The Utility Service Board met Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. at 1111 McClure Road chaired by Nicholas Browning. Other board members present were: Cheryl McAvoy, and Barry Turner. Also present were: Roger Kelso, Executive Director; Ashley Getz, Associate Director of Engineering; Travis Calhoun, Associate Director of Treatment Operations; Heather Holzem, Associate Director of Finance & Business Operations; Robyn Ingram, Executive Administrative Assistant; Stan Gamso, counsel; and Elaine Hilber, Council Liaison.

VISITORS

Visitors attending were: Tony Akles, Strand Associates; Darren Wells, Commonwealth; Brad Davis, The Republic.

REGULAR MINUTES

Cheryl McAvoy made the motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on March 26, 2026, as prepared. Barry Turner seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 9-2026 TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN ACCOUNTS FOR JANUARY 2026

Heather Holzem presented a resolution prepared by Stan Gamso to authorize transfers made in March 2026 between various accounts. A copy of the transfers was attached. Transfers were made within the bounds of standard routine accounting practices for the purpose of satisfying ongoing obligations. Heather confirmed the transfer information presented was a true and accurate summary of the actual transfers as made by the Columbus Utilities staff and management, and all were within the normal course of Utility business.

Barry Turner made the motion to approve Resolution 9-2026 authorizing account transfers as presented. Chery McAvoy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CLAIMS

The March water claims were presented by Heather Holzem for approval.

Barry Turner made the motion to approve the water summary of claims as presented by the Columbus Utilities management as being a true and accurate summary of the actual claims as received, invoiced, and docketed and all supported by either contract or receipts received by the Columbus Utilities staff and management. Cheryl McAvoy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The March wastewater claims were presented by Heather Holzem for approval.

Nicholas Browning made the motion to approve the wastewater summary of claims as presented by the Columbus Utilities management as being a true and accurate summary of the actual claims as received, invoiced, and docketed and all supported by either

contract or receipts received by the Columbus Utilities staff and management. Cheryl McAvoy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The March SRF claims were presented by Heather Holzem for approval.

Barry Turner made the motion to approve the SRF summary of claims as presented by the Columbus Utilities management as being a true and accurate summary of the actual claims as received, invoiced, and docketed and all supported by either contract or receipts received by the Columbus Utilities staff and management. Cheryl McAvoy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The City of Columbus wastewater claims were presented by Heather Holzem for approval.

Cheryl McAvoy made the motion to approve the City of Columbus summary of wastewater claims as presented by the Columbus Utilities management as being a true and accurate summary of the actual claims as received, invoiced, and docketed and all supported by either contract or receipts received by the Columbus Utilities staff and management. Barry Turner seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

The City of Columbus water claims were presented by Heather Holzem for approval.

Barry Turner made the motion to approve the City of Columbus summary of water claims as presented by the Columbus Utilities management as being a true and accurate summary of the actual claims as received, invoiced, and docketed and all supported by either contract or receipts received by the Columbus Utilities staff and management. Cheryl McAvoy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous

<u>FINANCE REPORT</u>

The written finance report was presented by Heather Holzem. Heather reported that water revenue March 2026 YTD is $2,273k. This is 2.7% unfavorable to 2026 budget but 9.4% favorable to prior year. March 2026 YTD expenses of $1,227k. This is 5.6% favorable to the 2026 budget and 4.1% favorable to prior year.

Wastewater revenue March 2026 YTD revenue of $5,162k. This is 1.1% unfavorable to 2026 budget and 6.7% favorable to prior year. March 2026 YTD expenses of $1,950k. This is 7.2% favorable to 2026 budget and 13% unfavorable to prior year.

Discussion on why the city claims for the pension and insurance portion is still behind. The March meeting did not have the information for February. We are still waiting to receive those dockets.

Internal Audit report was prepared by Charlie Pride. Roger Kelso reported no significant findings.

ENGINEERING REPORT

The written engineering report was presented by Ashley Getz. Ashley provided project and design updates for ongoing water and wastewater capital projects.

Ashley said that the watermain project for 2nd Street has started and is making good progress. It was a much-needed update of the system.

The loan closed on Tuesday, April 14th without any issues. The interceptor and thermal dryer projects can now start. A groundbreaking will happen later.

A couple of large watermain breaks happened recently (Candlelight and Rocky Ford Road). The patch on Rocky Ford Road is very smooth. We had to do an insertion valve on Candlelight as the valve was not where we thought it was. This is very common on these older pipes. We have had discussions on what happened and what we can do better to relieve the pressure when working in the area on these valves.

TREATMENT OPERATIONS REPORT

The written treatment operations report was presented by Travis Calhoun. Travis reported no permit violations in 2026.

Travis shared that he and Maritza from Strand have been selected to speak at the Water Environment Federation Residuals Biosolids Conference in Kansas City in May.

Travis said that Coby Greenlee passed his Class B CDL, Russell Huey passed his Class 2 Municipal and Class B Industrial License from Wastewater Treatment Plant along with Thomas Lovvorn obtaining his CDL learner's permit.

Angie Bowling and Heath Oaks from Quality Control attended the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water Conference. The American Water Works Association held a training; Microplastics 2026: State Regulatory Perspectives and Progress that was attended by Angie Bowling and Nichole Young.

Industrial was up 41.8k from previous month. Travis stated that a lot of this was driven by Ninth Ave Foods up 37.9k.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The written director's report was presented by Roger Kelso. Roger provided an update on the joint cybersecurity assessment with the City. We have completed the last of the four assessments. Roger stated he currently is combining those reports that are in different formats into one report. The overall of these reports is not too bad. We are currently acting on any findings and do not wait to fix them.

Roger shared about our current efforts in public outreach and internal training. Our professional book club is led by Ashley Getz. She has been doing a wonderful job of educating all of us. The current book is Effective Utility Management that was developed by water sector leaders and is widely used in water/sewer utilities.

Roger gave staffing updates. Some discussions followed on what needs to be done or how the board can assist in getting these positions posted.

Roger shared the Annual Report that has been printed and available for distribution. The report was well received.

RESOLUTION 10-2026 TO MODIFY THE 2025 WATER RATE SCHEDULE PER ORDERS FROM THE INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Stan presented that the water rates were implemented in 2025 and IURC said they were not going to give us a rate for 2027 as they wanted to look at current rates and bids for various construction projects. They would do a true up later. We received the rates in April that were effective back in January from IURC. After reaching out to IURC, they proposed the new rates should be implemented in June. We now need to go back to City Council to make a recommendation to adopt this resolution 10-2026 to modify the 2025 water rate schedule.

Nicholas Browning made the motion to approve Resolution 10-2026 recommending to the common council of the City of Columbus that it adopt this resolution modifying the 2025 water rate schedule per orders from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. Cheryl McAvoy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

Cheryl McAvoy made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Barry Turner seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 12:23 pm.

MAY MEETING

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.

Nicholas Browning, Vice Chairman
UTILITY SERVICE BOARD

Cheryl McAvoy, Secretary
UTILITY SERVICE BOARD