

UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING

04/25/2022

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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 in the Utilities Service Boardroom at the City of Bloomington Utilities Service Center, 600 East Miller Drive, Bloomington, Indiana.

Board members present: Amanda Burnham, Seth Debro, Jeff Ehman, Megan Parmenter, Kirk White, Jim Sims (ex officio), Scott Robinson (ex officio)

Board members absent: Jean Capler, Jim Sherman

Staff present: James Hall, Dan Hudson, Vic Kelson, Holly McLauchlin, Brad Schroeder, LaTreana Teague, Michelle Waldon, Chris Wheeler

AMEND AGENDA

The agenda was amended to add a bid opening as item number five.

MINUTES

Board member Burnham moved, and Board Member Debro seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the April 11th meeting. Motion carried, five ayes.

CLAIMS

Burnham moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve the Standard Invoices: Vendor invoices submitted included \$399,458.59 from the Water Utility, \$216,612.56 from the Wastewater Utility, and \$1,036.82 from the Stormwater Utility.
Motion carried, five ayes. Total claims approved: \$617,107.97.

Burnham moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve the Utility Bills: Utility invoices submitted included \$2,934.27 from the Water Utility and \$11,256.80 from the Wastewater Utility.
Motion carried, five ayes. Total claims approved: \$14,191.07.

Burnham moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve the Wire Transfers, Fees, and Payroll in the amount of \$369,678.04. Motion carried, five ayes.

Burnham moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve the Customer Refunds: Customer refunds submitted included \$72.46 from the Water Fund and \$1,775.13 from the Wastewater Fund.
Motion carried, five ayes. Total claims approved: \$1,847.59.

CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items on the Consent Agenda.

BID OPENING - MONORE WTP - FILTER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Capital Projects Manager Hudson received and opened two bids for the filter rehabilitation project.

The bids were as follows:

Mitchell and Stark, \$3,256,845.00

Building Associates, \$2,304,700.00

Board member White asked for the consulting engineer's estimate.

Hudson answered the estimate was \$1,280,100.00.

Hudson said that CBU staff would review the bids for the most responsive and responsible bidder, and if staff wants to proceed, he will report it to the Board at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF MOU WITH MONROE COUNTY – COST-SHARE OF FEASIBILITY STUDY

Director Kelson presented an MOU for a cost-share of a feasibility study that was postponed from the March 10th meeting. The Monroe County Solid Waste Management District Board approved an MOU with CBU to divide the cost evenly on a feasibility study on resource recovery. The study would determine whether such solid waste treatment methods would best serve the City of Bloomington and Monroe County citizens.

Burnham moved, and Debro seconded the MOU between CBU and Monroe County. Motion carried, five ayes.

NEW BUSINESS:

White reported that last week's COVID case numbers had seen an increase. What's happened is that with the decrease of infection, the amount of mitigation of asymptomatic testing has gone. The state and county sites are no longer in operation. They stopped on the first of April. What the CDC is recommending is testing the wastewater. That has become a vital piece of our ability to monitor how COVID rises and falls in the community. What is essential is that CBU has been continuing to adjust to help with the numbers. One of the earliest trend markers is the amount of infection in the wastewater. One thing on the horizon is that we are going to go back to pay for our testing. This summer, some potential partnerships with the university will enable us to have some lab services. We need to get to a point where we can regularly tell the public what the numbers are and post them publicly.

Kelson responded that CBU is one of the state's first organizations to do regular sampling for COVID. We also have one of the longest records as well. We started in

July 2020, contracting with 120Water. The state then funded an extensive program through the Indiana Finance Authority, where we sampled three times a week at eight different locations. That went on until December 2020. After that, our Board allowed us to continue the program that we have been doing. Last year we were invited to participate in the CDC's program, sampling twice a week. The contractor got behind, and we were not getting the samples as timely as we had been with 120Water. We restarted our contract with 120Water, and that contract still has a few months to go. The CDC said they have a new lab to send samples to, and hopefully, we will get more data that way.

As Board member White mentioned, a new faculty member at IU will be starting this summer, and his lab will be equipped with the proper equipment to look at this. CBU will be happy to participate in that research to bring more regular sampling data to put into the website for the community.

White thanked Kelson for the update. He said it is important for the Board to know how the Utilities Department supports the public health effort and responsibility now that we have not had before. The best way for us to respond from a public health perspective is to let people know the infection rates, and it is not possible with the current levels of mitigation.

Kelson added that there is a dashboard that has 120Water data. It is shared with the Health Department and others involved in the program with us.

Ehman asked if this researcher believed that he could turn the samples around faster than one week?

Kelson answered that the researcher is not set up yet, but believes they can turn it around quicker. We will not have to ship the samples back and forth, so that will take a few days off. Kelson said that he would like to build the relationship and see if we can regularly have results after a couple of days.

Ehman said that for an early warning system, it seems we would like to come down from a week to something quite a bit less than that.

Kelson agreed.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: None

STAFF REPORTS:

Adam Dishman, Wastewater Operator at Dillman WWTP, passed the Wastewater II exam.

Board member Parmenter asked about a fire at the Blucher Poole WWTP.

Kelson said an electrical short led to a flash and smoke, but it was not a major fire. It happened in some switchgear that we already had a contractor under contract four days later to inspect and do repairs. The work is complete. It was associated with the emergency generator; the power had gone out, and we were running on the generator. When the power came back, the generator did not turn off quickly enough.

Kelson also reported that we had four consecutive weeks of COVID non-detects. Last week's sample came in with 260 gene copies per 100 milliliters, and 110 gene copies were reported at Dillman. Those are our first detected samples in a month. Parmenter asked what those numbers were at the height of the pandemic. Kelson answered we were seeing numbers in the high hundreds and sometimes thousands.

Kelson reported that the rate change that the board approved related to the repeal of the utility revenue tax was approved at Council and will be submitted to the IURC.

Kelson thanked the board for their support over his six years at CBU.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Burnham moved to adjourn; the meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Jeff Ehman, President

Date