

People and Places

Logansport pursuing electric and water meters that can be read remotely

September Edition



Electric Metering Department's
Supervisor, Brad McBride



Utility
Superintendent,
Greg Toth

Article published by James D. Wolf Jr. Staff Reporter, Sept. 2, 2021

Logansport Municipal Utilities employees soon won't have to jump fences, face off with dogs or worry about tripping over things in people's yards just to read the meters — or turn them off.

LMU has started the process of getting both water and electric meters the department can read remotely, as well as remotely shut off service or check for problems such as water leaks, outages or people trying to alter their meters to pay less.

It also means repairs can be identified earlier and made easier, said LMU Spokeswoman Lorri Foster.

There's no set date for the change, and it may be some time.

First, LMU has to negotiate the contract with the national firm Sensus, the firm the LMU officials chose.

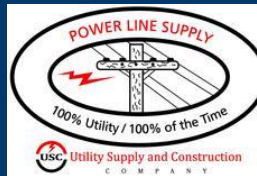
The negotiations will include the city's and the business' responsibilities, the equipment, installation, work timelines and final costs, said Foster.

LMU's Electric Metering Department Supervisor Brad McBride said there isn't a final price. However, with Sensus, costs will come in less than the \$5.5 million estimated. After materials are ordered, it could take up to 12 months for the materials to arrive due to current shortages, he said.

Then LMU employees will have to replace roughly 12,600 electric meters and 7,600 water meters. "It is probably going to be a yearlong project," said McBride.

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Congratulations to Jim Binkley 28 Years of Dedicated Service

Jim Binkley recently retired from Scottsburg Municipal Electric Utility after 28 years of dedicated service. Jim's dedication and commitment to the trade is beyond reproach. Jim served as the Superintendent for 18 years and never hesitated to jump in and do whatever it took to "get the lights on".

His impact on the trade went well beyond the boundaries of Indiana, Jim was always one of the first to offer assistance when IMEA was called upon for Mutual Aid. Jim was one of 140 lineworkers (donating his own time) who traveled west to the Navajo Nation to participate in the APPA pilot project called Light Up Navajo.

Jim firmly believed that safety and training is and will always be one of the most important components of our trade. His knowledge and dedication will be sorely missed.

The IMEA Board & Staff would like to thank Jim for his outstanding leadership and dedication, serving on the IMEA Board of Directors as well as the Safety and Training Committee and Rodeo Committee. Jim will be missed by all and we wish him the best in all his future endeavors



Happy Retirement Jim ! It's time to kick back and enjoy. You've earned it! Wishing you luck in all that you do!

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