

UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING
June 24, 2019

Utilities Service Board meetings are recorded electronically and are available during regular business hours in the office of the Director of Utilities.

Board President Roberts called the regular meeting of the Utilities Service Board to order at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Utilities Service Board room at the City of Bloomington Utilities Service Center 600 East Miller Drive, Bloomington, Indiana.

Board members present: Julie Roberts, Jason Banach, Amanda Burnham, Jean Capler, Sam Frank, and Terri Porter.

Staff present: Vic Kelson, Laura Pettit, Holly McLauchlin, Phil Peden, Tom Axsom, Brad Schroeder, Michelle Waldon, Nolan Hendon, Brandon Prince, Troy Powell, Mike Hicks, Mike Carter, Rebekah Fiedler, and Jane Fleig.

Other individuals present: Bob Woolford (Housing and Neighborhood Development HAND) and Andrew Gordon (Wessler).

CALL TO ORDER

Board member Frank moved and board member Burnham seconded the motion to amend the agenda of the June 24th meeting to a 5b and 5c items for approval. Motion carried, 5 ayes.

MINUTES

Frank moved and Burnham seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the June 10th meeting. Motion carried, 5 ayes.

CLAIMS

Frank moved and Burnham seconded the motion to approve the standard claims as follows:

Vendor invoices submitted included \$689,953.09 from the Water Utility, \$1,037,592.84 from the Wastewater Utility, \$87,162.51 from the Stormwater Utility and \$21,968.51 from Water Construction. Total Claims approved: **\$1,836,676.95.**

Motion carried, 5 ayes.

Frank moved and Burnham seconded the motion to approve the utility claims as follows:

Utility invoices submitted included \$7,250.71 from the Water Utility, \$15,796.85 from the Wastewater Utility, and \$0.00 from the Stormwater Utility. Total Claims approved: **\$23,047.56.**

Motion carried, 5 ayes.

Frank moved and Burnham seconded the motion to approve the wire transfers, fees, and payroll in the amount of \$501,084.04.

Motion carried, 5 ayes.

Frank moved and Burnham seconded the motion to approve customer refunds as follows: Refunds submitted included \$0.00 from the Water Utility, \$846.68 from the Wastewater Utility, \$0.00 from the Stormwater Utility, and \$0.00 from Sanitation. Total Claims approved: **\$846.68**

Motion carried, 5 ayes.

PUBLIC BID OPENING OLD STATE ROAD 37 WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

Frank moved and Burnham seconded the motion to approve the agreement.

Motion carried, 5 ayes.

CBU Engineer Fleig and Gordon from Wessler presented the following 3 unit price bids for the project in alphabetical order:

- E & B Paving, Inc. - **\$849,020**. Mandatory add alternate 1 was quoted at \$257,115, mandatory add alternate 2 was quoted at \$202,330, and mandatory add alternate 3 was quoted at \$146,365.
- Milestone Contractors - **\$861,500**. Mandatory add alternate 1 was quoted at \$271,000, mandatory add alternate 2 was quoted at \$188,500, and mandatory add alternate 3 was quoted at \$276,300.
- Reed and Sons Construction - **\$406,910**. Mandatory add alternate 1 was quoted at \$174,930, mandatory add alternate 2 was quoted at \$98,535, and mandatory add alternate 3 was quoted at \$93,740.

These three bidders acknowledged the issued addendum, meaning CBU has received the first five items on the bid tabulation. These bids will be reviewed by CBU, and a complete certified bid tabulation will be presented along with a notice of award to the board at a future meeting.

The unit price bid was estimated by CBU and Wessler engineers to be \$727,000. Mandatory add alternate 1 was estimated at \$210,000, mandatory add alternate 2 was estimated at \$174,000, and mandatory add alternate 3 was estimated at \$165,000. Bids were due this day at 5pm. Any bids received after this time will be returned unopened.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH DONAHUE & ASSOCIATES

Frank moved and Burnham seconded the motion to approve the agreement.

Motion carried, 5 ayes.

CBU Capital Projects Manager Hicks presented an agreement with Donahue & Associates to improve the potable water system at the Blucher Poole Wastewater Treatment Plant. At the plant, there is both potable and non-potable water for drinking and equipment use, respectively. Potable water has been used in lieu of non-potable water for years because the system is not functioning properly, and CBU would like to update this system to reduce the use of potable water where non-potable water can be used.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER #1 WITH ASSOCIATES FOUR (AMENDED ITEM 5B)

Ehman moved and Burnham seconded the motion to approve the amendment.

Motion carried, 5 ayes.

CBU Engineer Peden presented an alternative project cost that included a deduction of a line item from the original agreement. The consultants did not encounter impacted soil at the Weimer dam, so that item was removed. One board member asked if the board has to approve a decrease in cost when the project has already been approved. Peden stated that the contract date has also changed, which necessitated Board approval. The original contract expired 12/2018 but there were plants and plugs that wouldn't have done well during the winter, so it was delayed until the spring.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT (AMENDED ITEM 5C)

Frank moved and Burnham seconded the motion to approve agreement. Motion carried, 5 ayes.

