

UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING
6/2/2025

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CALL TO ORDER

Board President Debro called the regular meeting of the Utilities Service Board to order at 5:07 p.m. The meeting took place in the Utilities Service Boardroom at the City of Bloomington Utilities Service Center, 600 East Miller Drive, Bloomington, Indiana.

Board members present: Megan Parmenter, Amanda Burnham, Kirk White, Jim Sherman, Seth Debro, Jeff Ehman, Matt Flaherty

Board members absent: Molly Stewart, David Hittle

Staff present: Kat Zaiger, Matt Havey, James Hall, Phil Peden, Hector Ortiz Sanchez, Chris Wheeler, Dan Hudson, Kevin White, Kelsey Thetonia, Daniel Frank, Joel Pontius

Guests present: None

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None

MINUTES

Board member Sherman moved, and Board Vice President White seconded the motion to approve the Bid Opening minutes of the 5/19/2025. Motion carried, six ayes.

White moved, and Sherman seconded the motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of the 5/19/2025. Motion carried, six ayes.

CLAIMS

Standard Invoices Questions

Board member Ehman questioned the interdepartmental payment being charged only to the water account. Havey advised that the water portion is being paid in four installments this year and the Wastewater portion has already been paid in full. Ehman questioned the charge for Stantec for testimony in the Water Rate Case. Havey advised that Stantec will provide the Cost of Service study once CBU has received the revenue requirements from the Indiana Utilities Regulatory Commission.

White moved, and Board member Sherman seconded the motion to approve the Standard Invoices:

Invoices included \$566,858.06 from the Water Fund, \$5,934.35 from the Water Construction Fund, \$282,702.54 from the Wastewater Fund, \$21,049.00 from Wastewater Construction Fund, and \$38,763.90 from the Stormwater Fund.

Motion carried - six ayes. Total claims approved: \$915,307.85.

White moved, and Sherman seconded the motion to approve the Utility Bills:

Invoices included \$12,545.07 from the Water Fund, \$5,440.51 from the Wastewater Fund, and \$7,079.09 from the Stormwater Fund.

Motion carried - six ayes. Total claims approved: \$25,064.67.

White moved, and Sherman seconded the motion to approve the Wire Transfers, Fees, and Payroll for \$528,045.37. Motion carried - six ayes.

White moved, and Sherman seconded the motion to approve the Customer

Refunds: Customer Refunds included \$5,454.43 from the Water Fund and \$3,779.31 from the Wastewater Fund.

Motion carried - six ayes. Total refunds approved: \$9,233.74

CONSENT AGENDA

Zaiger presented the following items recommended by staff for approval:

- a. Smith Design Group, \$2,500.00, Plat Amendment to Canterbury lot 5 in order to vacate a portion of conservation easement
- b. Brehob Corporation, \$1,963.00, New oil water separator at Monroe Water Plant
- c. Electric Plus, Inc., \$1,300.00, Work on low service tower at Monroe Water Plant

Consent Agenda items were approved as presented. Total approved: \$5,763.00

REQUEST APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2025-08 TO DESIGNATE SURPLUS PROPERTY FOR AUCTION

Havey presented the resolution and advised that the items listed include several vehicles that require repairs that are more than the vehicles are worth, so CBU is attempting to auction the vehicles. Parmenter requested CBU provide an update on the amount received once the vehicles are auctioned. Havey confirmed and advised that a wheel loader that was on a previous resolution sold for roughly \$46,000.00, funds that could be allocated to future projects.

White moved, Sherman seconded to approve Resolution 2025-08 - six ayes.

REQUEST APPROVAL OF WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PRIORITIZATION LIST

CBU Assistant Director - Engineering - Peden presented a prioritized list of water main replacement projects, developed using a data-driven approach. Peden credited team members Jordan Keisow, Matt Dabertin, and Cadence Swanson for their work in creating the list and ranking system. The prioritization was based on factors stored in the GIS system, including pipe diameter, age, material, and the number of breaks—data that dates back to the early 1980s. Peden emphasized that many communities lack such comprehensive historical data, which is crucial for informed decision-making. The team scored each segment from one to five, with "one" indicating the highest priority for replacement, and successfully identified and listed the top 30 worst-performing mains for prioritization. Peden discussed plans to continually refine and improve the water main replacement prioritization process over the coming years. As new main breaks are identified and additional data becomes available, the list will evolve to become more accurate. Currently, not all relevant criteria—such as weather patterns, soil conditions, and proximity to critical infrastructure like schools and hospitals—are included in the GIS system. The team is exploring ways to enhance the system, including the potential future use of AI to

