

UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING

February 18, 2008

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 5:02 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, Julie Roberts, Tim Henke, Pedro Roman, Jeff Ehman and ex-officio members Tim Mayer and Tom Micuda. Staff members present: Patrick Murphy, Michael Horstman, Mike Bengtson, Adrian Reed, Jane Fleig, Jon Callahan, Phil Peden, Tom Staley, Mike Trexler and Mike Hicks. Others present: Mark Menifee representing Indiana University and Sue Mayer.

MINUTES

Board member Roberts moved and Board member Ehman seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the February 18th meeting. Motion carried. 4 Ayes, 3 members absent, (Whikehart, Banach and Henke).

CLAIMS

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

Claims 0890200 through 0890256 including \$210,716.23 from the Water Operations & Maintenance fund, \$650.00 for water hydrant meter rental and \$315.00 from the Water Sinking fund for a total of \$211,681.23 from the Water Utility; Claims 0830118 through 0830151 including \$183,383.28 from the Wastewater Operations & Maintenance fund for a total of \$183,383.28 from the Wastewater Utility; and claim 0870012 including \$1,522.55 from the Wastewater/Stormwater Utility and \$14,425.25 from the Stormwater Construction fund for a total of \$15,948.25 from the Wastewater/Stormwater Utility. Total claims approved – \$411,012.76.

Board member Ehman asked about a claim for Bank of New York. He said he doesn't remember having seen a claim of this sort before. Assistant Director of Finance Horstman said that there is a claim for this every year. Three hundred dollars of it is an agent fee and \$15 is out of pocket expenses such as postage. It's a routine expense that is paid every year.

Board President Swafford asked about a claim for Everett J Prescott. Superintendent of Operations Staley explained that this is the unit that is attached to all the radio read devices. It allows the meter readers to read the meters with a radio.

Mr. Swafford then asked about the ADS Environmental Services Maintenance contract. He asked if an update on the Wet Weather program was planned for the near future. Utilities Director Murphy said that an update would come from Greeley and Hansen. Assistant Director of Engineering Bengtson explained that ADS provides the sewer meters. He said that right now Greeley and Hansen are waiting for a response from the state about the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Elimination Plan. Mr. Murphy said that he would ask Greeley and Hansen to update the USB in the near future.

Motion carried. 5 ayes. 2 members absent, (Whikehart and Banach).

OLD BUSINESS:

Board member Henke reported that Attorney Renfrow is looking at the language of the new Rule 24. He then asked Mr. Murphy about the Peer Review report of the Long Range Water Plan. Mr. Murphy said there was an internal staff meeting recently with Hanum, Wagle and Cline who are doing the Peer Review. They asked for some more data that Black & Veatch will supply. Mr. Murphy anticipates that on either March 3rd or March 17th Mr. Cline will give a presentation to the USB.

NEW BUSINESS:

Board President Swafford said he had received a letter from Mayor Kruzan asking the USB to develop a comprehensive, cost effective water conservation plan which Mr. Swafford said fits right in with the Long Range Water Plan. He has asked Utilities Director Murphy to research whether there is a consultant who can help develop this plan. John Skomp of Crowe Chisek had once informed the USB that in Indiana the more water a customer uses the cheaper the water gets. Out west where water is less available the more that is used the more expensive it gets.

Board member Henke reminded the USB that the last time the board met with Black & Veatch they had asked a lot of questions (about water conservation) that Black & Veatch was going to get back to them about. He was wondering whether they were going to answer those questions or if Utilities would need to pay to get the answers. Mr. Murphy said that in their Lake Monroe Water Quality study some of these questions had been addressed. He said that Utilities staff has been working on some ideas such as education. Tomorrow an exploratory discussion is planned with some of the staff and Jack Wittman who owns one of the firms that gave a proposal for the Peer Review. They are interested in finding out what kind of services his firm can provide. Mr. Murphy said he thinks it would be helpful to have some assistance with this.

Board member Roberts asked if Utilities has an emergency preparedness plan if, for example, an earth quake were to break the one main to Bloomington from the Monroe Water Treatment Plant. She also wanted to know if there is a need to find a firm, maybe from west of the Mississippi that has had more regular experience with this.

Mr. Murphy said that's one of the reasons he wanted to talk to Mr. Wittman who does business nation wide. He is a Hydrologist.

Mr. Henke said he would like to focus on the peak demand days for water. He would like to start with that. He asked if there is any present Utilities' staff who might want to work on this. Mr. Murphy said Public Relations Specialist Jon Callahan and some of the civil City staff are working on an education effort. Black and Veatch would be able to help with more technical aspects but due to their involvement with the Long Range Water Plan Mr. Murphy prefers to look elsewhere.

Board member Ehman said that he agrees with Board member Henke that conservation should be the first thing considered due to the peak demand days that occurred last summer. He suggested that maybe they could contact cities similar in size to Bloomington, in the South East who experienced extreme drought conditions last summer. Mr. Murphy pointed out that something that separates Bloomington from places in the south east is that there is a good water supply here.

Board member Henke said that he thinks the question is whether an RFP should be put out for a consulting firm. He asked if there might be someone on the staff who could devote some time to this. Mr. Murphy said that he would like to get more information and then get back to the USB. The Engineering staff would still be involved if a consultant were hired to provide information. He would

prefer that they not take the lead but have someone to oversee and coordinate. Mr. Murphy said that he thinks this is something to get moving on quickly.

Board member Ehman said that hiring a local firm would not preclude bringing in other experts. The local firm could coordinate these efforts.

Board member Roman said that the local experts have experience with situations where water is much less available.

Ex-officio board member Mayer said that he doesn't think this is rocket science. There are many communities that are already doing this. When John Skomp from Crowe Chisek was discussing this he talked about a regressive billing system where the more water you use the more you pay. It isn't clear if this could be done in Indiana. Mr. Mayer would like a definitive answer to that. Mr. Murphy said that he would like to have many different options available for the USB to choose from.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

There had been no subcommittee meetings.

STAFF REPORTS:

Utilities Director Murphy said that at the next meeting there will be an update on the Extensions & Replacements.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Board President Swafford read a letter from the staff at Eastern Monroe Water Corporation thanking the staff of Bloomington Utilities for their help during a recent severe break in a water main.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

L. Thomas Swafford, President