

**UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING
09/26/2022**

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

Board members present: Seth Debro, Jeff Ehman, Megan Parmenter, Jim Sherman, Kirk White, ex officio Scott Robinson

Board members absent: Amanda Burnham, Jean Capler, ex officio Jim Sims

Staff present: James Hall, Matt Havey, Nolan Hendon, Dan Hudson, Vic Kelson, Jill Minor, Hector Ortiz-Sanchez, LaTreana Teague, Chris Wheeler, Jason Wenning

MINUTES

Board member White moved, and Board Member Debro seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the September 12 meeting. Motion carried, five ayes.

CLAIMS

Debro moved, and White seconded the motion to approve the Standard Invoices: Vendor invoices included \$193,718.17 from the Water Fund, \$20.36 from the Water Construction Fund, \$80,542.53 from the Wastewater Fund, and \$60,083.62 from the Stormwater Fund.

Motion carried, five ayes. Total claims approved: \$334,364.68

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

Invoices included \$166,943.42 from the Water Fund and \$88,263.94 from the Wastewater Fund.

Motion carried, five ayes. Total claims approved: \$255,207.36.

White moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve the Wire Transfers, Fees, and Payroll for \$370,904.27. Motion carried, five ayes.

White moved, and Debro seconded the motion to approve the Customer Refunds: Customer refunds included \$145.87 from the Water Fund, \$635.29 from the Wastewater Fund, and \$22.43 from the Stormwater Fund.

Motion carried, five ayes. Total refunds approved: \$803.59.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Eagle Ridge Civil Engineering Services, LLC., \$19,449.00, Clear Creek modeling
- b. Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc., \$0, First amendment to extend the life of the agreement for the Stormwater master plan

The Board requested Staff remove item A from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration. The agreement with Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. was approved.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH EAGLE RIDGE CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES, LLC. FOR CLEAR CREEK MODELING

Board member Ehman asked if the modeling required for CBU operations were independent of the plans for expansion for the relocation of the service center or if it is something that has to be done regardless. Kelson said it is not. Sometime in the last 20 years or so, FEMA redrew the flood map and identified the former sludge lagoon at the Winston Thomas property as water. It is identified on the FEMA floodplain map as being in the floodplain. To get that corrected, we will have to work with the EPA and FEMA and conduct an exercise modeling and petitioning to change it. We have to remodel the flood stage, but it is not a floodplain. There is a sizeable hill on the west edge of the berm. The first stage is to correct the floodplain map so the entire site will be properly usable.

Assistant Director - T&D Hall added the site is currently in a floodplain, so any fill that is added would violate the Clean Water Act. Technically we should not put anything north of the berm because it is in the floodplain. This would help us in the process of removing that through a petition to the DNR.

Ehman clarified that the project is independent of any work on that site for any reason. We need to have this clarified to be able to continue to use that site in a responsible manner. Hall confirmed.

The amount of the agreement is \$19,449.00.

White moved, and Debroy seconded the motion to approve the agreement with Eagle Ridge Civil Engineering Services, LLC. Motion carried, five ayes.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH SMITHVILLE TELECOM, INC.

Kelson presented an agreement with Smithville to upgrade the internet service at Blucher Poole WWTP. The plant is served by a 128k bit service for DSL service, making it challenging to do things like interface with our other systems and conferencing. Most importantly, it makes our laboratory inventory information system difficult to use. We explored the possibility of going with a cellular connection, which is not as reliable. It is now possible to get a fiber connection from Smithville. After working with the I.T.S. Department, the most cost-effective approach was to take an 8-year contract because the cost would be the same whether it was five years or eight years because of the need to pay off the fiber run and the equipment associated with it. It is an 8-year contract to provide 100Mbps fiber service to the plant.

Ehman asked if the agreement enabled the cancellation of the other service. Kelson answered yes. The other service was \$50 a month.

Board member Parmenter commented that she was pleased that a local company could be used to do this project. At the August 29 USB meeting, the board voted to allow the hired company to put in the high-speed internet in Bloomington to use the Blucher Poole site. Was the option explored if they are bringing this to our community?

