



COUNCIL MEMBERS UTILITIES SEMINAR
AGENDA
October 12, 2023

- 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Matt Greller, Chief Executive Officer, Aim
- 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. **Are your Utility Rates Adequate for Maintenance and Growth?**
Ensuring your utility is well-maintained and poised for growth is easy to talk about but can be complicated to execute. Are you looking comprehensively at how your utility fits into the fabric of your community’s planning? Are invisible silos keeping you from fostering coordination and collaboration among your utility, municipal departments, and other government entities? And do you take a regular look at how your utility rates are structured and if options exist for proper maintenance and plans to pay for growth of the system? Speakers in this workshop will talk participants through funding strategies and growth concepts that challenge municipal officials to broaden their thinking relative to incorporating the utility in regular discussions on municipal planning, growth, or strategic development.
- Speakers:**
Jessica Lynch, Director, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC
Jeff Rowe, Partner, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC
- 10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Break**

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Understanding How and When to Utilize Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOTS)**

Payments in Lieu of Taxes, PILOTS, are not uncommon among municipal governments in Indiana. This workshop will be helpful to all levels of PILOT knowledge, those unfamiliar, those exploring the concept, and those currently utilizing PILOTS as part of their municipal finance strategy. Understanding how PILOTS and how they are calculated, how PILOTS impact utility rates, and the appropriate use or justification of PILOTS are all on the docket for this important session.

Speakers:

Doug Baldessari, Partner, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC
Ken Sicard, Council Member, Ferdinand

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Lunch**

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Utility Billing – Dos, Don'ts, and Why Not?**

Carrie Mugford, Clerk–Treasurer, of North Manchester, and Lora Manion, Attorney, Dentons Bingham Greenebaum LLP will speak about how utilities can use Indiana statutes, best practices, and tax refund offsets to increase utility bill collections and decrease write–offs. Join this workshop to garner new strategies for avoiding negative consequences for your municipal utility and its utility customers.

Speakers:

Carrie Mugford, Clerk–Treasurer, North Manchester

Lora Manion, Attorney, Dentons Bingham Greenebaum LLP

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. **Break**

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. **Back to Basics with the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water Association**

Water and Wastewater utility is a significant part to any town, city, or municipality. The Alliance of Indiana Rural Water

Association is a non-profit that provides free training and technical assistance to water and wastewater systems. We would like to introduce the Alliance and the National Rural Water Association and review the services that the Alliance can provide. The introduction of the Alliance will be followed by brief discussion on hot topic items in the water sector and what the Alliance is doing to help communities address them.

Speakers:

Kristin Bean, Executive Director, Alliance of Indiana Rural Water

Kelly Gardner, Apprenticeship Coordinator, Alliance of Indiana Rural Water

Lorean Johnston, Programs Manager, Alliance of Indiana Rural Water

2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Break

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Solar Energy Policies and Practices

Hoosier cities and towns are playing a significant role in the promotion of solar energy through municipal solar installations, solar education and outreach, and community programs. Two Indiana communities – Valparaiso and Fort Wayne – are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase cost savings in their communities through solar panel installations at various city facilities. For those looking to expand municipal solar energy use, the workshop will discuss solar funding provisions included in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), providing a federal subsidy on nearly any renewable energy constructed by a local government.

Speakers:

Doug Fasick, Chief Sustainability Officer, Fort Wayne

Steve Poulos, Executive Director of City Services, Valparaiso

Jeff Rowe, Partner, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors, LLC

Aaron Sawatsky-Kinglsey, Department of Environmental Resilience Director & City Forester, Goshen

3:30 p.m.

Closing Remarks