

Board of Municipal Utilities  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 7, 2020**  
201 Miller Road  
Avon Lake, Ohio

***Call to Order – Roll Call***

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

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

Also present: CUE Danielson, CUO Munro, Community Outreach Specialist Arnold, Technical Support Specialist Collins, Mayor Zilka, Councilwoman Fenderbosch. Mark Dicker, Jim Spikowski, Romeo Mihalcea, Kevin Mihalcea, and Corey Schillinger.

***Approve Minutes***

Chairman Dzwonczyk presented the minutes of the December 17, 2019 regular meeting. With no changes, additions or corrections noted, he ordered that the minutes stand and be distributed as presented.

***Public Speakers***

Mr. Mark Dicker of 481 Moorewood Avenue spoke to the Board regarding his bill. He said that the increase in his bill despite a lower usage rate was much more than expected.

Mr. Jim Spikowski of 438 Moorewood Avenue expressed his concerns to the Board regarding his bill. He said that it was just he and his wife, and that his bill had increased significantly from his September bill to the December bill.

Mr. Romeo Mihalcea of 32756 Webber Road spoke to the Board regarding his bill. He said that his bill increased significantly from one bill to the next despite using the same amount of water. He said that he did not understand why his bill was so much higher.

Mr. Corey Schlinger of 165 Berkshire Road spoke to the Board regarding his bill. He said that he had the same usage and bill as Mr. Romeo Mihalcea, but he has a much smaller house. He wanted to know how his bill could have gotten so high.

The CUE addressed the public speakers to thank them for coming to the Board Meeting. He explained why bills had increased so significantly from the third quarter to the fourth quarter, with it being a dry fall, that water use was comparatively high, and that residents do not receive the Summer Sewer Credit in the fall. He also explained the Summer Sewer Credit and how it is calculated. The CUE said that staff can review the bills of the customers who came in to go over the differences from quarter to quarter. The CUO offered to review the bills with the attendees, and he also offered the services of Avon Lake Regional Water to help determine how to save on water.

The Chairman spoke with the residents about their concerns regarding the bills and the investment into Avon Lake Regional Water's infrastructure. Mrs. Schnabel also spoke with the residents regarding the investment into the Wastewater plant, new infrastructure, and that the

investment on wastewater projects is felt more significantly by customers because there is much less regionalization than with the water system.

Councilwoman Fenderbosch brought to the Board's attention legislation that had been moving through City Council regarding tree lawns in the City of Avon Lake. She said that there is a need for more pollinating plants to help support pollinators in the area. Mrs. Fenderbosch told the Board that the legislation would provide plans and templates for the residents of Avon Lake to plant certain naturally occurring flora that would help sustain the pollinators. She showed the Board an example of the tree lawn template.

Mr. Rush asked if the Homeowners Associations in the city have been approached regarding their tree lawn. Mrs. Fenderbosch said that they had not approached the HOA's, but that they would not be subject to the new ordinance.

The Chairman asked Mrs. Fenderbosch if the City had considered sight triangles for the tree lawns, and if the flora would grow high enough to block the view for drivers making turns. Mrs. Fenderbosch said that the proposed plants would only grow to a few feet in height.

Mr. Munro asked if Avon Lake Regional Water needed to replace infrastructure underneath the pollinating plants, would Avon Lake Regional Water be responsible for fixing it? Mrs. Fenderbosch indicated the Avon Lake Regional Water only needed to replant grass.

### ***Correspondence***

None

### ***Expenditures***

Following review of expenses dated January 7, 2020, for funds and amounts as follows, Mr. Abram moved, Mr. Rush seconded, to approve the expenditures of January 7, 2020:

Water Fund 701	\$	71,106.44
Wastewater Fund 721	\$	177,642.72
MOR Fund 703	\$	13,642.72
MOR Fund 762	\$	3,658.88
LORCO Fund 749	\$	1,951.49

Ayes: Abram, Dzwonczyk, Phillips, Rush, and Schnabel.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

### ***Year Ahead***

The CUE informed the Board that in light of completing the sewer separations and the major work at the treatment plants, he said that 2020 will be a year of a few important projects and internal focus.

He said that the 2019 Water Main Replacement Bundle, which includes work on Lake Road by Avondale, West Shore by Lake Road, Belmar near Walker Road, and Jaycox south of Walker will be a major project for 2020. The CUE stated that this work should be completed early in the

year. He also said that Avon Lake Regional Water will bid and construct the flow diversion project at the water reclamation facility in order to help reduce sewer overflows.