HAND Program Manager Woolford discussed CBU's December 2017 submittal for 2018 Community Development Block Grant funds. CBU requested \$300,000 for sanitary sewers in the Broadview Neighborhood. This request was reviewed by the Mayor and City Council after two public meetings. **CBU will be awarded a total of \$170,563** for the project. HAND and CBU are seeking verbal for this agreement. Roberts asked for some detail. Peden stated this project is for the Ralston Sewer Project in the Broadview neighborhood, where we were able to provide gravity sewers to 34 new customers that are currently on septic systems. This older, lower income neighborhood has failing septic systems, which causes decreases in stormwater quality in the area. Also, small lots cause challenges for the County Health Department to find new locations for replacement septic systems. CBU has been seeking this improvement for a long time. Roberts clarified by asking what the procedure is to get the other residents to pay for connection fee and plumbing to their homes once the main is installed. Currently, property owners will have to pay for their own plumbing to the sewer. There is no timeline set as to when owners will have to connect, but CBU is working with the legal department to establish connection fees. Depending on what CBU offers the customer, there may be a timeframe in which they have to submit an application for connection. Board member Capler asked if the residents who are transitioning are aware they will need to pay for plumbing, and if they are able to pay for it. CBU has reached out to homeowners and attended a neighborhood association meeting. Nancy Axsom in Engineering Dept (over new services) has received many calls about hooking onto septic. Peden clarified that many properties do not currently have failing septic systems, but the age of these systems suggests they will fail in the near future. Kelson informed the board that when a septic system fails, the health department typically requires residents to connect to existing sewer lines if the property is within 300 ft or the resident can site another septic system.

Frank suggested that theoretically, the neighbors who are not connected using the grant would be asked to pay the remaining cost. Frank is not opposed to this, but from his experience on the Common Council, there were times when neighborhoods with people who could not necessarily afford to switch to sewer were forced to do so and pay for it. He asked how CBU chose this neighborhood to receive funding. HAND takes applications, and CBU applied for that application based on hearing the needs of other city departments. People may wonder about how they could get funding for their neighborhood. Woolford suggested neighborhoods are not eligible to apply; only government or non-profit groups are eligible. Kelson suggested this project was introduced when he was fairly new, but thinks this is a good project for CBU. This is an area with a lot of failing septic, which is bad for the stormwater infrastructure/program. Kelson said this is more of an MS4 problem than a sewer problem. Kelson also suggested it would be possible to reconsider if there were other neighborhoods with similar issues. Specifically, CBU will revisit this in the organizational study. Currently, CBU does not have an employee who actively seeks grant funding opportunities, but more funding would allow CBU to provide better services to the community without it being rate payer based.

The total cost was estimated to be \$300,000, but this was an initial estimate and is subject to change once the project is complete. One board member pointed out the grant amount is much less. Peden suggested CBU will use in-house engineering as well as CBU T&D teams to lay the sewer to reduce the cost. Frank suggested that even if there are no more federal funds in the future, there may be other sources of funding that could subsidize similar projects, e.g. the city could provide funding for these projects.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

STAFF REPORTS:

Kelson welcomed McLauchlin as the CBU Public Information Specialist. CBU will be seeking a new Assistant to the Director over the next few weeks.

Joe Potts at Blucher Poole WWTP passed the Wastewater IV license exam.

Kelson invited board members to join CBU's Safety Day in honor of National Safety Month on June 26 at 2:00 pm.

CBU is in the early stages of an organizational assessment as recommended by the Human Resources department. CBU has contracted with NOVAK, a consulting firm, to do this assessment. They are evaluating how CBU is organized and staffed, and then will look at ways to improve performance overall. The first round of staff interviews

occurred last week. On July 3rd, there's a focus group for USB members at the Service Center with Novak.

Kelson responded to questions about CBU's yearly water quality report. Language is specified by the EPA. Alkalinity and calcium concentrations in drinking water are low for a few reasons: 1) Lake Monroe is naturally low in hardness and alkalinity 2) the treatment/coagulation process removes some of those chemical species from the water 3) it has been raining a lot since December, 2018, and lake levels are high; high turbidity, high organics, and less of these scale forming species are a result of these specific changes in weather patterns. CBU maintains pH at 9.2 when we deliver water so that it provides compounds that encourages the formation of scale in pipes, which prevents the dissolution of hard metals into drinking water. Low alkalinity and hardness suggest there are low amounts of these scale-forming species. CBU is working with a contractor to either maintain a higher concentration by altering the coagulation process or adding lime to the water to increase the calcium concentration. Because alkalinity and calcium are low, CBU samples more frequently at the sampling points. This will cost more, but will reduce the probability of there being a lead or copper issue. There are no lead in pipes in the distribution system and no lead in water leaving the plant, but it is still possible for homeowners to have lead or copper in their water; typically, this contamination comes from lead pipes within the home. CBU can do an analysis after homeowners contact customer service and inquire about this service. This service is under the CBU Lead and Copper program.

Roberts announced that Friends of Lake Monroe, which has worked with CBU on 2019 Water Fest, is having a fundraiser at Upland on June 27th from 5-8 p.m. Roberts also thanked the crew who fixed the main break down the road from her home. They were incredibly busy with 6 main breaks, but were fast and professional. She thanked the technicians for being friendly, and also thanked Holly for hanging the tag on her door.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Frank moved to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Julie Roberts, President

DATE