

UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING

May 9, 2011

Utilities Service Board meetings are recorded electronically or stenographically and are available during regular business hours in the office of the Director of Utilities.

Board President Swafford called the regular meeting of the Utilities Service Board to order at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Utilities Service Board room at the City of Bloomington Utilities Department Administrative Building in Bloomington, Indiana.

Board members present: Tom Swafford, Pedro Roman, Jeff Ehman, Jason Banach, Julie Roberts, John Whikehart and ex-officio member Tim Mayer. Staff members present: Patrick Murphy, Michael Horstman, Tom Axsom, Jon Callahan, Phil Peden, Jane Fleig and Mike Hicks. Others present: Sue Mayer.

MINUTES

Board member Ehman moved and Board member Roman seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the April 25th meeting. Motion carried, 4 ayes, 3 members absent, (Frank, Roberts and Whikehart).

CLAIMS

Board member Ehman moved and Board member Roman seconded the motion to approve the claims as follows:

Vendor invoices submitted to the controller's Office on May 4th included \$93,840.45 from the Water Utility; 146,043.96 from the Wastewater Utility; and \$6,177.50 from the Wastewater/Storm water Utility. Total Claims approved, \$246,061.91.

Board member Ehman asked about a claim for \$4,082.60 worth of vanilla deodorant. He said that seems like a lot.

Assistant Director of Finance Horstman explained that the claim covered several items. The deodorant accounted for only \$89.00 of the charge. The rest was for chemical polymers.

Board member Banach asked what the deodorant is used for.

Utilities Director Murphy said the deodorant is used a Blucher Poole to freshen the air.

Motion carried, 4 ayes, 3 members absent, (Frank, Roberts and Whikehart).

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business was presented

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business was presented.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no subcommittee meetings.

STAFF REPORTS:

Superintendent of Operations Axsom told the USB about a main break that happened on April 27th around 1:30 a.m. He received a call from Washington Township telling him they had lost water pressure at their meter at Bayles Rd. That meant there had to be a large main break somewhere. He said they found the break along the Par 3 Golf Course on Business 37. A large fitting had come off an 8" pipe. The location of the break made it impossible to de-water the ditch so they had to go back 500' on each side and cut the pipe so new hydrants could be put in on each side. On that day, between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. 23.5 million gallons were pumped at the Monroe Water Treatment Plant. Around a total of 3 million gallons were lost.

Board member Banach asked what caused this main break. Mr. Axsom said a fitting that made the water line go underneath a storm pipe had come off so water was spewing from the pipe.

Utilities Director Murphy said it shows that situations do occur that justify the expansion of the Monroe Water Treatment Plant. Pumping 23.5 million gallons from 7:30 to 5: p.m. is significantly more than is normal. He said he appreciates the willingness and foresight of the USB in passing the rate hike that will allow for the plant to be expanded.

Mr. Murphy informed the USB the new water rate will be implemented in June. May was the first month that a complete reading was possible so June was the earliest date it could be put into effect. A letter will be sent to the rate payers advising them of the first phase of the rate increase. The letter includes a scenario of what the increase could mean for a user with a ¾ inch pipe. This phase of the increase should produce about \$1.5 million in revenue over a year. The letter will be mailed tomorrow.

Going back to the main break, Mr. Murphy said he doesn't ever remember the plant pumping so much water, even when it is really hot. Someone not at a microphone asked why so much water had been pumped. Mr. Murphy said this event had an impact on both Washington Township and Ellettsville who are wholesale customers. They were the first to alert Utilities that their tanks were low on pressure. A lot of water had to be pumped to bring them back up. It took four and a half hours to find the break, so from when the break is thought to have first happened until it was repaired took about 10 ½ hours, which meant a lot of water was lost.

Board member Ehman asked why 23.5 million gallons were pumped if only 3 million were lost. Mr. Murphy said Assistant Director of Engineering Bengtson had made the calculations and he is on vacation. When Mr. Bengtson gets back he can explain how the numbers were arrived at. Mr. Murphy said he receives daily reports on the maximum raw and finished water pumped and the minimum. Mr. Ehman asked if Utilities only found out about this break because they were alerted by other water companies. He wanted to know how they were able to figure out where the break was. Superintendent of Operations Axsom said they were able to determine where people still had water which indicated to the staff they should start looking north of those people. They looked up and down the highway and eventually found it in a ditch by the Par 3 Golf Course. It couldn't really be seen because of all the water. The crew had to walk the ditch to find it. Mr. Ehman asked if customers were calling in or the Utilities' staff had called the customers. Mr. Axsom said customers had called in. It was mostly Washington Township

customers. Utilities' customers are fed by another water main so for the most part they weren't affected.

Board member Roman asked if it had been necessary to re-fill the wholesale customer's tanks. Mr. Axsom said that was possible.

Utilities Director Murphy said, having had a few days without rain, the crews are trying to get caught up on construction projects. They are working on Kirby Road and Park Avenue. Some night time work was done on the 45/46 by-pass project to bring a water line across the road to Martha Avenue. This will improve water quality in that area, and also fire protection for Matlock Heights.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

There were no petitions or communications.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

L. Thomas Swafford, President