

Board of Municipal Utilities
Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022
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 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.

Present via web-based video conferencing: Technical Support Specialist Collins.

Approve Minutes

Chairman Dzwonczyk presented the Minutes of the January 4, 2022 regular meeting. With no changes, additions or corrections noted, he ordered that the minutes stand and be distributed as presented.

Public Speakers

None.

Correspondence

None.

Expenditures

Following review of expenses date January 18, 2022, for funds and amounts as follows, Mr. Abram moved, Mr. Rush seconded, to approve the expenditures of December 29 through December 31, 2021:

Water Fund 701	\$	99,445.08
Wastewater Fund 721	\$	92,288.52
Water Construction Fund 704	\$	8,600.00

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Following review of expenses date January 18, 2022, for funds and amounts as follows, Mr. Abram moved, Mr. Rickey seconded, to approve the expenditures of January 18, 2022:

Water Fund 701	\$	435,961.11
Wastewater Fund 721	\$	186,023.56
MOR ETL1 Fund 703	\$	183,172.95
MOR ETL2 Fund 762	\$	339,744.64

West Ridge Interconnect Fund 702	\$	21,684.17
LORCO Fund 749	\$	36,112.19

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Quasar Master Services Agreement

Mr. Munro informed the Board that ALRW has been working with Quasar Energy Group over the past few years on various tasks related to the former monofil at the Water Reclamation Facility. He said Quasar has obtained a special use permit from the Ohio EPA for processing and reusing the material in the monofil. Quasar will screen, process the material, and co-mingle it with other materials for use in the market. Mr. Munro said he has negotiated a five-year master services agreement with Quasar for them to process and remove the material. He said that through this agreement with Quasar at \$30.74 per cubic yard, Avon Lake Regional Water will save a considerable amount of money compared to the landfill cost of \$43.61 per cubic yard. This amount includes the hauling and trucking of the material. He said that overall, staff has estimated that ALRW will save approximately \$2.0 million dollars through the cooperative initiative. He said this amount will be in addition to the sludge hauling fees that are budgeted for each year. Staff is recommending the approval of this master services agreement with Quasar.

The Chairman said that the dirt is being remediated for other purposes. He added that the Board had initially purchased the land for the sewage sludge, but the Ohio EPA had changed their rules and ALRW was left with the sludge and the land that was no longer usable for anything else. Mr. Munro said that was correct. The material was deemed a Class-B sludge by the Ohio EPA. The only options for Class-B sludge are landfill or land application on farm fields. He said land application was not feasible for ALRW because the organization does not have the staff or large enough trucks that would be needed to haul the sludge.

Mr. Rickey asked if there was time commitment with the Ohio EPA to close the monofil. Mr. Munro said there is no time commitment right now. Mr. Rickey said that is good that the organization is being proactive, because he is assuming the Ohio EPA will make ALRW close the site at some point. Mr. Rickey asked if Quasar is assuming the liability of the product once they take possession of the sludge. Mr. Munro said that Quasar is assuming liability because that is built into their special use permit that they received from the Ohio EPA. The Chairman stated that a discussion about the language of the legal agreement will be had during the Executive Session later in the meeting. He said a motion will be made after the Executive Session once questions are answered and any amendments are made to the contract with Quasar.

Mr. Rush asked if Quasar is interested in the old sludge or the new sludge, and what is the difference. Mr. Munro said that they are only interested in the old sludge right now. He said the old sludge in the monofil has been sitting for so long that it is now an inert material. In order to get an approval from the Ohio EPA, during a trial performance run when Quasar screened the material, the material came out of the screener as very good. He said the existing sludge would take many years to dry to reach the level of the old sludge. He said in the future, if it would be possible, there are third party contractors that would be able handle that new sludge disposal.

Mr. Rush asked if that at the end of the five-year agreement anything that can be reclaimed in the monofil will have been reclaimed. Mr. Munro said the reason for the five-year agreement was because that was the length of time Quasar's permit was approved for. He believes it will

take closer to nine or ten years to remove the entire monofil. Mrs. Schnabel asked if the agreement had been reviewed by legal counsel. Mr. Munro said that the Law Director has reviewed and approved the agreement. The Chairman asked for Mr. Munro to speak more about the phragmites in the monofil. Mr. Munro said that it is an invasive species that grows like a weed. The soil has gone through multiple levels of remediation in order to remove any of the phragmites. He added that extensive work has been done with Ohio State University to study and remove the phragmites. He said if there was nothing done with the soil the phragmites would have eventually come back.

