

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
UTILITY SERVICE BOARD  
MAY 20, 2024**

The Regular Meeting of the Utility Service Board of the City of Jasper, Indiana, was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall in Jasper at 7:00 PM on Monday, May 20, 2024.

**UPON CALL OF THE ROLL, THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT:**

<b><u>ROLL CALL:</u></b>	<b><u>In Person</u></b>	<b><u>By Zoom</u></b>
Roger Seng – Chairman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adam Auffart – Vice Chairman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tara Eckman – Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Phil Schmidt – Water Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bibianna Green – Gas Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Hostetter – Electric Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steve Hale – Wastewater Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Tim Doersam – Gas & Water Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ed Hollinden – Wastewater Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stan Seifert – Electric Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bud Hauersperger – General Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**ABSENT:**

Renee Kabrick – City Attorney  
Ashley Kiefer – Office Manager

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Roger Seng led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW GENERAL MANAGER – ROB YOUNG**

Mayor Dean Vonderheide announced the appointment of Rob Young as the new General Manager of Utilities replacing Bud Hauersperger who had earlier submitted his retirement date of June 28, 2024. Rob will begin his employment on June 3, 2024, and will spend several weeks working closely with Bud.

Rob Young is a seasoned professional with years of experience in operations management and leadership. He brings a proven track record of success in project management, budgeting, and strategic planning. Rob comes to the city with his MBA from Ball State University.

### **GAS & WATER - QUOTE OPENING: MINI EXCAVATOR**

Bud Hauersperger opened the quotes and read aloud as follows:

1. Bobcat of Daviess County Washington, IN	Base Price: \$75,450.64	Trade-In Allowance: \$34,000.00	Net Price: \$41,450.64
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Model Option: Bobcat E55 Excavator

2. Bobcat of Daviess County Washington, IN	Base Price: \$79,618.34	Trade-In Allowance: \$34,000.00	Net Price: \$45,618.34
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Model Option: Bobcat E60 Excavator

3. Hopf Equipment Huntingburg, IN	Base Price: \$74,800.00	Trade-In Allowance: \$42,500.00	Net Price: \$32,300.00
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Model Option: Kubota KX057-5R3P

4. Hopf Equipment Huntingburg, IN	Base Price: \$81,200.00	Trade-In Allowance: \$42,500.00	Net Price: \$38,700.00
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Model Option: Bobcat E60 Excavator

5. Boyd Cat Evansville, IN	Base Price: \$86,988.56	Trade-In Allowance: \$37,600.00	Net Price: \$49,388.56
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Model Option: Caterpillar 305-07

The quotes included a Non-Collusion Affidavit, an Indiana Legal Employment Declaration, an Affidavit Regarding Non-Responsibility, and a Nepotism Policy Affirmation.

Chairman Roger Seng asked what the trade in would be and Doersam stated they have a Bobcat Mini Excavator they will be trading.

Tara Eckman made a motion to approve the lowest quote from Hopf Equipment for \$32,300.00, pending review of specifications. Brian Hostetter seconded the motion. Motion approved, 7-0.

### **WATER - QUOTE OPENING: HYDROSTATIC TEST PUMP**

Bud Hauersperger opened the quotes and read aloud as follows:

- |  |                   |                        |
|--|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. KG Supply<br>Jasper, IN                   | Model: KHLT4055   | Base Price: \$2,814.38 |
| 2. Utility Supply Company<br>Huntingburg, IN | Model: HTP10-500H | Base Price: \$4,050.00 |

The quotes included a Non-Collusion Affidavit, an Indiana Legal Employment Declaration, an Affidavit Regarding Non-Responsibility, and a Nepotism Policy Affirmation.

Brian Hostetter made a motion to approve the lowest quote from KG Supply for \$2,814.38, pending review of specifications. Bibianna Green seconded the motion. Motion approved, 7-0.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: APRIL 15, 2024 REGULAR MEETING**

Chairman Roger Seng presented the minutes from the April 15, 2024 Regular Meeting and there were no corrections or amendments. Seng asked for approval of the minutes as presented.

Phil Schmidt made a motion to approve the minutes, Steve Hale seconded the motion. Motion approved, 7-0.

#### **PUBLIC BUSINESS: SUSIE PATRICK – 1087 W 6<sup>TH</sup> STREET – HIGH WATER BILL**

Susie Patrick presented her water bill from January 2024 that shows a usage of almost a year's worth of water on average during that one month. She stated that she called the Water department and requested someone to check outside lines and her meter, and they told her they did not have any issues. They did replace the meter as the display on the existing one was dead, but according to the manufacturer the meter continues to read accurately to the transmitter even if the display is dead. She stated she did not find anything running or leaking and the next month's bill was back to normal usage. She asked the board for at least an explanation on the high usage before paying the bill.

Bud Hauersperger stated that he had been in contact with the meter manufacturer already and according to them the meters have no history of reading inaccurately in any circumstance. Board members discussed ways to check into the meter and manufacturer and determined they would like more research completed, and that information presented at the next meeting in order to make a decision about how to proceed with Ms. Patrick's bill. Hauersperger stated he would continue to do research and investigate further with the manufacturer.

Phil Schmidt made a motion to revisit this issue at next month's meeting where more information can be presented. Brian Hostetter seconded the motion. Motion approved, 7-0.



**ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT – REQUEST PERMISSION TO PROCEED WITH FIBER TO SUBSTATIONS & WATER TOWERS – DID NOT RECEIVE GRANT**

Stan Seifert stated that they did not receive the grant to install fiber service to the substations & water towers but requested permission to move forward with the project. The Capital Expenditure plan included \$110,000 for this project; current estimated cost is \$97,000.

