to take place today on the bill. Mr. Binkerd said there is a large number of renters in Marion. This will make it hard to collect. Mr.

Conner added that Jonesboro is struggling with this same issue and would suggest writing our legislators. Mr. Binkerd said that there was a law passed last year regarding this issue, work arounds were developed, and now this bill was written to combat the work arounds. Mr. Conner said he would be happy to share information that Jonesboro finds out and vice versa. Mr. Binkerd said that this would be a shame if a House Bill like this affected rates. House Bill 1131 would require Water and Wastewater Utilities to comply with IURC rules regarding extensions whether the Utility was under the prevue of the IURC or not. The Water Utility is under the IURC, but the Wastewater Utility is not. House Bill 1218 requires underground services to be locatable above ground. This could mean anything from placing a wire beside the service or requiring a change in material. House Bill 1337 would make it necessary to notify Water Utilities in case of a spill within the boundaries of a community. House Bill 1070 will prohibit drivers from holding a mobile device while driving. Mr. Binkerd said this could require more significant action on the Utilities' part.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Conner asked that the Board keep his daughter's mother-in-law in their prayers as she just had a stroke.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Logan thanked Mr. Binkerd for his presentation at the State of the City Address as well as everyone's attendance at the Address.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the L.E.A.D. Center, Building 101, at Marion Utilities, 1540 N. Washington Street.

There being no further business before the board, Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Carl, that the meeting be adjourned. All board members present voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Robert Logan, Chairman
Marion Utilities Service Board

ATTEST



Misty Humphries
Its Secretary