Kelson answered that he could not answer the question but would follow up with the board.

Parmenter asked if in eight years the technology improves, the speed can be increased, or is it set at 100Mbps for eight years? Kelson said the contract is for 100Mbps for eight years, but if they make gigabit speed available at the plant, staff could consider renegotiating it. It should be plenty for what we are doing.

Ehman asked if the company contracted to use the pavement section at Blucher Poole would utilize any of CBU's utilities. Kelson said the price of the AEG agreement was raised to cover part of the internet service. Ehman clarified that the company would use the internet service. Kelson answered yes, but not very much. They will also get a small office space. Ehman confirmed that, per Kelson's statement, the service was needed for a long time. Kelson said yes, and that staff had talked about it for years. Ehman asked if this project completely coincides with AEG's presence and need. Kelson said it is, but they are pitching in for the time they are there. Ehman asked how much was the AEG contract raised. Kelson answered it was raised \$200.

White moved, and Debroy seconded the motion to approve the agreement with Smithville Telecom, LLC. Motion carried, five ayes.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE 2022 RESIDENTIAL STORMWATER GRANT RECIPIENTS

Hall brought forward to the board a list of 10 residents selected through an external committee for the residential stormwater grants. CBU received 19 applications for a total of \$111,555.55 in requested funding. CBU allocated \$100,000 of this and used \$30,000 for engineering services from a local company, Smith Design Group, to help review some of them. \$66,855.58 was awarded.

Parmenter thanked Hall for all the work the committee did. She said it was a wealth of knowledge from many different areas that were thoughtful about their questions and who would be best served by this grant money. It is interesting to look at them on the map and see how they flow through the town. She added that she was excited for the residents to receive their stormwater grants. Hall also thanked the committee members for their time.

Sherman said that some on the list are from the city's southeast quadrant, and three are on High Street. Is there anything about the southeast quadrant or High Street specifically that there is a greater need for, or are there more problems there? Hall said the Jackson Creek drainage basin has a bigger need, and we had received applications in that whole area.

White asked if we are more focused on retention, detention, flood prevention, or if it is a combination. Hall said it is a combination, which is what Smith looked at and what kind of benefit it brings to the MS4 program overall, and how we mitigate the severity of issues downstream from that property.

White asked if issues are taken care of where there is temporary flooding in particular residential areas. Hall said these projects are designed to help move water that may hazard flooding or temporary flooding and store it in basins or the ground into the bioswales.

Sherman asked if the \$30,000 given to the consultant is consistent with past years because the funding was cut from \$100,000 to \$66,000. Hall said this is the first year a consultant was used. Staff had discussed if it would be beneficial next year or not. Sherman said we might want to increase the grant funding next year or not. He added his expectation was that the \$100,000 would go to the projects. Hall said he did know if the funding needed to be increased, but the staff is looking at it. They are also looking at the program and possibly serving regions of the city better instead of individual properties. Sherman said he hoped we could keep the funding going.

Ehman said he remembered an emphasis on families in greater need in lower-income areas, and the committee funded three of those projects. He asked if there were any applicants like that this year. Hall said he did not remember each applicant this year but knew there was still a struggle with petitioning homeowners. Staff did outreach in some

of those areas and asked people to apply. Ehman clarified where problems were identified and encouraged those households to apply. Hall confirmed and said staff thought they would be good candidates. He added that is what we were hoping with having the engineer on board, to let residents know that they did not have to have a great application, just get something submitted. We know it is a problem area, and the engineer would help walk it through. It is time-consuming for homeowners to meet with contractors and a burden to them. We were trying to figure out how to lessen that burden to get more applicants. Ehman commented it would be great if staff could continue working on that process and find a way to make it easy on them. And to also utilize that consultant and those funds to help them get an application. Hall said that is why the regional areas may be easier.

