



# History of Lebanon Utilities

- ◆ Few of us today remember the winter of 1936 referred to in some circles as the “granddaddy of all winters”. It was during this famous winter that the idea of Lebanon’s municipal electric utility was born. A disgruntled customer of Public Service Indiana, the private utility providing electric service to Lebanon at the time engaged with an attorney in campaigning for the City of Lebanon to buy the PSI electric distribution system. He was driven by his treatment by PSI during that harsh winter. A fight ensued between PSI and the City and the legal action went all the way to the Indiana Supreme Court at which point the condemnation took place and the City of Lebanon assumed electric service for its citizens buying the electric distribution system of PSI.
- ◆ A Lebanon Utilities Service Board was created in 1942 and was charged with the responsibility for operation of the electric, water and sewage treatment departments. The City has had a water department since 1894 and its sewage treatment department since 1921. The Utilities are city-owned and in that respect the citizens of Lebanon are the shareholders. Thus, the Utilities’ decisions are driven by the public and the public interest locally. Power supply was still provided by PSI until 1982 when the Indiana Municipal Power Agency was created as municipally-owned utilities banded together to establish their own power supply and Lebanon was on the ground floor of that landmark decision.