Line Maintenance Man

Mr. Munro informed the Board that Jeremy Osborn will be promoted from Laborer, Step 3, to a Line Maintenance Man, Step 1 effective January 24, 2022. He said he has been a great addition to the ALRW staff and he looks forward to his many years of service with the utility.

Project Updates

WFP & ETL Design Services: Mr. Munro said there is a design progress meeting scheduled for February 2nd with staff and representatives from HDR to discuss the improvements at the WFP and the ETL's. The designs and comments for the 75% complete suction line and the 50% ETL1 line have been received and are currently being reviewed by staff. He said he has a meeting on January 20th with the Law Director and one of his associates on easement acquisitions for the proposed ETL alignment. Mr. Munro said a Letter of Engagement is being put together for the legal work that will be required during the easement acquisition.

Mr. Munro said one of the issues that has come up in the planning process has been the increase in price for material. At the completion of the planning period, PVC pipe was chosen as the material and the price was about \$350.00/linear foot. He said now the price is approximately \$771.00/linear foot. He has asked HDR for an updated cost comparison for the PCCP. The Chairman asked if it was possible to have one section be PCCP and one section be PVC. Mr. Munro said the only consideration that he could think of is that there is not too much of a difference between the soils for the ETL suction line location and the ETL1 line location. He said both areas have the aggressive corrosive soils. He said while it is possible to do that, he did not know if it would benefit to have two different types of material.

The Chairman said one of the reasons they are doing this project is because of the aggressive soils by the track. He said he would like to see the analysis from HDR regarding the material types. He added that the ETLs are about 20 years old and that is not long for a water carrying pipe. He said he is reluctant to go immediately with the lowest price for pipe, and he would like to see which material will do the best for the project in the long run. Mr. Rush asked if the soils can be treated or replaced, or if the pipe can be placed in a type of soil that is easier on the pipe. Mr. Munro said the pipe will be placed with backfill and stone to insulate it, but the feasibility of bringing in all new soils would not be economically possible. The 75% design of the ETL suction line was all PVC and all of the fittings are to be PCCP. The fittings would require some cathodic protection, and stations would be placed along the pipe to monitor that. The lack of cathodic protection on the current ETL is what has led to the rapid degeneration and failures. He said if ALRW switched to PCCP there would not be as much cathodic protection required and fewer stations would be needed.

The Chairman said 20 years is not long for the amount of money and time dedicated to the original project. Mrs. Schnabel said that while the project is eligible for 0% interest financing, she asked if there were any grants that could be used on the project through the Ohio EPA. Mr.

Munro said that money is not set aside specifically for a project like the one being designed, but the Association of Ohio Drinking Water Agencies has had some discussions about having money available in the future for projects similar to this one. He said at both the state and federal level there has been a push to have money available for projects that will benefit multiple communities. He said he did speak with the OWDA and because this is a regional project it would definitely qualify for the 0% interest financing. The nomination period begins in February, and he stated he will be meeting with the OWDA to go over the specifics of the process. He said he will be trying to get any grant money that is available, especially because of the project being with the consortium. Mr. Abram asked the CUE to find out if money from the recently passed \$1.2T Federal Infrastructure Bill could be used for this project.

Spieth Road Water Tank Mixers: Mr. Munro said staff is still awaiting the delivery of the electrical control panels. The electrical control panels are scheduled to be delivered to the contractor between the end of January and early February.

CUE Reports & Action Items

Mr. Munro said staff is working on the Additional Storage Building. He said Mr. Gaydar and his staff have been working to find ways to complete the project at a reasonable price. They have been in contact with a design-build firm that has been awarded a Sourcewell contract. He stated that a Sourcewell contract is a cooperative purchase agreement program of which ALRW is a member. An example of a Sourcewell contract currently used by ALRW is the fuel cards for all of the vehicles which allows the crew to refuel at an attractive price. He said for the Additional Storage Building project, staff would act as the general contractor and then have the design-build firm erect the building. He stated staff has been working with the design-build firm to get a scope and proposal. Due to the project being a Sourcewell contract all of the material prices have already been bid out, and he said he will be bringing that to the Board in the future for their approval.

Mr. Munro said he and Mr. Gaydar met with Mr. Reitz, the Public Works Director, the previous week regarding the crossings on Lake Rd for the waterlines. He said they will now be incorporating some of the crossings for future storm connections. He stated that this was not something that Mr. Reitz said he had funding allocated for when the project was initially shown to him. Mr. Munro said staff is currently working through this update, and there will be an alternate bid made available for the current Waterline Bundle project. He added that there are 5 locations identified for future connections for stormwater. If the pricing does not come in as too high, Mr. Munro recommended that staff build those connections as a part of the project, itemize them separately, and then have the City reimburse ALRW for the connections at a future date. The Chairman said this should help stop any additional tearing up of the roadway and making unnecessary cuts in the completed Lake Rd resurfacing.

