

UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING

09/27/2021

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

CALL TO ORDER

Board President Capler called the regular meeting of the Utilities Service Board to order at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held electronically via Zoom and Facebook Live.

Board members present: Amanda Burnham, Jean Capler, Megan Parmenter, Julie Roberts, Jim Sherman, Kirk White, Scott Robinson (ex officio), Jim Sims (ex officio).

Board members absent: Jeff Ehman.

Staff present: Tom Axsom, Jane Fleig, Dan Hudson, Vic Kelson, Holly McLaughlin, Phil Peden, Laura Pettit, Brandon Prince, Brad Schroeder, LaTreana Teague, Chris Wheeler.
Guests present: BSquare Beacon.

MINUTES

Board Vice President Burnham moved, and Board Member Roberts seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the September 13th meeting. The motion received a roll-call vote: Capler-yes, White-yes, Sherman-yes, Burnham-yes, Roberts-yes, Parmenter-yes. The motion passed.

CLAIMS

Burnham moved, and Roberts seconded the motion to approve the Standard Invoices: Vendor invoices submitted included \$210,380.48 from the Water Utility, \$104,544.98 from the Wastewater Utility, \$874,155.00 from the Wastewater Construction Fund, \$1,755.31 from the Stormwater Utility, and \$54,936.33 from the Stormwater Construction Fund.

The motion received a roll-call vote: White-yes, Roberts-yes, Sherman-yes, Capler-yes, Burnham-yes, Parmenter-yes. Total claims approved: \$1,245,772.10.

Burnham moved, and Roberts seconded the motion to approve the Utility Bills: Utility invoices submitted included \$118,369.49 from the Water Utility and \$58,450.89 from the Wastewater Utility.

The motion received a roll-call vote: Roberts-yes, Sherman-yes, Burnham-yes, Parmenter-yes, White-yes, Capler-yes. Total claims approved: \$176,820.38.

Burnham moved, and Roberts seconded the motion to approve the Wire Transfers, Fees, and Payroll in the amount of \$370,505.39. The motion received a roll-call vote: White-yes, Parmenter-yes, Capler-yes, Burnham-yes, Sherman-yes, Roberts-yes. The motion passed.

Burnham moved, and Roberts seconded the motion to approve the Customer Refunds: Customer refunds submitted included \$724.88 from the Water Fund and \$8,366.24 from the Wastewater Fund.

The motion received a roll-call vote: Capler-yes, Parmenter-yes, Roberts-yes, White-yes, Burnham-yes, Sherman-yes. Total claims approved: \$9,091.12.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- SSW Enterprises, LLC., \$9,093.00 (new NTE \$18,186.00), Second amendment extends electrostatic cleaning at all CBU facilities
- Control Freaks, \$3,840.00, Replace level indicator for #1 caustic soda bulk tank at MWTP

Board member White asked how often are the CBU buildings cleaned. Pettit answered the buildings are cleaned three times per week, with electrostatic cleaning once a week. In addition, if there is a positive COVID case, electrostatic cleaning is performed in any area where that employee worked.

As no items were removed from the Consent Agenda by the Board, the agreements were approved. Total contracts approved: \$12,933.00.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH FPBH, INC.

CBU staff made the recommendation to table the agreement with FPBH, Inc. until the next USB meeting.

Burnham moved, White seconded a motion to table the agreement with FPBH, Inc. The motion received a roll-call vote: White-yes, Sherman-yes, Burnham-yes, Roberts-yes, Parmenter-yes, Capler-yes. The motion passed.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH SYNTHESIS, INC. Capital Projects Manager Hudson presented an agreement with Synthesis, Inc. to design and install an Atomic Absorption spectrometer and a Mass spectrometer at Dillman WWTP. These instruments are designed to improve the lab's capability to perform metal analysis. The amount of the agreement is \$51,100.00.