analyze both GIS and external data to predict main breaks. While budget constraints currently prevent the implementation of such AI tools, the goal is to incorporate them in the future. For now, the team is doing its best with available resources and has established a starting point for ongoing improvements. Burnham voiced support for the process and noted the great potential of the use of AI to form a more data driven strategy to address the issue of main breaks. Burnham questioned if list was created in order of priority, or more to highlight specific lines that need to be prioritized and then planning specific replacement timelines will be the next phase. Peden confirmed that the list order is ranked by number of breaks, but a more strategic approach should be used for when replacement takes place, for example, prioritizing lines that are under roadways that are on the paving schedule so that work is completed on the water lines prior to paving. Burnham questioned the timeframe for completion of the list. Peden advised that CBU doesn't currently have a timeline, but added that 8-10 water main replacements are possible in a year with a \$2.5 million budget. CBU is awaiting the Water Rate Case to open up funding for continued work. Peden also noted that specific projects, such as one listed that will require 2400 ft of replacement line, may use a substantial portion of the budget for one year. Burnham questioned the location of the E 3rd Street replacement that was listed. Peden advised that it is located near 3rd St. and the bypass, near the CVS where a main break occurred several weeks prior. Burnham noted another project listed on 3rd St. Peden advised that the second project is located further to the east near Park Ridge. Burnham encouraged the collection of data to aid in this process. Peden noted that CBU Engineering and Transmission & Distribution (T&D) staff have been working together after main breaks to identify potential data sources, such as water temperature and pressure, whether booster pumps were engaged at the time of the break, and whether line flushing had occurred recently in the area. The plan is to collect this data for the next year in the hopes of entering into an AI model that could help identify underlying trends in the occurrence of main breaks. Sherman noted that a large number of the mains listed are in the Fritz-Terrace area and questioned if there was a specific reason. Peden advised that there are multiple factors to consider including, soil type, era where a specific type of pipe was being used, or manufacturing issue in the pipe that was installed. Ehman noted that former CBU Director - Kelson took an approach of replacing a certain percentage of pipe each year, and questioned if CBU plans to continue with that strategy. Peden advised that CBU was doing the best it could with the two to three million budget available in previous years, but added that there is no money available in the 2025 budget for main replacements. Peden also added that after reviewing the data, the prevalence of breaks is actually lower in older pipes in the system. The mains that most need to be addressed were installed between 1950 and 1969, which have the highest prevalence of breaks. Pipes installed both before and after that period have the least amount of issues. Ehman noted that this is a more nuanced approach than just replacing a specific percentage each year. Peden confirmed, adding that CBU is not simply replacing pipe once it reaches a certain age, but rather is replacing the lines that need it the most. Ehman supported the approach and added that CBU should budget accordingly to avoid an infrastructure deficit. Peden agreed but noted that CBU has found that 8-10 replacements a year is the limit that could be achieved before staffing and project management become issues. Peden added that an expansion of T&D would be one solution to completing more main replacements in a given year. Ehman noted that as a board member, he does want to know if by

not growing as an organization, CBU is increasing its infrastructure deficit and emphasized the importance of a proactive approach to this issue. Peden advised that CBU is certainly at a deficit in regard to water main replacements because during the Kruzan era, there was little money allocated to main replacements because the water rates weren't available. Now CBU has steadily increased the funding allocated from \$500,000.00 to \$2,500,000.00 and is making progress, but the cost of this type of work is also rapidly increasing, and staffing is another limiting factor. Burnham requested that CBU be mindful of this when considering funding positions for other departments in the future. White noted that he appreciated that CBU mentioned phasing this with paving projects to ensure CBU is completing work prior to paving so work that has been completed is not immediately dug up by another department. Parmenter questioned if this list could be shared with DPW so they are aware of CBU's long-term project goals. Ehman suggested that if there is a bottleneck in project management for contracting, bundling areas that have a high number of replacements, such as Fritz Terrace, into one project could be a possible solution. Though this may be difficult to budget for, it would help with economy of scale and could potentially complete the entire project in a year, rather than staggering ten projects out piecemeal. Peden agreed.

White moved, Sherman seconded to approve the Water Main Replacement Prioritization List - six ayes.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:

White advised that the Property and Planning Subcommittee met prior to the main meeting to discuss long-term space needs for both CBU and the Department of Public Works (DPW), focusing on possibilities for the current site and the Winston Thomas site. This discussion followed a recent presentation by the mayor, who expressed interest in developing proposals to relocate DPW to Winston Thomas. The committee explored various scenarios, including moving Utilities or DPW to the new site, sharing or consolidating space, and considering future housing development at the current location. White advised that no decisions have been made yet and emphasized the importance of collaboration with the mayor's office and civil city leadership. White noted that the goal should be to ensure that any future plans are efficient, cost-effective, and serve both ratepayers and taxpayers well by taking a big-picture, long-term approach. A list of discussion points will be shared with the mayor's office for further exploration. Ex Officio - Flaherty questioned if any further discussions had taken place with the Mayor's Office. White advised no, but noted that during the subcommittee, a joint meeting between the USB and the Board of Public Works was proposed. Sherman suggested that Flaherty should attend such a meeting. Flaherty agreed, adding that he and perhaps other council members as well, given the overall financial impacts of such a project.

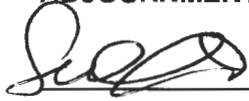
STAFF REPORTS:

Zaiger presented the following:

- New hire - Breston Sowders - T&D - Utilities Specialist I
- Joel Pontius - Conservation & Energy Resource Manager, completed the Envision Sustainability Practitioner credential, and can be a project manager on infrastructure projects seeking verification for sustainability best practices
- Kriste Lindberg, Education Specialist, Environmental Programs, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Hoosier River Watch, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), for over 20 years of volunteerism.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Debro adjourned the meeting at 5:36 pm



Seth Debro, President

6/16/2025

Date