

The Utility Service Board met Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. at 1111 McClure Road chaired by Patrick Andrews. Other board members present were: Cheryl McAvoy, Barry Turner, Nicholas Browning, and Melissa Lin. 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; and Stan Gamso, counsel.

VISITORS

Visitors attending were: Bill Porter, TyLin; Maritza Villalobos Tempest, Strand Associates; Mark Krenzke, Strand Associates; and Mark Cvetkovich, Bowen Engineering.

REGULAR MINUTES

Barry Turner made the motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on February 19, 2026, as prepared. Cheryl McAvoy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE MINUTES

Cheryl McAvoy made the motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on March 12, 2026, as prepared. Barry Turner seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 8-2026 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 February 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.

Patrick Andrews made the motion to approve Resolution 8-2026 authorizing account transfers as presented. Nicholas Browning seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Melissa Lin joined the meeting at 11:35 am.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT, ASSET MANAGEMENT GAP ASSESSMENT AND ROADMAP

Ashley Getz recommended the board approve contract with Arcadis U.S., Inc. for Asset Management Gap Assessment and Roadmap. The contract is the first step in developing a more comprehensive, data-driven asset management program. CCU has an asset management plan as required by the Indiana Finance Authority for SRF loans, but there is now new legislation

(HB1459) that requires utilities to submit asset management plans to the IURC. The scope of this project includes a gap assessment to determine if our current plan meets the new requirements as well as GIS data review as that is our official asset inventory.

Patrick Andrews made the motion to approve the Asset Management Gap Assessment and Roadmap contract with Arcadis for an amount not to exceed \$63,100. Cheryl McAvoy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING – RECOMMENDATION OF A PUBLIC-PRIVATE AGREEMENT

Ashley Getz announced the pause of the regular meeting at 11:39 am. The public hearing for the public-private agreement with Bowen Engineering began and was opened for public comment. No comments were received; the public hearing closed at 11:40 am, at which time the regular meeting resumed.

WESTSIDE INTERCEPTOR BUILD-OPERATE-TRANSFER (BOT) AGREEMENT, BOWEN ENGINEERING

Ashley Getz recommended the board approve the Westside Interceptor BOT Agreement with Bowen for \$24,434,668. The project includes the construction of a 42-inch interceptor sewer from State Road 46 to the Southside lift station on CR 150 W, the construction of a new wet well for the Southside lift station, and elimination of the State Road 46 lift station. The last engineering cost estimate is from 2022 and was approximately \$21 million. Four years' worth of construction cost increases plus additions to the project since 2022 account for the cost difference.

Barry Turner made the motion to approve the BOT contract for the Westside Interceptor project from Bowen Engineering for \$24,434,668 contingent upon loan closing April 14, 2026. Nicholas Browning seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

WWTP THERMAL DRYER BUILD-OPERATE-TRANSFER (BOT) AGREEMENT, BOWEN ENGINEERING

Ashley Getz recommended the board approve the WWTP Thermal Dryer BOT Agreement with Bowen for \$30,996,860. The project includes the construction of a new biosolids thermal dryer and associated building and equipment that will reduce solids production at WWTP by 80 percent. The cost is below the most recent engineering cost estimate of \$32,562,000.

Nicholas Browning made the motion to approve the BOT contract for the WWTP Thermal Dryer project from Bowen Engineering for \$30,996,860 contingent upon loan closing April 14, 2026. Patrick Andrews seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

COLUMBUS WATER IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 1 SCOPE MODIFICATION 5

Ashley Getz shared the SRF loan tracking spreadsheet that is used for projects. She explained the chart and where we are currently at for projects. We are trying to maximize the money we have to do the projects needed. This is the final project savings.

Nicholas Browning made the motion to approve Columbus Water Improvements Phase 1 Scope Modification 5 as presented. Barry Turner Browning seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

COLUMBUS WATERMAIN REPLACEMENTS SCOPE MODIFICATION 6

Ashley Getz shared the SRF loan tracking spreadsheet that is used for projects. She explained the chart and where we are currently at for projects. We are trying to maximize the money we have to do the projects needed. This is for additional water main replacement work.

Patrick Andrews made the motion to approve Columbus Watermain Replacements Phase 1 Scope Modification 6 as presented. Nicholas Browning seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

COLUMBUS ROYALVIEW & EASTERN LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENTS SCOPE MODIFICATION 1

Ashley Getz shared the SRF loan tracking spreadsheet that is used for projects. She explained the chart and where we are currently at for projects. We are trying to maximize the money we have to do the projects needed. This is the final project savings.

Patrick Andrews made the motion to approve Columbus Royalview & Eastern Lift Station Improvements Scope Modification 1 as presented. Nicholas Browning seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

COLUMBUS WOODSIDE PHASE 1 SEWER IMPROVEMENTS SCOPE MODIFICATION 4

Ashley Getz shared the SRF loan tracking spreadsheet that is used for projects. She explained the chart and where we are currently at for projects. We are trying to maximize the money we have to do the projects needed. This is the final project savings.

Patrick Andrews made the motion to approve Columbus Woodside Phase 1 Sewer Improvements Scope Modification 4 as presented. Nicholas Browning seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

COLUMBUS WOODSIDE PHASE 2 LIFT STATIONS SCOPE MODIFICATION 5

Ashley Getz shared the SRF loan tracking spreadsheet that is used for projects. She explained the chart and where we are currently at for projects. We are trying to maximize the money we have as to do the projects needed. This is the final project savings.

