

UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING
07/18/2022

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CALL TO ORDER

Board Vice President Burnham 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, Jean Capler, Seth Debro, Megan Parmenter, Jim Sherman, Kirk White, ex officio Scott Robinson

Board members absent: Jeff Ehman, ex officio Jim Sims

Staff present: Nolan Hendon, Vic Kelson, Holly McLaughlin, LaTreana Teague, Chris Wheeler

MINUTES

Board member Parmenter moved, and Board Member Debro seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the July 5 meeting. Motion carried, six ayes.

CLAIMS

Parmenter moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve the Standard Invoices: Vendor invoices included \$205,401.00 from the Water Utility, \$173,214.33 from the Wastewater Utility, and \$42,533.27 from the Stormwater Utility.
Motion carried, six ayes. Total claims approved: \$421,148.60.

Parmenter moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve the Utility Bills: Utility invoices included \$56,252.95 from the Water Utility and \$25,744.59 from the Wastewater Utility.
Motion carried, six ayes. Total claims approved: \$81,997.54.

Parmenter moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve the Wire Transfers, Fees, and Payroll in the amount of \$542,479.06. Motion carried, six ayes.

Parmenter moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve the Customer Refunds: Customer refunds included \$98.51 from the Water Fund and \$676.61 from the Wastewater Fund.
Motion carried, six ayes. Total refunds approved: \$775.12.

CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items on the July 18 Consent Agenda.

OLD BUSINESS: Conservation Manager Hendon gave an update on the Utilities' solar panels. Four solar arrays are throughout the CBU facilities - Dillman WWTP, Monroe WTP, the southeast booster, and the Service Center. They have been performing correctly but have some caveats. There are some planned and unplanned outages at Dillman due to the construction. The arrays have not continuously been on and producing or connected to the grid, but this is something we should not expect going forward. At Monroe they have been producing since they went online in 2020. There have been some communication issues on the parts that communicate to us what it is producing. Since that facility uses so much energy, the production does not return to the grid. It all stays in the facility, so it is hard to see what we produce unless that meter works. Because of that, we do not have a full year's worth of data. At the Service Center, the arrays produced 76% of all the electricity in 2021.

NEW BUSINESS: None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: None

STAFF REPORTS: Kelson reported on an upcoming event celebrating 50 years of the relationship between Parks and Recreation and Utilities regarding the management of Griffy Lake. The event will occur on Friday, July 29, at 10 a.m. at Griffy Lake.

CBU is working with new faculty at IU to surveillance viruses, not just SARS COV-2, but other viruses. We will meet with the Mayor's office, Indiana University, IU Health, Monroe County, and the South-Central Sewer District to see what is possible for community surveillance for viruses in the wastewater.

We have not had a string of non-detects in the COVID samples, and we have had several cases at CBU over the last couple of weeks.

With the hot summer, the algal counts in the raw water at Monroe are as high as we have ever seen them. We detected algal toxins in the raw water, but our treatment process is set up to ensure that as much as possible is removed. As a result, we have not had any hits of any algal toxins in the finished water. In hot weather, if we go a long time without rain, it is common for us to get taste and odor chemicals from a chemical called geosmin that a small percentage of people can pick up. So we stay alert for algal toxins and taste and odor changes.

Parmenter commented that last summer, there was a concern about the taste. She recalled that it took weeks to flush out once it was detected. Are we catching it far enough ahead of time that if there is that taste, we can fix it before it gets weeks out?

Kelson responded that we are. Last year we constructed the chemical feed building at the Monroe plant intake, and one of the chemicals we can feed there is potassium permanganate, which can remove some of these species. Unfortunately, that building was not finished last year, and we were feeding from a tote. It was not reliable, as the feed can go up and down. Now, we have the chemical feed building, and it is working. We feed potassium permanganate and activated carbon to control these things, like algal toxins and geosmin.

The Friends of Lake Monroe are trying to organize a Lake Monroe Day on Sunday, September 18. They have invited CBU to participate and offer plant tours.

Burnham asked if anyone else had left CBU after Assistant Director of Engineering Brad Schroder had resigned. Kelson responded that Assistant Director of Plant Operations Tom Axsom had announced his resignation some weeks ago.

Burnham commented that as a Board, they had not recognized Brad Schroeder and Tom Axsom and thanked them for their hard work and that working with Tom and Brad had been a pleasure. Kelson added that Axsom and Schroeder had successfully moved the organization forward. Axsom worked at CBU for 32 years. CBU is interviewing for three of the four open Assistant Director positions in the coming weeks.

Board member White asked if there were any recognition events or retirement receptions.

Kelson said that previous employees are usually mentioned in the employee newsletter, but the Administration division has not created a newsletter in the last few months due to being short-staffed. Still, previous employees are recognized during the CBU Holiday Luncheon and in the Year-In-Review.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADJOURNMENT: White moved to adjourn; the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Jeff Ehman, President

Date