

Board of Municipal Utilities  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 3, 2023**  
201 Miller Road  
Avon Lake, Ohio

***Call to Order – Roll Call***

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held in-person using web-based video conferencing technology and streamed live over Facebook.

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

Also present: CUE Munro, CUO Yuronich, and Attorney Coyne of Mansour Gavin.

***Approve Minutes***

Mr. Dzwonczyk presented the Minutes of the December 20, 2022 regular meeting. With no additional changes, additions or corrections noted, he ordered that the minutes stand and be distributed as presented.

***Public Speakers***

None.

***Correspondence***

Mr. Munro provided correspondence from United States Senator Sherrod Brown regarding a funding request that Mr. Munro submitted in early 2022. Senator Brown contacted Mr. Munro to inform him that Avon Lake Regional Water was awarded \$1.0 million of Congressionally Directed Spending funds earmarked for the ETL Improvement Project.

Mrs. Schnabel provided correspondence from the Copsey family in Avon Lake regarding a water pressure issue they recently experienced at their home. Mr. and Mrs. Copsey want to pass along their thanks to staff members that assisted them with their issue, that turned out to be a broken sprinkler pipe in their yard causing the decrease in pressure.

***Expenditures***

Following review of expenses dated January 3, 2023, for funds and amounts as follows, Mr. Abram moved, Mr. Rickey seconded, to approve the expenditures of December 16 through December 29, 2022:

Water Fund 701	\$	71,256.99
Wastewater Fund 721	\$	77,431.82

Ayes (per voice vote): Abram, Dzwonczyk, Rickey, Rush, and Schnabel

Nays: None

Motion carried.

## ***LORCO Correspondence***

Mr. Munro said he asked representatives from Mansour Gavin to draft a letter to LORCO outlining their financial obligations regarding outstanding debt that is due and owing to Avon Lake Regional Water. The intention of the letter is to formally state the position of the Board but at the same time try to reach an amicable solution. Mr. Munro recommended to the Board that they authorize Mansour Gavin to send correspondence on their behalf.

With no further discussion, Mr. Dzwonczyk moved, Mr. Abram seconded, to authorize Mansour Gavin to send correspondence to LORCO regarding contractual obligations outlined in the Cooperative Agreement.

Ayes (per voice vote): Abram, Dzwonczyk, Rickey, Rush, and Schnabel

Nays: None

Motion carried.

## ***Project Updates***

ETL Design Services: Mr. Yuronich said that on Tuesday December 27, 2022 Mr. Munro received Plan Approval letters from Director Stevenson at Ohio EPA for the ETL suction line and the ETL1 improvements. While both plans were self-certified by Engineering Services Manager Gaydar under the current agreement with Ohio EPA, these are the formal approval letters issued by the Director.

WFP Improvements: Mr. Yuronich said that representatives from HDR are currently working on a draft response to Ohio EPA regarding their comment letter that was received on December 19, 2022. Staff will review and finalize the response letter prior to sending. Staff would like the response letter sent during the week of January 9, 2023.

2022 Water Line Bundle Project: Mr. Yuronich said that due to wet weather UUI was unable to resume work on January 3, 2023 to complete the remaining work in the project area. UUI is expected to resume on January 5, 2023 and they have approximately two weeks of work remaining. Any remaining restoration work in project areas will take place in the Spring of 2023.

Additional Storage Building: Mr. Yuronich said that the installation of roof insulation and roof panels is ongoing. Due to wet weather the contractor was unable to work as they do not want insulation getting wet. This work is approximately 25% complete and the contractor will continue the roof work on January 5, 2023.

Mr. Munro commented on the self-certification process that Mr. Yuronich reported on during the ETL design services update. Mr. Munro said that Mr. Gaydar is able to self-certify water and sanitary plans on behalf of Ohio EPA per an agreement between Avon Lake Regional Water and Ohio EPA. Currently Mr. Gaydar is the only professional engineer in the state of Ohio that currently is authorized to self-certify plans for Ohio EPA. Ohio EPA is looking to add more professional engineers to this program and has recently consulted with Mr. Gaydar regarding his opinion of what works well under this program and what could be changed. Mr. Munro thanked Mr. Gaydar for participating in this program and feels this is a valuable service to developers and Avon Lake Regional Water.

Mr. Dzwonczyk asked Mr. Munro who reviews and checks Mr. Gaydar's self-certifications. Mr. Munro said that plans are still submitted to Ohio EPA and they review Mr. Gaydar's self-certifications but it is expedited under the self-certification process.

Mr. Rickey asked if there is anything further that is needed in regard to approvals now that approval is granted by Ohio EPA. Mr. Munro said staff is still awaiting approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the ETL project. It is expected to bid and award the ETL project and Water Filtration Plant improvements in 2023. Mr. Rickey asked for the status of the easements for the ETL project. Mr. Munro said that work is ongoing and legal counsel is currently working with First Energy on land easements on their property.

### ***CUE Report***

No report.

### ***Miscellaneous & Member Reports***

Mr. Rickey reported that he and Mr. Dzwonczyk attended the staff holiday luncheon prior to Christmas. He thanked staff for the invitation to attend and enjoyed spending time with staff.

### ***Public Speakers***

None.

### ***Executive Session***

Mr. Rush moved, Mr. Abram seconded, to meet in executive session as allowed by ORC §121.22 (G)(3) to discuss pending legal matters and to include the CUE, the CUO, and a representative from Mansour Gavin.

Ayes (per roll-call vote): Abram, Dzwonczyk, Rickey, Rush, and Schnabel

Nays: None

Motion carried.

The Board reconvened at 7:53 PM

### ***Adjourn***

As there was no further business, Mr. Abram moved to adjourn, and Mr. Rush seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Ayes (per voice vote): Abram, Dzwonczyk, Rickey, Rush, Schnabel

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Approved January 17, 2023.

John Dzwonczyk, Chairman

Robert Munro, Clerk