

**Town Council  
Utility Meeting  
April 10, 2023**

The Town Council of the Town of Kouts, Indiana met in the Kouts Town Hall, 210 South Main Street, Kouts, Indiana on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of April at 5:00 pm for the purpose of conducting a utility meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Tyler Brock and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Councilors Tyler Brock, Robert Forster, Blake Jefferson, Harold Salyer and CJ Wittmer. Also, Clerk-Treasurer Laurie Tribble, Cory Clarke, Brett Deardorff, and Nathan Howell representing MCO. Attorney Schwerd was absent from the meeting.

Adam Simka, Wessler Engineering, reported three proposals for test drilling for a new well were received. Peerless Midwest in the amount of \$29,820, Ortman Drilling in the amount of \$46,325, and Bastin Logan in the amount of \$30,105. After some discussion, Councilor Salyer motioned to approve Peerless Midwest's bid and Councilor Jefferson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

The next item for discussion was the procurement of a contractor. Several options were discussed. One being the standard bid process which is design, bid and build. BOT, Build, Operate, and Transfer, which offers no change orders, the Contractor gives a guaranteed max price however, OCRA doesn't use BOT. We would need to break the project into two contracts. There is also a limited number of contractors that qualify to do the BOT process. We would interview them and decide who's best for the project. Both Councilor Salyer and Brock stated they would like to pursue the OCRA Grant in order to try all options to keep the increase as little as possible to consumers. Councilor Salyer motioned to move forward with the traditional bid process and Council Forster seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Shawn Klienpeter spoke about the rate percentage increase. The approx. cost of the project to be financed after money in hand is applied is \$8.7 million. A 20-year loan is at 2% currently. Debt Service payments would be \$533,000 per year, with \$106,000 in debt reserve to service the note. The rate increase for the water only portion of the utility bill would need to be 120%. Councilor Brock asked if Mr. Klienpeter could put together a cost

comparison of towns' our size to see where we are compared to other towns' at the increase amount.



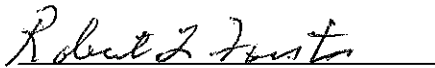
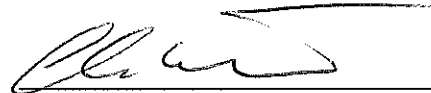
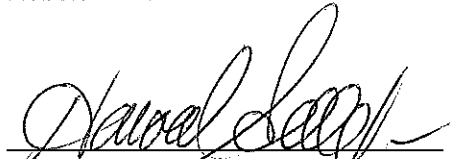
Adjournment:

Councilor Jefferson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 pm, Councilor Forster seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Laurie A. Tribble  
Clerk-Treasurer

  
Tyler Brock  
Blake Jefferson  
Robert Forster  
CJ Wittmer  
Harold Salyer