



**IMU BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ELECTRIC,
WATER AND COMMUNICATIONS UTILITIES**

December 13, 2021

5:30 PM

City Hall Council Chambers

Minutes

The Indianola Municipal Utilities Board of Trustees met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. on December 13, 2021 in the City Hall Council Chambers. Chairperson Adam Voigts called the meeting to order and on roll call the following members were present: Deb Richardson, Adam Voigts, Mike Rozga and Lori Smith and, via Zoom (due to the pandemic), Lesley Forbush. ABSENT: None.

There were no public comments offered.

Richardson moved to approve the Consent Agenda: Smith seconded it. On roll call, the vote was AYES: Richardson, Forbush, Voigts, Rozga, and Smith. NAYS: None. Whereas the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously. The consent agenda was as follows:

- Approval of Claims for November 30, 2021.
- Approval of Claims for December 13, 2021.
- Approval of October financials.
- Approval of Minutes from November 22 and December 1, 2021.

IMU General Manager Chris Des Planques discussed the Sandhill Energy solar project proposal. The proposal included information on a purchase power agreement, solar fees, land use, equipment provided by IMU and length of agreement. Des Planques stated that the City of Indianola's Community and Economic Development Department are looking into any zoning issues. There was discussion on how this agreement could impact future solar projects and the amount of energy IMU is required to purchase from MEAN. Members of the Sustainability Committee provided suggestions on vetting the contract. The Board directed staff to continue exploring this opportunity, and to look into the companies in the proposal, performance bonds, installation and maintenance and how the solar pricing was figured.

Electric Superintendent Mike Metcalf reported staff have replaced transmission poles as part of the CIP and have been working on the Streetscape Project lighting as well as changing other lights in town to LEDs.

Lou Elbert, Water Superintendent, reported crews have been performing tests on development sites and replacing/repairing hydrants.

Communications Utility Superintendent Kurt Ripperger informed the Board that staff have continued to put conduits in the ground and perform installations. He also provided an update on the status of grant applications and changes to television lineups. The Board requested reports showing why people are purchasing fiber or dropping the service.

Jon Anne Willow, Crystal Clear Communications, presented her proposal for services to the Board. Highlights include a review of services in 2020/21 and plans for 2022. Communication will focus on fiber marketing, utility education and engagement with the community. The Board requested to see the schedule of newsletter articles, and suggested other ideas, such as surveys, reporting positive news, and the benefits a local channel could provide.

Smith moved to approve a proposal from Crystal Clear Communications to provide community outreach and communication. Rozga seconded it. Question was called for and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Utility Billing Supervisor Elisha Brown provided the Board with historical data for write-offs, noting there is a lower percentage of write-offs today than in 2016. Rozga moved to approve utility accounts to be written off and to use any customary collection method, including submission to the state offset program, and to charge any applicable collection fees. Richardson seconded it. Question was called for and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

In combined informational items, Des Planques stated MEAN is working on their budget, which may have an impact on IMU's budget; and provided an update on the strategic plan, annual audit, and the orientation session with incoming Council members. The Board discussed the initial audit findings and the need for documentation of changes made related to those findings.

Forbush moved to adjourn at 7:23 p.m. and Rozga seconded it. Question was called for and on voice vote the Chairperson declared the motion carried unanimously.

Adam Voigts, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Jackie Raffety, City Clerk