White moved, and Parmenter seconded the motion to approve the 2022 Residential Stormwater Grant Recipients. Motion carried, five ayes.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: None

STAFF REPORTS:

Kelson updated the board with four reports:

- There was an incident last week with someone in the storm sewer, and it took several hours to find them. CBU was proud of the efforts that T&D made. Our engineering staff also went out to the site. CBU used sewer cameras to look for the individual, and the team was there all day with the new map system that we had been deploying the last year or so. It was great for our team to participate with the police department. CBU received notes from chief Diekhoff and Deputy Chief Oldham thanking us for our efforts last week.
- Construction is complete on the new green infrastructure facility, a detention basin on the Deer Park property just above Devon Lane. A resident suggested this during a site visit a couple of years ago. The residents at Deer Creek were happy to let us put the detention basin there. We have also added green infrastructure along the street, new culvert pipes, and driveways. The entire project was constructed by CBU staff. All the numbers have not yet been run, but this project was sent out for bid that came out above the engineer's estimate, which is why we decided to construct it in-house. As soon as we have all the numbers, we will have a reasonable estimate of what it costs to build it with our in-house staff.

- CBU is working with IU, IU Health, and the Monroe County Government to expand our virus surveillance program. Staff will bring forward a contract to ratify CBUs' participation in this. IU Health is going to underwrite sampling and testing for Paoli and Bedford. IU will be underwriting two sampling points that cover the campus. CBU will be underwriting the Dillman and Blucher Poole plants, and the Monroe County Government will be underwriting the cost for the Ellettsville Treatment Plant and the South Central Sewer District plant in the southern part of the county. Altogether, that will be eight sampling points, and all will be sampled twice a week and taken to IU to do SARS-COV-2, monkeypox, and influenza surveillance. Sometime in October, we expect to start a program and have more data about virus surveillance for the county. We think this is a great chance for us to make a difference in public health.
- Kelson introduced Hector Ortiz-Sanchez as the Assistant Director of Operations. Previous to this role, he was an Operator at Dillman but has also been an Operator of water and wastewater facilities in the states and Puerto Rico for about 20 years.

Parmenter thanked the staff for assisting with the sewer incident. She also commented that she saw online that residents received a notice that their water was out in the middle of the night. Maybe they were inconvenienced, but it is important they are notified. A crew was working at 1:30 in the morning because they would not have received that notification without it. She thanked the staff who were out in the middle of the night to ensure our customers got their service back as quickly as possible.

White asked about the sewer incident and how seamless it is for our law enforcement, fire department, and emergency management to access the CBU database. From experience, one city department will buy one software program, and emergency management will buy another, and they do not always talk together. So if that happens next week or they need to know where something is, how easy is it for them to access that, or how easy is it for us to get it to them? Kelson said that it was a discussion that the staff started to have. That system is an application called Field Maps, which runs on your phone. There is also a web mapping application that they used last week. Hall said the application is all in GIS, and they have access to it. It is just that they needed permission. We logged in through multiple CBU accounts to let them access that app. White asked how easy it was to do that. Did it take time to get it coordinated?

Hall said no. CBU was called, and Hall, Assistant Director Peden, and a couple of engineering inspectors ran down there to get it going. The emergency management team used CBU iPads to connect to their mobile command. It would not hurt to help prepare and let them know what CBU has. We just suggested to them that we have a camera that goes down these pipes all the time that we use. Better coordination of what each department has would be helpful.

White said that CBU is a big part of responses like that, even if it is not a big part of the water, sewer, or drainage system. A lot of times, they just need our people. They need our expertise. He encouraged CBU to see what could be done to promote more cross-talk. It is great to do that at two in the afternoon, but what about two in the morning? It would probably take a lot longer to make all that happen. It would probably be a good idea if they had access to and practiced it. We need to think about the big picture and then the bigger public safety piece. White said there was a media report that said the suspect destroyed the camera. Kelson said it does not work correctly. White asked if it could be repaired. Kelson said it could.

Sherman said he learned about four positive things, the grants, the chasing of the person underground, the Devon Lane retention, and the wastewater surveillance. He also said he had read at least two articles about the water taste and odor issues. These are important things that CBU is doing for the community. Kelson said CBU will do a press release about the surveillance program, assuming the board approves the program at the next meeting. The Devon Lane project will also get a press release.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADJOURNMENT: White moved to adjourn; the meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Jeff Ehman, President

Date