Burnham moved, Roberts seconded to approve the agreement with Synthesis, Inc. The motion received a roll-call vote: Parmenter-yes, White-yes, Burnham-yes, Roberts-yes, Sherman-yes, Capler-yes. The motion passed.

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF MOU WITH OVERLOOK ON 46, LLC.

CBU Engineer Peden presented an agreement with Overlook on 46, LLC., a new development on the east side of Bloomington in the southeast sewer basin, where there is limited capacity in the sanitary sewer system. Therefore, we are offsetting the additional flow generated from this new development by reducing clear water that comes into the sewer system through inflow and infiltration. Overlook on 46, LLC. will contribute \$155,644.00 through the program.

Burnham asked if the new development was residential or commercial. Peden answered it is a multi-family apartment development with one-bedroom and two-bedroom units.

White asked if this was the total contribution. Peden answered that it is the total contribution, and Overlook on 46, LLC. will pay when they get their building permit.

Roberts moved, Burnham seconded to approve the MOU with Overlook on 46, LLC. The motion received a roll-call vote: Parmenter-yes, Roberts-yes, Burnham-yes, White-yes, Capler-yes, Sherman-yes. The motion passed.

Capler announced to the public to leave questions and comments via the CBU Facebook page during the live stream or the Zoom chat to be read later during Petitions and Communications.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: None

STAFF REPORTS:

Kelson welcomed a new employee, Austin Bennington, a laborer in the T&D department.

Kelson gave an update about the recent taste and odor issues with the drinking water. A large alga bloom in the lake led to an increased concentration of Methyl-Isoborneol (MIB) and Geosmin. These are naturally occurring chemicals that come from the lake. It was more than the activated carbon feed rate that we use could handle, so our staff increased it and added an additive that could break down the MIB. They also flushed some of the lines in the system.

Parmenter asked how long we need to increase the carbon and additives to the water and the safest levels for those chemicals to be added to the water. Kelson said we are far below the limit for either chemical. We have been feeding it at low dosages, and we have plenty of room to adjust. As for the water condition, we received data from an outside lab that the algae bloom has diminished dramatically in the last week. Burnham asked if the water was safe to drink and if there were any suggestions or remedies. Kelson said the water was never unsafe to drink, and the taste and odor were aesthetic issues. A carbon filter, such as a Brita filter, is effective. Roberts asked how long does it take for the water to get through the system. Kelson answered that the farthest points of the system are 7-10 days away from the plant.

White asked how many job positions are open at CBU and if there was trouble with filling them. Also, how are recruiting and retention? Kelson answered there was a lot of turnover in T&D. Wages are high in the construction industries, and it is difficult for us to compete. Master Equipment Operators are hard to find. We have been working with HR about approaching steps we can take for recruiting. CBU-wide, there are 16 vacancies, the majority of which are in T&D. We usually have 8-9 vacancies at any given time.

Roberts asked when water main break season occurs if vacancies will be a problem and if we can raise wages or wait to renegotiate the AFSCME contract. Kelson said CBU does not have the availability to raise wages as we have to wait for collective bargaining. Still, we currently have enough equipment operators to handle the main break season. We are exploring the prospect of having a contractor to help out during an emergency, but we have not had that emergency yet.

Kelson also gave an update on the water rate case. CBU has reached a settlement agreement in principle with the parties that intervened. The filings will be complete by October 6, 2021, and there is a hearing with the Indiana Utilities Regulatory Commission (IURC) on October 22, 2021. The tariff could go into effect on January 1, 2022.

Board member Sherman asked how CBU is doing with COVID cases after noticing that the COB Sanitation department had temporarily reduced services due to decreased staff. Kelson answered there were several cases at CBU the same week as Sanitation. There were two in T&D, one at Dillman WWTP, and one in the Environmental Programs Department. Besides the start of the pandemic, this was the only time where there were more than two cases at one time. It does not appear there was any transmission at work.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Roberts moved to adjourn; the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Jean Capler, President

Date