

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
UTILITY SERVICE BOARD  
APRIL 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

The Special Meeting of the Utility Service Board of the City of Jasper, Indiana, was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall in Jasper at 2:30 PM on Wednesday, April 16th, 2025.

**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"/>
Tara Eckman – Secretary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Phil Schmidt – Water Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brian Hostetter – Electric Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Ed Hollinden – Wastewater Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tim Doersam – Gas & Water Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rob Young – General Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ashley Kiefer – Office Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Renee Kabrick – City Attorney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**ABSENT:**

Adam Auffart – Vice Chairman  
Steve Hale – Wastewater Commissioner  
Bibianna Green – Gas Commissioner  
Stan Seifert – Electric Manager

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Roger Seng led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**WATER – CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FROM FER-PAL FOR CLEANING AND LINING THE WATER LINES ON BIRK DRIVE AND ALOIS COURT**

Rob Young presented the recommendation and proposal process as follows:

“Jasper Municipal Utilities is recommending that the Utility Service Board approve the award of a contract to Fer-Pal Infrastructure for the cleaning and relining of water main pipes on Birk Dr. and Alois Ct. in the Skyline neighborhood without completing a formal competitive bidding process, but with consideration of the evaluation of potentially viable alternatives outlined below. Jasper Municipal Utilities believes that, due to ongoing issues with significantly discolored water in this neighborhood, our findings, and mitigation efforts to date, along with concerns with an inability to otherwise address these issues in a timely fashion, an emergency exists such that immediate action needs to be taken to protect the general welfare of residents in this neighborhood, and that the public interest will be best served in pursuing this option without further evaluation or formal bids.

The amount requested for approval is “not to exceed” \$579,097 in total (adding roughly 417 feet to the originally quoted scope...revised quote pending), and includes the following services:

- (1) Mobilization
- (2) Temporary Bypass System (maintain service to customers during entire process)
- (3) Cleaning and CIPP Water Main Lining of 6” and 8” Mains on Birk Dr. and Alois Ct.

The timeline from first dig to completion is estimated to be 8-10 weeks. Estimated project start, pending approval, could be late April, and temporary bypass water service lines could see setup starting as early as mid next week (April 23, 2025).

### **Background & Current State**

Starting in November 2024, Jasper Municipal Utilities began seeing an increase in the volume of calls with complaints of discolored water, sometimes with heavy sediment, from the Skyline neighborhood in Jasper, inclusive of Birk Dr., Brosmer St., and Alois Ct. While the Department was aware of some past complaints, the volume became noticeably higher around this time. There is a belief that “external” factors, including a building demolition and construction project immediately to the west of the neighborhood, a water main break to the southeast, and annual hydrant flushing may have contributed to the issue. The Department began a frequent cycle of flushing hydrants in the area, doing valve work, and advising residents to run water and possibly drain hot water heaters at times to try to alleviate and flush out the issue.

Jasper Municipal Utilities began looking into possible ways to pinpoint and mitigate issues and had a number of discussions with outside contractors, engineering firms, and customer references while evaluating options. While minor improvements were seen at times after flushing and other activity, issues were never completely resolved, and complaint calls continued. JMU began tracking, as best possible, each call and logging complaints in a working Excel file. As of January 2025, it was determined that a first step to try to address root cause to remedy the issues was to replace the 4” main on Brosmer St., which was known to have some level of tuberculation from earlier

assessment after a main break and was determined to be at least a significant contributor to the water discoloration. A communication letter was hand delivered to residents at this time, advising that materials were being ordered to start work on Brosmer St., and that next steps were to be determined based on the results of that effort and findings of a sample of pipe to be taken from Birk Dr. Around this same time, concerns by some residents escalated to the point of contacting news outlets in the Jasper and Evansville areas.

Completion of the Brosmer St. main replacement took place in March 2025, with images of findings from that line shown below. In addition, while replacing a hydrant on Birk Dr., a sample of main was taken, with findings seen in the image below. As expected, heavy tuberculation was found in the line on Brosmer St. As Brosmer St. had a 4" main, the area for water flow was significantly diminished from the original pipe. While Birk Dr. was a larger diameter line (6" and 8"), and more water can flow through it, the amount of tuberculation found was still significant.