The CUE also said that the Future Capacity and Redundancy Project will help give the organization a path forward for the ETLs and their improvements. He included that the Residuals Master Plan will help determine the preferred options for long-term management of water filtration and water reclamation residuals.

The CUE also informed the Board that the water line design assistance will help Avon Lake Regional Water complete future water line replacements on ten streets north of Lake Road and at the southern end Avon Belden Road in Avon Lake. He said that the organization will be holding off on constructing that project. Finally, he said that in order to remain in compliance with the NPDES permit with Ohio EPA, Avon Lake Regional Water will continue wet weather investigation work to help reduce storm impacts on the collection system.

The CUE added that there will also be the focus on continuous improvement program, which includes advancing the adoption of the ISO 9001 quality standard.

### ***Lateral Separation Update***

The CUO informed the Board that the one property not in compliance had a trial date of January 9, 2020. He said the cease and desist order was due by January 11, 2020, and after that 30-day compliance period there would be a 24-hour notice of a termination of services. He also said that if that series of events did take place, staff would cut and cap the sewer line to stop all sewage from entering the sanitary lateral.

The Chairman asked what was anticipated as a result of the trial. The CUE stated that the result of the trial could have the individual occupying the house to come into compliance. The CUO stated that the trial itself was a criminal trial, and that the potential result would be a fine against the occupying individual. He explained that if the trial was a civil matter they would be able to lien the property. Mr. Rush asked if the lateral loan program was still available for future customers. The CUE said that yes the lateral loan program was still active to be used by future residents.

### ***Project Updates***

*2019 Water Main Replacement Bundle:* The CUO informed the Board that UUI began its water line work earlier that day on Jaycox. He said that a gas line was hit by the contractor, and the gas line itself was not correctly marked. He also said that the gas company was on site to make the repair. He continued by saying that this halted the work that day, but the work will resume the following morning. Mrs. Schnabel asked when the project was expected to be complete. The CUO said that May was the expected date of completion.

*Redundancy & Future Capacity:* The CUO informed the Board that the critical asset workshop was scheduled for January 7th and 8th. He said that the workshop was going well, and that there has been a significant discussion regarding critical assets, threat identification, and the consequences.

### ***Ward Meetings 2020***

The CUE informed the Board that the Mayor is planning to hold the Ward meetings again in 2020. He said that the Wards 1&2 meeting is scheduled to take place on February 5th from 7PM to 9PM at Learwood Middle School. He also said that the Wards 3&4 meeting is scheduled to take place on February 19th from 7PM to 9PM at Troy Intermediate School.

The CUE said that Avon Lake Regional Water intends to speak to thank residents for their patience through the past years of construction and talk about what is upcoming in 2020. The Chairman said that he would urge the CUE to handle any customer concerns regarding their water bills by that time.

### ***CUE and CUO Reports***

The CUO brought to the Board's attention that on January 30<sup>th</sup> Avon Lake Regional Water will be hosting a backflow symposium with a number of guests present. He said that all of the distribution and collection employees are now fully certified in backflow. He continued by saying the symposium would be used to educate, certify, and share ideas regarding backflow. He said that Avon Lake Regional Water is taking the lead with backflow certifications and would like to lead the local backflow collaborative. Mr. Abram asked where the symposium would be taking place. The CUO informed the Board that it would be at Ahern's because of the size of the group involved.

The CUO also informed the Board that at the next Board meeting he planned to have quotes for the electronic sign for the Water Filtration Plant. He said he has been speaking with two companies, and he should have everything by then.

### ***Member Reports***

None

### ***Miscellaneous***

None

### ***Public Speakers***

None

### ***Executive Session***

Mr. Rush moved, and Mr. Abram seconded, to meet in executive session as allowed by ORC 121.22 G. (3) to discuss pending legal matters to include the CUE, CUO, Technical Support Specialist, and Community Outreach Specialist.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

The Chairman resumed the meeting following the conclusion of the Executive Session.

The Chairman moved, Mr. Rush seconded, to authorize an increase from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for total expenditures for services outlined in the September 12, 2019, engagement letter with Mansour Gavin.

Ayes: Abram, Dzwonczyk, Phillips, Rush, and Schnabel.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

***Adjourn***

As there was no further business, Mr. Abram moved to adjourn, and Mr. Rush seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Ayes: Abram, Dzwonczyk, Phillips, Rush, and Schnabel.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ 2020.

John Dzwonczyk, Chairman

Todd Danielson, Clerk