

## UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING

05/23/2022

*Utilities Service Board meetings are available at CATSTV.net.*

### CALL TO ORDER

Board President Ehman called the regular meeting of the Utilities Service Board to order at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom and in the Utilities Service Boardroom at the City of Bloomington Utilities Service Center, 600 East Miller Drive, Bloomington, Indiana.

**Board members present:** Amanda Burnham, Jean Capler, Seth Debro, Jeff Ehman, Megan Parmenter, Jim Sherman, Kirk White, [Scott Robinson](#)

**Board members absent:** Jim Sims

**Staff present:** Dan Hudson, Brad Schroeder, LaTreana Teague, Michelle Waldon.

Tom Axsom, James Hall, Vic Kelson, Brandon Prince, and Chris Wheeler attended the meeting on Zoom.

### MINUTES

***Board member Burnham moved, and Board Member Debro seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the May 9th meeting. Motion carried, seven ayes.***

### CLAIMS

***Burnham moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve the Standard Invoices:*** Vendor invoices submitted included \$183,533.43 from the Water Utility, \$216,615.17 from the Wastewater Utility, and \$26,154.76 from the Stormwater Utility.

Board member Parmenter asked for details on a claim for security at the Dillman Plant and asked if security is for five days a week?

Director Kelson answered that there is no way to auto-close the gate and that the security officer is there to monitor traffic Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Board member White asked, is this temporary, or is there a plan to automate the gate?

Kelson said we are in the process of getting quotes for the automation of the gate and the automation of collecting the septic hauler's tickets. Nearly every week, CBU receives a notice from Homeland Security and the American Water Works Association about threats against water and wastewater plants owing to the international situation.

Burnham asked about an insurance claim payout involving an individual and wanted to know the nature of the accident and if there was anything we needed to know safety-wise.

Interim Assistant Director - Finance Waldon followed up with the Board after the meeting regarding the claim. The payment of \$5,000.00 was for a claimant who fell into a meter pit.

***Motion carried, seven ayes. Total claims approved: \$426,303.36.***

**Burnham moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve the Utility Bills:**

Utility invoices submitted included \$3,902.67 from the Water Utility and \$30,284.41 from the Wastewater Utility.

**Motion carried, seven ayes. Total claims approved: \$34,187.08.**

**Burnham moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve the Wire Transfers, Fees, and Payroll in the amount of \$376,981.16. Motion carried, seven ayes.**

**Burnham moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve the Customer Refunds:** Customer refunds submitted included \$584.52 from the Wastewater Fund.

**Motion carried, seven ayes. Total claims approved: \$584.52.**

**Burnham moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve a Special Check Run:** Invoices submitted for the Special Check Run included \$1,412.59 from the Water Fund and \$2,314.18 from the Wastewater Fund.

**Motion carried, seven ayes. Total claims approved: \$3,726.77.**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Azteca Systems Holdings, LLC., \$10,400.00 (new nte \$138,400.00), Third amendment for additional on-site training.
2. Bruce Wilds Security, LLC., \$24,480.00, Monitor incoming traffic at Dillman WWTP.

**The Board removed Item B from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration. The remaining agreement was approved. Total contracts approved: \$10,400.00.**

#### **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH BRUCE WILDS SECURITY, LLC., \$24,480.00. MONITOR INCOMING TRAFFIC AT DILLMAN WWTP.**

Board member White asked how long this contract is good for and what the duration that the total amount covers.

City Attorney Wheeler answered that the contract expires in September 2022. The agreement is for 12 weeks.

Ehman commented that if we install the automated system before, we will not have to pay the total amount. Kelson confirmed that was correct.

**Burnham moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve the agreement with Bruce Wilds Security, LLC. Motion carried, seven ayes.**

#### **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH SCHMIDT ASSOCIATES, INC.**

Capital Projects Manager Hudson presented an agreement for a new ventilation system in the chemical building at Dillman WWTP. The chemical building at Dillman is in dire need of improved ventilation. When we fill up the chemical in the large tanks, the operators cannot be in the building because the smell is so strong. Sodium hypochlorite and sodium bisulfate are the chemicals. We asked Schmidt for a proposal to design to improve the ventilation, as well as bid and construction management of the project. The amount of the contract is \$32,485.00.

