



3847 Country Manor West - P.O. Box 18 - North Vernon, Indiana 47265

Office: (812) 346-5500 - Fax: (812) 346-0838 - [www.JNRU.org](http://www.JNRU.org)

Jennings Northwest Regional Utilities  
Meeting Minutes  
Jennings Northwest Regional Utilities Office  
February 14, 2024

President Brian Hatfield called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

Roll call was performed. The following members were present: Brian Hatfield, Marshall Jenkins, Dale Boyd, and Judi Johnson-Stevens. Also in attendance: Andrew Klescht (Utilities Manager), Jeff Maddux (Utility Superintendent), Kayla Zimmerman (Attorney), Chelsea Kummer (CSR) and (0) members of the public. Mike Gerth was not in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, minutes were presented. Judi Johnson-Stevens made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, and Dale Boyd seconded the motion and the motion passed (4-0).

**Members of the public:**

There were no members of the public present.

**Superintendent Report: Jeff Maddux**

Jeff Maddux gave a verbal report.

Jeff gave an update on the Hycor. There may have to be some adaptation done at the base of the supports to ensure in the long term that the base of the Hycor stays stable, alternatives are also being investigated. The new water line is installed, and our next phase will include the installation of the Hycor, and then electric work finally followed by having Save-co bring the unit online.

The SCADA installation is still moving forward as planned.

Lastly the roof on the headworks building was discussed, the ridge cap has rotted off once again, the second time within the last decade. Previously JNRU rented a lift and performed the repairs ourselves. Under the direction of the Board and advisement of legal counsel Andrew and Jeff were instructed to get quotes for the needed repairs and not attempt them ourselves.

The air quality while being in wastewater treatment plan buildings and employees near open air spaces where sewer gases are exposed was discussed. The board would like to investigate new PPE for employees when dealing with sewer gases.

**Manager's Report: Andrew Klescht**



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Andrew Klescht gave a verbal report. Andrew informed the board that the new rates will be going into effect starting with the billing that will be dated March 1, 2024.

The next item for discussion was the Salary Schedule named 2024-2. This included a new employee and a salary increase through a merit raise. Andrew informed the board the changes have minimal effect on the planned 2024 budget. After brief discussion Marshall Jenkins made the motion to approve Salary Schedule 2024-2, Dale Boyd seconded the motion and the motion passed (3-0-1). Judi Johnson-Stevens abstained.

Andrew investigated a company for sludge handling out of Columbus, they will only process dry sludge when the facility opens, it will not suit our needs. Jackson County REMC has begun laying fiber at the Wastewater Plant for our internet service we will be getting at the plant.

Andrew discussed take home trucks for the Utilities Superintendent and Utilities Manager. Jeff Maddux declined a take home vehicle as he lives very close to the Utility Office. Andrew discussed the possible benefits for the Utility Manager, including there is no mileage charged to the utility when doing business for the utility in his personal vehicle before or after regular working hours. After discussion it was determined to do utility business after arriving at the office in a company work truck and there was a motion to table take home vehicles until the March 2024 meeting. The motion was made by Marshall Jenkins and seconded by Judi Johnson-Stevens. Motion carried (4-0).

#### **Treasurer's Report: Brian Hatfield**

Claims were presented and discussed. There was discussion as to why the CSL HOA dues were paid, as there had been previous discussions that Mike Miller had previously told President Hatfield that JNRU would no longer have to pay dues. There was no more discussion, there was a call to pay the claims, the motion was made by Judi Johnson-Stevens and was seconded by Dale Boyd and the motion to pay the claims passed (4-0).

The cost of hydrant maintenance was discussed, it was not increased during the study, the board directed management investigate whether the current charges were enough to properly cover maintenance and water cost.

#### **Old Business:**

Attorney Kayla Zimmerman stated that her office has continued to work on the RFP for the sewer study. When updates become available, they will be communicated with JNRU management. Kayla stated that all billing for this project will not be billed until the project makes it to the bond phase.

There was discussion regarding Jeff Maddux's PTO buy down that had been discussed in 2023. After discussion the PTO buy down was tabled, the motion was made by Marshall Jenkins and seconded by Judi Johnson-Stevens and the motion was passed (4-0).

The board also discussed reviewing the way in which JNRU handles PTO. After discussions the board directed Utility Manager Andrew Klescht and Board Vice President Marshall Jenkins to work on a revamped PTO policy to bring before the board.





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**New Business:**

President Hatfield discussed the Campbell Township Regional Sewer District. He was approached asking if JNRU may have interest in partnering with CTRSD for maintenance. After discussion it was determined that while JNRU may have the capacity and ability to be able to handle the requirements, it is public knowledge that CTRSD has had a history of late payments, which is something JNRU would not be able to carry the burden of as JNRU may need to hire more staff to ensure all maintenance was properly done. No motion was made on the matter.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Marshall Jenkins and Dale Boyd seconded the motion. Motion passed (5-0) The meeting adjourned at 6:16 P.M.

**Members**

Brian Hatfield

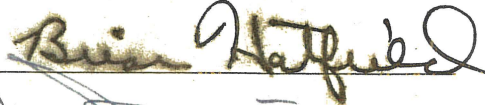
Marshall Jenkins

Mike Gerth

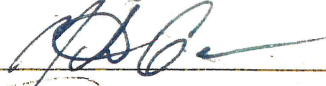
Dale Boyd

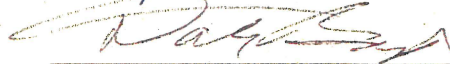
Judi Johnson-Stevens

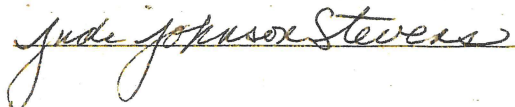
**Signatures**











ATTEST: March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024



Mike Gerth, Secretary