Patrick Andrews made the motion to approve Columbus Woodside Phase 2 Lift Stations Scope Modification 5 as presented. Melissa Lin seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT, SOLAR PROJECT IRA BASE ENERGY CREDIT COMPLIANCE

Roger Kelso presented this professional services agreement between Baker Tilly Advisory Group and the City of Columbus, Indiana, Utilities regarding a solar energy project. The primary objective is to help the city secure federal tax credits made available through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

This is a four-phase compliance program that includes determining project eligibility, managing vendor data, and performing cost segregation studies to establish the energy property's value. Additionally, the agreement covers the preparation of Form 990-T to facilitate direct pay elections for tax-exempt entities. The total estimated cost for these specialized consulting and filing services is \$26,500. Progress on the solar installation is expected to conclude by Spring 2026, with Baker Tilly providing the necessary audit-ready workpapers and documentation.

Barry Turner made the motion to approve Solar Project IRA Base Energy Credit Compliance as presented. Cheryl McAvoy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT, DEBT ISSUANCE IURC MUNICIPAL ADVISORY SERVICES

Roger Kelso presented this professional engagement between Columbus Municipal Utilities and Baker Tilly Advisory Group for comprehensive financial and municipal advisory services. The agreement outlines a 2026 scope of work that includes managing debt issuances, performing rate analyses, and ensuring compliance with Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission reporting requirements. Specific tasks involve assisting with sewer utility bonds, creating asset management plans, and maintaining continuing disclosure obligations for the water and sewer departments. The sources also provide a structured fee schedule that estimates total contract costs at \$320,400 after adjusting for prior contract balances.

Roger Kelso recommends the Board approve the attached Debt Issuance, IURC Municipal Advisory Services for professional services agreement from Baker Tilly. The attached document from Baker Tilly - Scope of Work and Appendix A, Summary of Estimated Fees for 2026 Scope of Work Update.

Nicholas Browning made the motion to approve IURC Municipal Advisory, Debt Issuance Services as presented. Barry Turner seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT, CLASSIFICATION & COMPENSATION STUDY

Roger Kelso presented this professional agreement for Baker Tilly Advisory Group to conduct a Classification and Compensation Study for Columbus City Utilities. The project is structured into three distinct phases: initiating the plan, benchmarking 50 job positions against peer organizations, and delivering a final executive report. For a fixed fee of \$16,100, the consultants will analyze market data from both public and private sectors to ensure the utility's pay structure remains competitive. The timeline spans approximately two to three months, contingent upon the client providing necessary documentation and attending bi-weekly meetings. Ultimately, the study serves to provide defensible salary recommendations and clear comparisons between current internal pay ranges and broader market trends.

Roger Kelso recommended the Board approve the attached Classification & Compensation Study for professional services agreement from Baker Tilly. The attached document from Baker Tilly -Scope Appendix, Classification & Compensation Study.

Barry Turner made the motion to approve IURC Municipal Advisory, Debt Issuance Services as presented. Nicholas Browning seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

CLAIMS

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

Cheryl McAvoy 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. Nicholas Browning seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

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

Patrick Andrews 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. Melisaa Lin seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

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

Barry Turner 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. Nicholas Browning seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

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

Nicholas Browning 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

FINANCE REPORT

The written finance report was presented by Heather Holzem. Heather reported that water revenue February 2026 YTD is \$1,475k. This is 5.3% unfavorable to 2026 budget but 4% favorable to prior year. February 2026 YTD expenses of \$897k. This is 8% favorable to the 2026 budget and 0.2% favorable to prior year.

Wastewater revenue February 2026 YTD revenue of \$3,322k. This is 4.5% unfavorable to 2026 budget and 4.1% favorable to prior year. February 2026 YTD expenses of \$1,206k. This is 16.1% favorable to 2026 budget and 0.2% unfavorable to prior year.

Discussion on why the revenue was off. Heather explained that the trailing disconnects from recent weather but everything appears to be on track now. During the cold stretch, a lot of businesses and schools were out or not open and usage was down.

Heather also commented that many positive things are happening and a lot of training is happening in the business office.

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 update on the Solar project. There was a meeting with Duke but it has not been approved yet. We are the first to go through this process in the Midwest. Based on what Duke said and schedule timeline written by Mark Cvethkovich from Bowen, it is projected to be mid May.

Mark stated that it is a new monitoring system that Duke is adding. Project commissioning will hopefully happen in June.

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

TREATMENT OPERATIONS REPORT

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

Travis stated that the wastewater plant was busy getting things ready for the disinfection season. They did a complete overhaul of the UV hydraulic system. The water treatment plant was running smoothly. The original fire hydrant to the plant began leaking and a new hydrant was installed.

Industrial was up 3.2k from previous month. Travis stated that a lot of this was driven by 3.5k in Mariah charges.

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. Expecting detailed analysis from a recent state program (a joint IU/Purdue effort) early next week. Roger stated that we are moving forward with Vulnerability Scanning Services via Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). In early February we received our first test results that revealed vulnerabilities that we are working through the fixes to close those issues.

Roger shared that Ashley conducted an internal session on CliftonStrengths assessment (formerly StrengthsFinder). It provides a "common language" for teams to understand how to collaborate without friction. This approach is a positive "fix". It works with people's strengths and not trying to change their weaknesses. It was well attended and provided insight into building our team and moving forward.

Roger gave our staffing updates. We have been very active recently with five positions filled and four positions active in the hiring process. The IT Lead/Specialist position is still in process of working on the job description. The Deputy Director position is waiting on the City Admin/HR to approve for publishing.

ADJOURNMENT

Nicholas Browning made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Melissa Lin seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 12:39 pm.

APRIL MEETING

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 11:30 a.m.



Nicholas Browning, Vice Chairman
UTILITY SERVICE BOARD



Cheryl McAvoy, Secretary
UTILITY SERVICE BOARD