

Utilities Service Board Regular Meeting

5/18/2026

Utilities Service Board meetings are available at CATSTV.net.

Call to Order

Board President – White called the regular meeting of the Utilities Service Board to order at 5:00 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: Kirk White, Seth Debro, Amanda Burnham, Megan Parmenter, Graham McKeen, Jim Sherman,

Board members absent: Molly Stewart, David Hittle, Matt Flaherty

Staff present: James Hall, Kelsey Thetonia, Daniel Hudson, Hector Ortiz Sanchez, Kevin White, Phil Peden, Matt Havey, Ginger Davis, Matt Dabertin, Steven Stanford, Katherine Zaiger, Jane Fleig

Guests present: None.

Petitions and Communications: None

Minutes

Debro moved, and Sherman seconded the motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of the 4/20/2026 meeting with corrections. Motion carried, six ayes.

Claims

Debro moved, and Sherman seconded the motion to approve the Standard Invoices:

Invoices included \$225,255.58 from the Water Fund, \$2,833.75 from the Water Construction Fund, \$172,232.98 from the Wastewater Fund, \$514,798.70 from the Wastewater Construction Fund, and \$54,752.71 from the Stormwater Fund.

Motion carried, six ayes. Total claims approved: \$969,873.72

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

Invoices included \$148,446.77 from the Water Fund, \$121,126.37 from the Wastewater Fund, and \$57.25 from the Stormwater Fund.

Motion carried, six ayes. Total claims approved: \$269,630.39

Debro moved, and Sherman seconded the motion to approve the Wire Transfers, Fees, and Payroll:

Motion carried, six ayes. Total claims approved: \$594,229.96

Debro moved, and Sherman seconded the motion to approve Customer Refunds:

Invoices included \$205.61 from the Water Fund and \$1,28612.81 from the Wastewater Fund.

Motion carried, six ayes. Total claims approved: \$1,492.42

Debro moved, and Sherman seconded the motion to approve the Special Check Run:

Invoices included \$2,821.01 from the Water Fund and \$603.79 from the Wastewater Fund and \$392.05 from the Stormwater Fund.

Motion carried, six ayes. Total claims approved: \$3,816.85

Debro moved, and Sherman seconded the motion to approve the Special Check Run (State of Indiana Workforce):

Invoices included \$472.20 from the Water Fund and \$708.30 from the Wastewater Fund.

Motion carried, six ayes. Total claims approved: \$1,180.50

Consent Agenda:

CBU Director – Zaiger presented the following items recommended by staff for approval:

- a. Bledsoe Riggert Cooper & James, Inc., NTE \$15,000.00, Complete survey work and produce a preliminary plat for 6570 S Old State Road 37
- b. Affordable Waste Solutions, LLC dba Affordable Septic and Repair, \$4,764.37, Reseeding plant with mix liquor at Blucher Poole Waste Plant
- c. Precision Compaction Services, LLC dba Precision Odor Control, \$700.00, Airpro preventative maintenance at Blucher Poole Waste Plant

Consent Agenda was approved as recommended by staff. Total approved: \$20,464.37 (non-chemical contracts)

Request Approval of Consulting Service Agreement with Commonwealth Engineers, Inc. (College Mall Sewer)

Capital Projects Coordinator – White presented an agreement with Commonwealth Engineers to do a basis of design study for the sewer system that runs through College Mall Road. Capital Projects Coordinator – White explained that the project addresses an ongoing sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) issue in the area of Covenant Drive and College Mall Road. The study will include installation of flow meters, analysis of the sewer system, evaluation of potential routing and pipe sizing improvements, and development of construction cost estimates for possible solutions. Capital Projects Manager – White noted that the agreement, in the amount of

\$197,461, represents the initial phase of what will likely become a much larger future project. Board Member – White asked for additional background regarding the SSO issues in the area and how the project relates to future development and system capacity needs. Assistant Director - Engineering – Peden added additional historical context, saying that he reviewed the 2004 SSO corrective action plan for the southeast sewer basin. Peden stated that CBU has completed substantial rehabilitation work in the basin over the years, including pipe lining, grouting, and connection remediation efforts totaling an estimated \$5 million to \$10 million. Despite these improvements, the SSO at Covenant Drive and College Mall Road continues to occur during significant rain events. Peden explained that the sewer infrastructure in the area remains significantly undersized and that previous rehabilitation efforts reduced inflow and infiltration (INI) but did not fully resolve the overflow issue. Board Member – White commented on the severity and frequency of the overflow events. Peden noted that the most severe recurring SSO issue had previously occurred near Grimes Lane and Walnut Street, but construction of the South Central Sewer Interceptor through the Switchyard Park area successfully corrected that issue. Peden stated that the College Mall Road overflow remains an ongoing concern. Environmental Program Coordinator - Dabertin confirmed that overflow occurs at least annually during major storm events. Peden further noted that continued development and increased flow in the area are contributing factors, and stated that the purpose of the basis of design study is to develop accurate cost estimates so the project can be incorporated into CBU's next sewer rate case planning process.

Debroy moved, Sherman seconded to approve the Service Agreement with Commonwealth Engineers, Inc. Motion carried, six ayes.

Request Approval of Amendment Number 2 to Agreement with Commonwealth Engineers, Inc.