Burnham asked, understanding this will take some time, what provisions are we taking with our staff to keep them healthy and ensure there are no extenuating injuries or illnesses that may come from this.

Hudson, we open the doors, turn on the fans, and don't have the operators stand there very long. So we want to get this done before the end of the year.

Burnham asked, has this recently come up? Have the chemical levels increased? What change made this happen, or has this gone on for a long time, and we haven't addressed it.

Hudson said he had received complaints over the last six months, and we have researched many different ways to solve it.

Burnham asked if the employees were okay so far.

Hudson said they were okay and did not stay in the building long.

Capler asked if any research shows that long-term exposure, even in short bits, can cause health issues over time? Or is it more of an immediate type of irritation? Hudson answered that he thought it was an immediate irritation, which is not very frequent. They are large tanks that are 15ft high and 12ft in diameter, and we don't fill them up very often, maybe twice a year.

Capler asked if it was an issue when the tanks were filled. Hudson confirmed. Capler asked if respirators or a breathing system help in this situation? Hudson said a respirator probably could help.

Capler commented that hopefully, we would get the new ventilation system before the next fill.

Assistant Director - Plant Operations Axsom commented that the doors are open when the tanks are filled, and the ventilation system would be a better long-term solution.

Ehman asked if is there any off-gassing taking place from filling the void of the tanks? Ehman asked that doing the ventilation system is a way to address the issue, but the problem is still there. Is there anything else we can do from a process standpoint, or is this the standard practice?

Axsom said he was unsure of any way around it other than the ventilation system.

***Burnham moved, and Debroy seconded the motion to approve the agreement with Schmidt Associates. Motion carried, seven ayes.***

### **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH BLACK & VEATCH, CORP.**

Assistant Director - Engineering Schroder presented an agreement with Black & Veatch, Corp. for a water alternate source study. CBU did a risk and resilience study and looked at all potential risk areas. We have a great water source, Lake Monroe, but one of the risks areas we have is if something were to damage the water treatment plant for a period of time, we would lose our entire water source. This is a study with Black & Veatch, who did a similar study for us when we looked at alternatives for expansion, and we will have them look at these and some new options again. We only want a backup supply to provide enough water to get us through some emergency. We are looking for a groundwater source or a small plant that would quickly enable us to draw from one to two other reservoirs. The agreement is for \$83,350.00.

White commented that when we closed the Griffy plant years ago, we had two sources and now only have one. We have done a lot to help us, adding additional lines to assist us in that single point of failure, but this is a good direction for us to look in the future.

Ehman said that two studies ago stated that Griffy was still a viable backup water supply, but the previous study said it was not a viable supply.

Schroeder said Griffy is not viable because the storage is low, and you cannot get much out of it. So this study may say it is still not viable. Even combining that with Lake Lemon could do something to bring that one into play, but there are multiple ones. Ehman asked if Black & Veatch would be considering the last study? Schroeder answered yes, which is why we are asking to bring Black and Veatch into this because they did it and know the information. So a lot of the effort is updating that study and potentially other sources and another plant other than Monroe.

Ehman asked if we get a price break, given this is a follow-up, and they can continue the work they had been doing. Schroeder answered yes, their existing knowledge is priced into the fee. This is all estimate of how much work they will have to do.

Sherman asked if a different company would cost a lot more?

Schroeder said he would believe so because they would have to start from scratch for everything.

Parmenter asked when the last study was?

Schroeder answered that in 2005, we had a 20-year plan on the plant, and they looked at different alternatives, which was what was fed into plant expansion. That was, at that time, done also because we needed to expand our water supply and build resiliency. So what came out of that were an extra water tank and an extra water line. That helped our resiliency, but we think it is helpful to look again to be up to date.

Burnham asked if the Board could see what the previous report said.

Schroeder said he would follow up with the Board and provide a report summary.

White commented that when the vote took place to close the Griffy plant, around 1994-1995, we could only draw about 15% of our daily consumption from Griffy. It was so low that it was not worth keeping it going. If you go back in the history of our community or even the university, we could not grow like we wanted until the 1960's when Monroe came online. That is why the current emphasis on looking at the whole watershed with the different meetings coming up in the next couple of months is significant for us in the future.