Phil Schmidt made a motion to approve moving forward with the installation of fiber service at these locations. Tara Eckman seconded the motion. Motion approved, 7-0.

**ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT – AGREEMENT FOR 69kV CIRCUIT BREAKER SENT FOR SIGNATURES AND ORDERED**

Seifert stated the agreement with CSI Utility (Siemens Energy) for the circuit breaker is still in negotiations regarding terms, but pricing was previously agreed upon and has been approved. He will update on this finalization of the agreement at the June board meeting.

**ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT – APPROVE REVISED BID FROM SMITH SALES/VIRGINIA TRANSFORMER FOR THE LARGE POWER TRANSFORMER**

Seifert stated that a new letter was sent to Smith Sales with a proposal to resolve the extra item costs not included in the original bid that were presented last month. The proposal includes costs for freight, warranty, offloading, and assembly being split between the City and Smith Sales/Virginia Transformer. Smith responded back agreeing to the new proposal amount of \$1,152,722.80. Seifert advised that Legal has not yet looked over the proposal, but in order to keep the pricing we need to stay on target to approve before it expires this week. He recommended approving the new amount pending legal review.

Tara Eckman made a motion to approve the new amount of \$1,152,722.80, pending legal review of the proposal. Bibianna Green seconded the motion. Motion approved, 7-0.

**ELECTRIC COMMITTEE REPORT**

Brian Hostetter, Chairman of the Electric Committee, stated the Electric Committee did not meet during the past month.

**WATER – SPRING HYDRANT FLUSHING UPDATE**

Tim Doersam stated they will be done flushing hydrants next week.

**WATER - APPROVE BILL FROM CALCAR PAVING FOR \$15,035 TO REPAIR ROADWAY AT NEWTON STREET WATER TOWER**

Doersam advised that Calcar had some changes to be updated on the estimate and they will be sending a new version for the next board meeting.

Tara Eckman made a motion to table the approval until the June board meeting. Bibianna Green seconded the motion. Motion approved, 7-0.

### **GAS PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Bibianna Green, Chairman of the Gas Planning Committee, stated the Gas Committee did not meet during the past month.

### **WATER PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Phil Schmidt, Chairman of the Water Planning Committee, stated the Water Committee met on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in the Pfaffenweiler Room of City Hall at 2:00 PM. Present was Tim Doersam, Darin Kemp, Bud Hauersperger, Phil Schmidt, Roger Seng, Bibianna Green, Mark Fierst, Ashley Kiefer, Kevin Manley, Renee Kabrick (joined via Teams at 2:04), Mayor Dean Vonderheide (joined at 2:07), and Kristin Heinz and Mike Heinz with Heinz & Associates.

Schmidt stated that Heinz presented the plans sent out for bids for the HVAC system replacement in the Gas & Water administration building and discussed that all but one of the bidders had declined to bid due to time constraints during the requested completion period. The recommendation was to amend the construction schedule to the fall, send out packets with the new schedule so that there would be more bids to consider, and extend the bid deadline to the June 17<sup>th</sup> board meeting. The Water Committee Meeting ended at 2:35 PM.

Tara Eckman made a motion to extend the bid deadline for the HVAC replacement project to the June 17<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Steve Hale seconded the motion. Motion approved, 7-0.

### **WASTEWATER – APPROVAL TO DECLARE ITEMS AS SURPLUS TO AUCTION OR SCRAP**

Ed Hollinden asked permission of the board to declare items as surplus to auction or scrap that the Wastewater department has made a list of. After reviewing the list, no one had any questions or comments on the items.

Steve Hale made a motion to approve the items as surplus for auction or scrap as listed. Phil Schimdt seconded the motion. Motion approved, 7-0.

### **WASTEWATER – APPROVAL TO START THE HIRING PROCESS FOR PLANT OPERATOR – DUE TO RESIGNATION**

Hollinden asked permission to start the hiring process for a Plant Operator due to a resignation. Hollinden stated that this position is a night shift operator.



Tara Eckman approved the request to start the hiring process. Brian Hostetter seconded the motion. Motion approved, 7-0.

### **WASTEWATER PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Steve Hale, Chairman of the Wastewater Planning Committee, stated the Wastewater Committee did not meet during the past month.

### **BUSINESS OFFICE – CUSTOMER SERVICE CLERK – JEAN SEIDL – RETIRING IN JUNE AFTER 13 YEARS OF SERVICE**

General Manager Bud Hauersperger spoke on behalf of Office Manager Ashley Kiefer regarding Jean Seidl's upcoming retirement. He shared the office's appreciation of Seidl's hard work and perseverance over the years in the customer service role and thanked her for her 13 years of service to the ratepayers of Jasper Municipal Utilities. The Business Office wishes her nothing but the best in her retirement.

Jean's replacement, Stephanie Allen, started on May 13<sup>th</sup>, and will be training under Jean until Jean's last day of work on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT & PRESENTATION OF CLAIM DOCKET**

Secretary Tara Eckman reported the Finance Committee had met tonight and reviewed the claims on the Claim Docket.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of the claims as presented.

Bibianna Green made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Brian Hostetter seconded the motion. Motion approved, 7-0.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51PM upon motion by Brian Hostetter and second by Bibianna Green. Motion approved, 7-0.

The minutes were hereby approved ✓ with \_\_\_\_\_ without corrections this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Acting Secretary

  
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Chairman