Capital Projects Coordinator – White presented a second amendment to an agreement with Commonwealth Engineers related to the booster station improvement project and the associated guaranteed savings contract. Capital Projects Coordinator – White explained that the project had previously been paused for approximately two years due to funding issues. Capital Projects Coordinator – White stated that the project is now resuming following receipt of a \$1.25 million grant secured through Congresswoman Houchin, along with anticipated funding from the water rate case. Capital Projects Coordinator – White stated that the amendment, in the amount of \$39,600, is intended to cover fee rate increases incurred by Commonwealth Engineers during the two-year project delay. Capital Projects Coordinator – White clarified that the amendment does not reflect increases in material costs, noting that this distinction had been identified by the Controller's Office.

Debroy moved, Sherman seconded to approve Amendment Number 2 with Commonwealth Engineers, Inc. Motion carried, six ayes.

Request Approval of Resolution 2026-12 Bid Acceptance and Contract Award for Dillman WWTP Filter Media Replacement Project

Capital Projects Manager – Hudson presented Resolution 2026-12 regarding replacement of the media at the Dillman Wastewater Treatment Plant. Hudson stated that a bid opening was held on April 30 to receive bids for the project. Three bids were submitted, and Thieneman Construction was determined to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder at \$690,000, below the engineering estimate of \$800,000. Hudson requested Board approval of the resolution accepting the bid.

Debro moved, Sherman seconded to approve Resolution 2026-12. Motion carried, six ayes.

Request Approval of Public Works Agreement with Thieneman Construction, Inc.

Hudson presented the associated public works agreement with Thieneman Construction for completion of the media replacement project in the amount of \$690,000.

Debro moved, Sherman seconded to approve the service agreement with Thieneman Construction, Inc. Motion carried, six ayes.

Request Approval of Service Agreement with Gripp Incorporated

Environmental Program Coordinator – Dabertin presented a service agreement with Gripp Incorporated related to the College Mall sewer basin flow study previously discussed by staff. Dabertin explained that Gripp would install three sewer flow meters and several rain gauges within the basin to support the ongoing study. Dabertin noted that, after completion of the study, the equipment would be repurposed to replace aging permanent flow meters currently owned by CBU that have recently experienced failures. The agreement amount was confirmed as \$48,091.74.

Debro moved, Sherman seconded to approve Service Agreement with Gripp, Incorporated. Motion carried, six ayes.

Request Approval of Amendment Number 3 to Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

Assistant Director - Finance – Havey presented Amendment No. 3 to the agreement with Stantec Consulting Services related to CBU's current rate case and rate design work. Havey explained that the amendment is intended to provide sufficient funding to complete the project and prepare testimony for the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) evidentiary hearing scheduled for June 2.

Board Member – Parmenter discussed the increasing cost of the consulting agreement and asked why the work had expanded beyond the original estimate. Havey explained that early data issues required additional analysis and contributed to additional work hours. Havey also noted that Stantec bills hourly and that unused authorized funds would not be paid if not utilized.

Debro moved, Sherman seconded to approve Amendment Number 3 to Agreement with Stantec Consulting. Motion carried, six ayes.

Request Approval of Revised MOU between CBU and Retreat at The Switchyard

CBU Director – Zaiger presented a revised memorandum of understanding (MOU) between City of Bloomington Utilities (CBU) and Retreat at Switchyard regarding payment of connection fees. Zaiger explained that the revised MOU incorporated language requested by the Board at the previous meeting. Zaiger said that the added provision states that, if Retreat at Switchyard sells the property before the balance is paid in full, the developer must immediately notify CBU and pay the remaining balance due at closing.

Parmenter asked whether there is a lien on the property that would automatically notify CBU of a sale. Zaiger said there is no lien but if the property changed hands, CBU would likely know about it. Board Members Burnham, Debro, and Parmenter discussed enforcement mechanisms related to the agreement and questioned whether any lien or formal filing would exist to ensure repayment if the property were sold. Board Member – Sherman clarified that the agreement functions as a contractual payment arrangement rather than a loan secured by a lien. Board Member – White and Director – Zaiger explained that failure to comply with the agreement would constitute breach of contract and provide legal avenues for collection. Parmenter emphasized the importance of documenting and tracking such agreements for future developments and long-term accountability.

Debro moved, Sherman seconded to approve the Revised MOU between CBU and Retreat at The Switchyard. Motion carried, six ayes.

Old Business: None

Staff Reports:

Zaiger welcomed Kolton Hardin as Apprentice, Master Equipment Operator in Operations who will be working at Blucher Poole Wastewater Treatment Plant. Zaiger congratulated T&D crew members Brandon Bray and Joseph Gibson, who were promoted to Utilities Specialist II. Zaiger also congratulated Alan Christy and Joshua Wathen who earned their Collections licenses, as well as Parker Iles in Environmental Programs who earned his DSL.

Zaiger thanked all the crews who helped to clear inlets ahead of the storm to help lessen the impact that the current areal flooding is going to have on the city. Zaiger acknowledged that CBU's crews have been very busy with a lot of projects due to Bloomington's construction season, and appreciated all the crews who took the extra time to do this work. Zaiger highlighted a video called [Stream to Studio](#) made by Communications Manager – Frank that documented a partnership event between CBU and the Eskenazi Museum of Art. Zaiger explained that the museum had an exhibit called Mulyana: Vital Ecosystems, and that the partnership event used art and science to teach folks about the importance of keeping our waterways clean and how watersheds are connected.

Petitions and Communications: None.

Adjournment:

White adjourned the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Signed by:

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Kirk White, President

6/2/2026

Date