Mr. Munro said he met with a few officials from Lorain County regarding the water and sanitary services. He said it was a good meeting and he appreciated their cooperation.

Mr. Munro said that at the end of February he and a few staff members will be attending the Wastewater Equipment Technical Tradeshow in Indianapolis, IN. He said there will be a couple days of education for licensing for staff members, but their priority will be looking for a new vac truck and a new camera truck. He said he looks forward to finding those and bringing them before the Board in the future. The Chairman asked if those are usually bid since they are big ticket items. Mr. Munro confirmed that they are usually bid, but there are some very attractive municipal leases. He said that he did budget for the purchase of the vehicles, but he is interested in the leases.

The Chairman asked Mr. Munro to explain why the vac truck is used and how it's not just for liquid. Mr. Munro said that the vac truck or the sewer combination truck is used to vacuum out sewers or jet sewers to clean them. There are various attachments for cutting roots. He said that there are newer attachments for hydro-excavating. Recently, there was work being completed on Krebs Rd and because there was little room due to other utilities being in the area, the crew hydro-excavated instead of using a backflow. He said the high pressure water is very controlled and precise, and it is a very valuable piece of equipment for ALRW. The Chairman said that the public usually does not see piles of dirt for very long because of the use of the vac truck for small repairs. He said that using the vac truck is really becoming the way to do things. The backhoe has a very strong excavating bucket that can be used to break through things that you may not want to break through.

Mr. Munro said the camera truck has historically been contracted out to have jobs completed. The current camera truck has a trailer that is very cumbersome and has outdated equipment. The camera is 16 years old. He said staff is looking to replace that with a box truck that has all of the equipment in it, and the camera can be used to look at sanitary sewers and storm sewers. There is a lateral launch camera that comes with the truck that can be used to for inspections. He said it is becoming a piece of equipment that is very valuable to use.

The Chairman asked what will become of all the replaced equipment. Mr. Munro said staff will look at the value that the vendor will use when they trade in the equipment. He said sometimes the value is significant and it offsets the cost on the new equipment. If the trade value is not enough, ALRW will keep the equipment as backup. He said staff will be looking at all of the options.

Mr. Rush asked about the pipes running across Lake Rd for the stormwater. He said he believes that at some point that will need to be on the Public Services Committee agenda to discuss so City Council has some buy-in. He said that way Council will not be able to say they are not interested at a future date. Mr. Munro said that he has a scheduled meeting with Mr. Spaetzel, the chairman of the Buildings and Utilities Committee, to discuss several topics. He said Mr. Spaetzel has always worked with ALRW and he is looking forward to that.

Miscellaneous & Member Reports

The Chairman said that he attended the meeting with the Lorain County officials with Mr. Munro. He said it will be important to work with them as time goes on.

Mr. Abram asked about the Cleveland Construction Cost Index. Mr. Munro said that the CCCI was just received on Monday, and staff will be bringing that before the Board at the next meeting.

Public Speakers

None

Executive Session

Mr. Rush moved, and Mr. Abram seconded, to meet in executive session as allowed by ORC §121.22 G (1) and (3) to discuss personnel and legal matters and to include the CUE.

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

Nays: None
Motion carried.

The Board resumed the Regular Session at 8:12 PM.

Quasar Master Services Agreement

Mr. Rickey moved, and Mrs. Schnabel seconded, to authorize the CUE to execute a master services agreement with Quasar Energy Group, LLC for the removal of material from the monofil.

Ayes (per voice vote): Abram, Dzwonczyk, Rickey, Rush, and Schnabel.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

LORCO Tap Fee

Mr. Abram moved, and Mr. Dzwonczyk seconded, to appropriate \$173,178.49 from Fund 749 LORCO Custodial Account to Fund 721 Sewer Account for the payment of tap fees owed.

Ayes (per voice vote): Abram, Dzwonczyk, Rickey, Rush, and Schnabel.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Chief of Utilities Operation Employment Agreement

Mr. Rush moved, and Mr. Abram seconded, to approve the Chief of Utilities Operation Employment Agreement with Mr. Gregory Yuronich as presented.

Ayes (per voice vote): Abram, Dzwonczyk, Rickey, Rush, and Schnabel.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Adjourn

As there was no further business, Mr. Abram moved to adjourn, and Mr. Rickey seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Ayes (per voice vote): Abram, Dzwonczyk, Rickey, Rush, and Schnabel.
Nays: None
Motion carried.

Approved _____ 2022.

John Dzwonczyk, Chairman

Robert Munro, Clerk