



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: May 18, 2020
Re: Agenda for May 21, 2020 Utility Board Meeting

Dear Board Member:

This is to inform you of our Board Meeting to be held Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Training Center Building 101 at Marion Utilities, 1540 North Washington Street, Marion, Indiana.

The meeting may also be joined via Zoom or Conference call. In order to join the meeting, visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85339842721>

Enter Meeting ID: 853 3984 2721

To join via conference call dial 1.312.626.6799

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 May 7, 2020
- V. **FINANCIALS**
 - A. April, 2020
- VI. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Update on Projects – Pinkerton





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VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Transfers & Pay Requests - Senior Leadership Team
- B. Approval of Docket- C. Binkerd
- C. Central Industrial Fiber Agreement- C. Binkerd
- D. Presentation of IURC Petitions- C. Binkerd

VIII. SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS

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

IX. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

X. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

XI. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, June 4, 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 MAY 21, 2020 MEETING

The Marion Utility Service Board held their meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the L.E.A.D. Center, Building 101, at Marion Utilities, 1540 N. Washington Street, Marion, Indiana. The public was also invited to attend via Zoom by visiting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85339842721> and enter Meeting ID: 853 3984 2721 or by calling 1.312.626.6799.

Roll was called and those board members present were: Bob Logan, Chairman; Mike Barney; Bill Dorsey; Al Green; Von Jackson; and Herschel Lewis. Doug Carl was 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; Brad Luzadder, Council Liaison; Mike Conner, Attorney; Shana Martin, Billing and Accounting Coordinator; and Misty Humphries, Secretary.

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

There were none at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Jackson, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 7, 2020. A roll call vote was called. Voting aye were: Mr. Barney, Mr. Dorsey, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Logan. Motion carried unanimously by those in attendance.

FINANCIALS

Ms. Martin presented the financials for April, 2020. She noted that there was a gain. The receipts did go down by a couple thousand for each utility. The expenses were also down so a gain in revenue was shown. Ms. Martin stated that the interest rate earned on utility accounts was tied to the federal fund effective rate. The federal rate was 2% which resulted in \$6,800 of interest revenue. The federal rate is now .05% which resulted in \$158 of interest revenue for April. Ms. Martin was unsure how long the lower rate would be in effect. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Dorsey, to approve the April financials as presented. A roll call vote was called. Voting aye were: Mr. Barney, Mr. Dorsey, Mr. Green, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Logan. Motion carried unanimously by those in attendance.

UPDATE ON PROJECTS

Mr. Pinkerton reported that there was still not much going on as far as projects were concerned. The cured-in-place projects have some prep work that had to be done. The prep work has been completed so it's time to get the contractor in. Mr. Pinkerton said that there was a storm sewer



project at 46th and Selby in 2019. There is some grading and seeding that needs to be completed in order to finish the project. The project was awarded to Dave's Excavating and retainage is still being held on the project.

TRANSFERS & PAY REQUESTS

There were no transfers or pay requests at this time.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET

Mr. Binkerd explained that there was only one large bill, and it was for Anthem health insurance. Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Dorsey, to approve the docket as presented. A roll call vote was called. Voting aye were: Mr. Barney, Mr. Dorsey, Mr. Green, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Logan. Motion carried unanimously by those in attendance.

CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL FIBER AGREEMENT

Mr. Binkerd reported that a local developer is working on a processing facility to be located in the county. Mr. Jay Berry is leading the charge to develop the hemp processing facility. Mr. Berry is looking at locating the facility west on 9th Street between 9th Street and Buffalo. This looks like a viable opportunity to bring some development to that area. There is a water supply to the area, but it is not substantial enough to provide the needed fire flow. To get the flows and pressure where it needs to go, a 12" loop would need to be added in the area. Mr. Pinkerton said when there was some annexation a 12" water main was extended to 16th & Buffalo. He would look at connecting on and running the line from 16th & Buffalo, up Buffalo to 9th Street, and 9th Street on back along the east side of the railroad to the property. Mr. Pinkerton said it was about 3,400 linear feet of 12" water main. There would be some needed boring under the railroad tracks. By doing this loop, the Utility would still be within the master plan but accomplishing the goal in a different manner than originally planned according to Mr. Pinkerton. Mr. Binkerd said the area has had adequate but low pressure and flows in the area. If the Utility invested \$100,000 in the water main project it would get the benefit needed for customers in the area. The developer has agreed to cover the remainder of the cost. The Utility would invest the engineering and construction which would also be another \$70,000-\$80,000. Mr. Jackson verified that the area was annexed. Mr. Binkerd said the area was in the City. He also reiterated that this is just another way of meeting a Utility goal that was already planned. Mr. Binkerd said that normally the Utility's would participate on a Six Times Rule. In this case, the use will be very small. However, because the benefit of added flows to other customers in the area will be provided, Mr. Binkerd said that this project would be worth the investment Mr. Dorsey moved, seconded by Mr. Green, to approve the agreement with Central Industrial Fiber. A roll call vote was called. Voting aye were: Mr. Barney, Mr. Dorsey, Mr. Green, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Logan. Motion carried unanimously by those in attendance.