Kelson commented that the last time CBU did this was regarding what to do with Monroe. At this point, we are asking a different question: what do we do in case we have a significant disruption of Monroe because of something happening at the lake or the plant. We do not have a great plan for a major system failure. If a tornado hits the water plant, that would be difficult. The idea is to look at a water supply that can keep us going while recovering from an outage. So when you look at Griffy and Lemon together, back in 1994-1995, we were not getting much water from over there, but since then, Griffy has been dredged, and if you are looking at the amount of water you could get from those two lakes every day for forever, then that would be a low number. What if you only need to do it for 30-60 days? You could get more water out for a shorter amount of time daily. So the question is, at this point, it is both to look at the long-term issue is that Monroe will not last forever, and we want to have a plan for an extra resource, but the short-term question is, what do we do if we have an outage at Monroe for a short period?

Sherman said there are a series of meetings about Lake Monroe. Do we have any information about those meetings and what the content might be?

Kelson answered that we have been in conversations with The Friends of Lake Monroe and the Lake Monroe Water Fund. In addition, there is a panel discussion on June 3rd at the Point about water supply and treatment issues.

***Burnham moved, and Debro seconded the agreement with Black & Veatch. Motion carried, seven ayes.***

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH ENERGY POWER PARTNERS**

Kelson presented an agreement with Energy Power Partners for a study for a possible waste-to-energy facility that could be located at the Blucher Poole plant. We did an in-house study a couple of years ago to look at the prospect of anaerobic digestion at the Dillman plant, which proved too expensive for us to take on. So we are partnering with the Monroe County Solid Waste Management District to do this study. We are splitting the cost of this study between us. This is to look at an anaerobic facility that would do any compostable or digestible organic waste. This could be food waste from partners such as grease from grease interceptors, food waste from I.U. or other institutional partners, grease hauled in from out of town, or organic waste from the wastewater plant.

Sherman said the City talks occasionally about including compostable materials and its collection. Would that be part of this?

Kelson answered yes. If we have any compostable materials as part of the waste stream that could be separated, they could go to a facility like this.

Burnham noticed the details on the cover sheet were incomplete: the W-9, the Affirmative Action Plan, and the procurement summary, and asked if the vendor had all of those completed?

Wheeler answered the memo circulated to the Controller's office, and the Mayor's office has all those boxes checked. The vendor and the city have complied with procurement policy and law.

Ehman asked if the \$129,220.00 was half of the study? Or is it the total cost, and we will be reimbursed for half?

Wheeler said the cost of the actual project with Energy Power Partners is \$129,220, and the MOU provides for a 50% payment by the County on the project.

Ehman asked if the County would reimburse us during the study or when it is complete.

Wheeler said we would invoice the County, and they will reimburse us. Then, when we are at the point where we pay the contractor, we will invoice for the reimbursement.

***Burnham moved, and Debro seconded to approve the agreement with Energy Power Partners. Motion carried, seven ayes.***

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Kelson commented that CBU staff will start assembling its budget goals for the 2023 Budget. We will submit our budget memo draft to the Mayor’s office on June 3rd.

We are moving ahead with selling the bonds for the waterworks projects. We had a ratings call with Standard and Poors, and they have reaffirmed our A rating and upgraded the outlook from negative to stable.

Sherman asked for the latest report of the COVID wastewater sampling results.

Kelson answered that we take the samples on Monday, and the results are typically returned on Wednesday or Thursday. Last week’s samples returned with ten gene copies per 100 ml at the Dillman plant and 4,100 at the Blucher Poole plant. The previous week was 3,800 at Dillman and 240 at Blucher Poole. So there is much uncertainty in the numbers. Sometimes the sampling will give us a non-detect even if there is material in the sample. We are talking with other agencies about possibly joining in to do an additional sample to increase sampling frequency to twice a week. We have not received an answer to that yet.

White said Blucher Poole was at 9,200 on May 2nd and 240 on May 9th. It bounced back up to 3,700 this last week.

Kelson said Blucher Poole numbers have been falling and think some of that may be because of the population of that basin with I.U. closing and the students going home. The 240 was probably an outlier, but we hope to have a more frequent sampling program at some point.

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** Burnham moved to adjourn; the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

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Jeff Ehman, President

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Date