

**Town Council
Utility Meeting
December 11, 2023**

The Town Council of the Town of Kouts, Indiana met in the Kouts Town Hall, 210 South Main Street, Kouts, Indiana on the 11th day of December at 5:00 pm for the purpose of conducting their regular 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, Harold Salyer and CJ Wittmer. Also, Clerk-Treasurer Laurie Tribble, Attorney Schwerd, Adam Simka, Wessler Engineering, Shaun Kleinpeter, Kleinpeter Consulting and Bryant Barrera and Brett Deardorf representing MCO.

Bryant Barrera reported:

**The water meters that were ordered earlier this year to complete the radio read changeout, should be in around the end of the year. The Neptune meter reading software should also be in at the end of the year.*

**LFA and Wessler will be contacted to provide the Town with a proposal for survey and design, retiring the old water main on Strong Road connecting those services to the newer main across the street. They will also be looking at sewer replacement in the easement as well.*

**The lead and copper service inventory is moving along. There are approximately 350 homes done with pictures attached to addresses.*

**Sump pumps in the UV basement were not pumping due to a discharge line unthreading itself from the pump while pumps were recirculation in the well. The problem was caught before a high-level float tripped. The repair was made by adding thread tape and tightening down the connection.*

**The roof repair at the garage has not been completed. The contracts were signed and dates to begin were set up and Might Dog Roofing called to say the cost of the materials went up \$10,000. Laurie contacted the Attorney and his suggestion was to rebid the project. The roof is a bow string roof, does it have to be a rubber roof? Laurie will put the project back out for bid with the rubber roof and ask for an alternate second option of possibly a metal roof.*

Shaun Kleinpeter- Mr. Kleinpeter spoke with the council regarding options on handling the revenue requirements and rate assessment. He broke down the financing models into scenarios. Scenario 5 would be to execute the entire project at once, financed through a single bond issuance. This addresses the water quality issues the soonest and results in the lowest post project user fees. Scenario 6 chops the project into three phases. In 2024, 6A, the focus would be on the wells with ARPA Funds and Well #1 contamination settlement funds. In 2024/2025, 6B, the focus would be on a new WTP with the OCRA Grant and SRF Financing. In

2029/2030, 6C, the new tank with SRF Financing and another OCRA Grant. This phase would need to be postponed for 5-years due to the OCRA recurrent project stipulation to expire and a second SRF bond issuance.

Scenario 5 has the lowest post project user fees with a total dollar increase in rates of \$35.90 with monthly rates at \$67.37. Scenario 6 has a total dollar increase in rates of \$51.55 with monthly rates at \$83.02, after 5 years. The SRF loan term would be 35 years in the pool program at 5.25%. The factors to consider is associated with the inflationary cost, labor, and material of construction. The longer the project is delayed the greater the cost will increase. The second is financing cost. The future cost of debt is uncertain. If rates get higher the total project cost will increase.

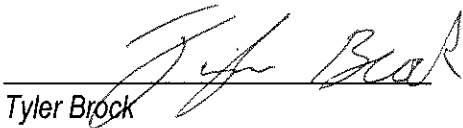
Adjournment:

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

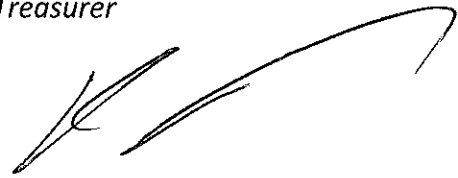
Respectfully submitted,



Laurie A. Tribble
Clerk-Treasurer



Tyler Brock

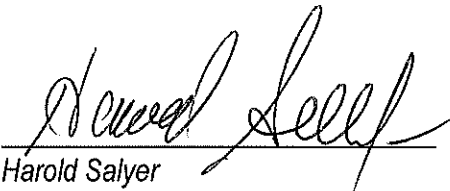


Blake Jefferson

Robert Forster



CJ Wittmer



Harold Salyer