PRESENTATION OF IURC PETITIONS

Mr. Binkerd reported that Chris Janak with Bose McKinney advised that the investor owned utilities such as I&M, Duke, Vectren, and a list of others are petitioning the IURC to allow them to recoup losses they are experiencing due to COVID-19. Mr. Binkerd said that he forwarded the petitions to Mr. Conner and Mr. Tom Hunt as well. Mr. Conner said he reviewed at the petition. Mr. Binkerd said that our stance is that many of the items being asked for are already covered through stimulus monies. It seems that the companies are double dipping. The petitioners potentially are going to recover from COVID-19 stimulus monies and now they want to recover again through these

increased customer fees. Mr. Binkerd said he feels as though the Utility needs to be doing the things to cut costs and not pass on additional costs to customers. Mr. Janak is looking at this through a coalition of Utilities which includes the City of Fort Wayne, the City of Muncie, and South Bend. Mr. Binkerd said he wanted to look at this and have a voice in this. I&M is already in the process of another rate increase after gaining one last year. This Utility will be directly impacted by the increasing costs that I&M is driving. The OUCC, Office of Utility Community Counsel, has petitioned the IURC to extend the disconnect moratorium indefinitely. Mr. Binkerd said that he feels this should be a community decision. Mr. Binkerd explained that he is not advocating that this process be implemented any time soon. However, the difficulty is the process being regulated. Mr. Binkerd said he wanted to make sure that the Board was aware of what was going on and that he was advocating for our community.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP REPORTS

P. Pinkerton, Assistant Director for Engineering & Solid Waste

Mr. Pinkerton reported that there was a story on the opening of the Recycling Center in the Chronicle Tribune. There were approximately 20 cars that came through. Gaylord boxes were switched in and out, and the semi-trailer was starting to fill up. The article was a nice story on the Recycling Center. Mr. Pinkerton stated that the Transfer Station had a good week. For the majority of the month, there were no drop offs and Solid Waste still averaged 55 tons. Mr. Pinkerton stated that there was a small incident at the 1300 building. Mr. Pinkerton asked the Supervisor to get the walls prepped for painting. An employee was plugging holes by using a lift. The wall is not there anymore. The good news is that no one was hurt, and Mr. Pinkerton wanted the wall out of there anyway. The masonry column is structural and was still standing. Mike Halstead and Lisa Crandall both looked at the column and said it was sound. Mr. Pinkerton said that the wall was one that he wanted to take down but on a different timeline.

R. Shrader, Assistant Director for Operations & Maintenance

Mrs. Shrader reported that things are not moving quickly, but they are moving steadily. One of the awesome things about this odd time is that almost the entire staff has been cross trained. Mrs. Shrader also stated that there are some new faces around the property. Doug Blackburn is in Water Maintenance; Keaton Sharp started mowing last summer, did an internship during school, and is now full-time employee in Distribution; Troy Davis is the new Wastewater Operator; Robert Barnett has transferred from Customer Service into Program Support; and Terri Couse has joined us at the new Safety Coordinator. Mrs. Shrader announced that Glen Jenkins would be retiring the next day after 19 years of service. Mr. Jenkins would be missed.

C. Binkerd, Utility Director

Mr. Binkerd said it was nice to see some comradery amongst the employees. The Senior Leadership Team was trying to debrief by discussing remote working, hours, and how best to handle lunch hours moving forward. Everyone is doing a great job.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Lewis said it was nice to be back meeting in person with everyone.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Logan thanked the board members for attending in person, via Zoom, or by conference call. He thanked the employees and staff for doing a fantastic job during a difficult and trying situation.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. The manner of conducting the meeting will be announced with the next agenda.

There being no further business before the board, Mr. Lewis moved, seconded by Mr. Dorsey, that the meeting be adjourned. Voting aye were: Mr. Barney, Mr. Dorsey, Mr. Green, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Logan. Motion carried unanimously by those in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Robert Logan, Chairman
Marion Utilities Service Board

ATTEST



Misty Humphries
Its Secretary