

Board of Municipal Utilities
Work Session Minutes
January 2, 2018
201 Miller Road
Avon Lake, Ohio

Prior to the meeting, both Anthony (Tony) Abram and Tim Rush provided their signed Oath of Office to CUE Danielson.

Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Present: Mr. Dzwonczyk, Mr. Abram, Mr. Rush, Mr. Phillips, and Mrs. Schnabel.

Also present: CUE Danielson, WPCC Manager Baytos, Community Outreach Specialist Arnold, Customer Service Clerk Farch, and Councilperson Fenderbosch.

Wastewater Rates and Fees

CUE Danielson provided a brief recap of the wastewater rates he proposed at the December 19, 2017, meeting, indicating that the average residential customer's annual wastewater bill would increase from approximately \$310 in 2017 to approximately \$350 in 2018 and \$396 in 2019. He then indicated that due to customers now regularly irrigating into October, he factored into the rate change extending the "summer" sewage adjustment through the fall billing cycle.

The CUE then indicated that in response to Board member concerns about continued affordability of rates for customers, he wanted to present options for their consideration. CUE Danielson indicated that affordability programs are becoming a discussion topic nationwide, as utilities are implementing major capital replacement programs. Two programs that are often considered are income-qualified discounted rate programs and lifeline rate programs. CUE Danielson provided background on both types of programs.

After soliciting the Board's input for further direction as to their interests, there were questions about the income-qualified programs; and the CUE indicated that administering that type of program would be too large for the organization to undertake. He indicated that most organizations that do so team with another organization that is suited to assess eligibility. CUE Danielson stated that he would speak with Community Resource Services (CRS) to explore the possibility of expanding the Board's current "acute" need program.

Members also asked about the background of the current "administrative" fee. The CUE indicated his understanding was that fee was a requirement of the grant funding that Avon Lake Regional Water received 30 or 40 years ago and he was not sure when it was last updated. Members indicated an interest in the CUE looking into updating that fee and potentially including a certain amount of usage in that fee. Members also felt that possibly a better term for the fee would be "minimum service fee," or something similar.

With the CUE indicating he would further investigate those two options, the work session adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Approved January 16, 2018

John G. Dzwonczyk, Chairman

Todd A. Danielson, Clerk