Following the completion of the main replacement on Brosmer St., JMU continued to monitor calls. Initially, we did not hear much, but over the course of the past two weeks, calls and complaints of discolored water have increased. Given findings of the condition of the main on Birk Dr. and considering the additional flow of water through the main on Brosmer St., it is possible that the increased flow is exacerbating the "stirring up" of tuberculate, leading to additional complaints.

With consideration of all factors, including the wellbeing and quality of life of our residents, JMU believes additional action is needed to remedy the issues in the Skyline neighborhood. Given the known costs of full main replacements and the timelines to mobilize with a contractor, a concern with this approach is that a project of this nature may not be completed for many months, stretching into late summer 2025. After discussion with Fer-Pal Infrastructure and review of their past work, notably a significant project in Huntingburg, IN around 2016, we believe that contracting with them for a full cleaning and relining project for Birk Dr. and Alois Ct. is our best path forward. Additional and significant factors driving the recommendation include the evaluation of a number of alternative solutions, along with the availability of Fer-Pal to mobilize and begin work as early as late April.

### **Evaluation of Alternatives**

From November 2024 to April 2025, JMU has evaluated a number of possible actions to take to resolve the issues. Due to the challenge of being able to fully quantify and pinpoint issues, discussions have varied and approaches have shifted somewhat as more information has been gathered. General discussions have taken place with various Engineering firms and contractors or contacts, including, but not limited to Wessler Engineering, Midwestern Engineers, Fer-Pal, American Pipeline Solutions, Puris Corp., M.E. Simpson, Infrastructure Systems, Indiana Rural Water, and others.

A general assessment of a combination of main/pipe replacement, cleaning, lining, and other options can be found below, along with vendors contacted:

Process or Discussion Notes	Potential Contractor	Evaluation Notes	Decisions
Main Replacement	Internal or TBD	Evaluated final costs of Mill St replacement project, potential internal costs, targeted areas, potential timelines.	Target replacement of shorter runs of 4" mains from the 1920's with internal resources. Begin building RFQ packages for larger scope areas, phase over the coming quarters and years.
Water Cleaning & CIPP Lining	Fer-Pal	Discussed and quoted full scope of project and provided relevant experience on jobs for review. Process includes water bypass to address service issues.	Recommending to pursue
Water Blasting & SIPP Lining	American Pipeline Solutions	Multiple discussions on project scoping and options. Contractor provided some initial estimates (see cost matrix) but ultimately advised in early April that they were not comfortable quoting the SIPP lining solution due to tariffs and equipment uncertainty out of Canada	Not pursuing at this time due to lack of ability to quote lining process. Quoting also did not include water bypass to ensure customers can remain "in service" during process.
Pigging	American Pipeline Solutions	Could not address 4" lines due to size. Concern with process for other ductile iron mains due to risk of main breaks. Pigging does not address future pipe condition improvement needs.	Decided not to pursue
Ice Pigging	American Pipeline Solutions	Alternative considered but never pursued. Pigging does not address future pipe condition improvement needs.	Decided not to pursue
Pipe Blasting & Replacement	Puris Corp	Discussed alternative with contractor and shared scope details. Contractor ultimately communicated that process would be cost prohibitive due to the number of service lines involved.	Decided not to pursue

A financial comparison of alternatives, where available and quoted, can be seen below:

Street	Length in Feet (Approx)	Est Main Cost / Foot	Main Replacement Estimate	Fer-Pal Cleaning / CIPP Est Per Foot	Fer-Pal Cleaning / CIPP Lining Estimate	Fer-Pal Minus Water Bypass	APS Waterblast Only / Foot	APS Waterblast Estimate	APS Foam Pigging Estimate	APS Sandblast & SIPP (No Water Bypass) / Foot	APS Sandblast & SIPP Total
Mills St Main	2,420	\$247	\$598,531								
Birk Dr	2,560	\$250	\$640,000	\$156	\$399,002	\$276,813	\$46	\$117,760	\$119,855	\$136	\$348,160
13th St	4,100	\$250	\$1,025,000	\$156	\$639,026						
Dorbett St	1,530	\$250	\$382,500	\$156	\$238,466						
33rd St	1,500	\$250	\$375,000	\$156	\$233,790						
Leslie Drive	1,700	\$250	\$425,000	\$156	\$264,962						
Alois Ct	700	\$250	\$175,000	\$156	\$100,878	\$67,467				\$136	\$95,200
<b>Birk Dr / Alois Ct</b>			<b>\$815,000</b>		<b>\$499,880</b>	<b>\$344,280</b>					<b>\$443,360</b>
<b>All Mains Totals</b>			<b>\$3,022,500</b>		<b>\$1,876,124</b>						

Costing Assessment Notes:

- (1) Any quoting based on general length estimates were calculated based on per foot estimates and then multiplied against a standard length estimate to ensure like costing comparisons.
- (2) Mill St Main replacement cost based on actual final cost. Near term main replacements could see cost increases due to tariffs and other inflationary pressure.
- (3) Waterblasting and Foam Pigging options from APS do not include the secondary process of relining, so the cost comparison is not "apples to apples". Without a re-lining process, we would likely never fully resolve the issues needing to be addressed, so we have determined these options to be not viable.

- (4) Fer-Pal quote includes water bypass system, which will allow users to remain in service throughout the process. This was not a part of the APS quote for Sandblasting and SIPP lining, so it was backed out of Fer-Pal costing for comparison's sake.
- (5) A number of processes were discussed with APS. Ultimately, relining became a desired output of a process. In early April, APS communicated that they were not comfortable with quoting the SIPP lining process with their subcontractor due to tariff and equipment concerns (coming out of Canada). Their original estimates for Birk Dr. were for "at least \$300,000". We have added roughly 10% to that figure for this assessment.
- (6) Note: CIPP and SIPP are both trenchless pipe rehabilitation methods, but they differ in how they apply the resin liner. CIPP (Cured-in-Place Pipe) involves pulling a resin-saturated liner into the existing pipe, then curing it in place. SIPP (Spray-in-Place Pipe) uses a rotating spray tip to apply a resin coating directly onto the pipe's interior surface. Our feeling is that the CIPP process has a much better fit for this application and will have a longer useful life (80 years +).

A combination of main replacements through contractors, internally managed main replacements, and cleaning/rehabbing/relining services will be built into additional plans and bids going forward as we will be addressing other areas where mains have exhibited similar issues. While all are important, the Skyline area has been the more pressing to address as we lay out and plan for the longer-term strategy for other areas."

Tara Eckman questioned if the recommended solution to reline the lines would interrupt the residents' water service or be relatively seamless. Rob Young stated that the bypass lines would have to lay exposed on the ground while the relining is happening, but the service would be virtually uninterrupted for residents during the process.

Eckman also asked about a communication plan for the residents and Young stated that Fer-Pal would be providing a letter tomorrow that would be tailored to the area and then passed out to affected residents. Young also stated that they would also be evaluating possibly scheduling a meeting with the affected residents to discuss the project at some point.

Chairman Roger Seng requested a motion to issue a Declaration of Emergency in order to proceed with the proposal approval. Phil Schmidt made a motion to issue a Declaration of Emergency regarding the water quality issues on Birk Drive and Alois Court. Brian Hostetter seconded the motion. Motion approved, 4-0.

Tara Eckman made a motion to approve the proposal from Fer-Pal, not to exceed the amount of \$579,097. Phil Schmidt seconded the motion. Motion approved, 4-0.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:52 PM upon motion by Brian Hostetter and second by Tara Eckman. Motion approved, 4-0.

The minutes were hereby approved \_\_\_\_\_ with  without corrections this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2025.

Attest:

  
Secretary

  
Chairman