

Board of Municipal Utilities
Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2023
201 Miller Road
Avon Lake, Ohio

Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 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 February 7, 2023 regular meeting. Mr. Munro stated that there was a typographical error in the minutes. Sodium hypochlorite is the correct spelling, not hypchloride. The minutes were approved with that correction recorded.

Public Speakers

None.

Correspondence

Mr. Munro passed along a legal opinion from Law Director Ebert clarifying the Board of Municipal Utility's authority to deem Avon Lake Regional Water positions as unclassified, effective immediately.

Expenditures

Following review of expenses dated February 21, 2023, for funds and amounts as follows, Mr. Rickey moved, Mr. Abram seconded, to approve the expenditures of February 2, 2023 through February 16, 2023:

Water Fund 701	\$	169,679.81
Wastewater Fund 721	\$	181,771.89
ETL1 Fund 703	\$	181,627.40
ETL2 Fund 762	\$	371,051.91
LORCO Fund 749	\$	8,687.00
Water Construction Fund 704	\$	566,192.76
Wastewater Construction Fund 724	\$	117,013.16
West Ridge Fund 702	\$	399.13

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Rate Study & Asset Evaluation

Mr. Munro stated that he and Mr. Yuronich met with representatives from Raftelis on February 16, 2023. The rate study is in draft form and staff hopes to have their comments addressed by mid-March. The Asset Evaluation report is nearing completion. Raftelis requested some additional information and staff is working with Finance Director Widman to provide the necessary information.

Ohio EPA & Legislative Updates

Mr. Munro informed the Board of updates to OAC Chapter 3745 which pertains to OEPA Operator Certification. The five-year rule review is in process and suggestions and comments have been submitted. Workforce development and reciprocity are two areas that are being addressed.

Mr. Munro informed the Board that staff is addressing the Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP.) A report has been submitted as required by the OEPA at the end of 2022 and they have requested a conference call to go over this information in March.

Mr. Munro stated that as a board member of Association of Ohio Drinking Water Agencies (AODWA) that he and other members will be meeting with the newly appointed OEPA Director Vogel to share what areas of concern are important to Ohio drinking water utilities on March 7, 2023.

March 22-24, 2023 Mr. Munro will be in Washington D.C. in his capacity as Vice-Chair of the Water Utility Council of the American Water Works Association to meet with members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to discuss what is important to utilities and how the government can assist.

Mr. Abram asked Mr. Munro if he will bring up the issue that utilities are currently facing involving the cost and difficulties in obtaining chlorine. Mr. Munro stated that he will be discussing multiple topics including chlorine concerns with Senator Brown and Senator Vance and will be finalizing his agenda in the near future.

Project Updates

Power Plant Update: Mr. Yuronich reiterated that there has been a lot of physical demolition at the site and that staff, including the Facilities and Asset Manager, have been in regular contact with and have made numerous site visits to monitor their progression. Staff had not seen any deviation from the precautions put in place to protect the environment from any chemical release or water runoff that would cause any concern. Mrs. Schnabel stated that she would like to receive a tour of the power plant and that staff continue to monitor the site. Mr. Dzwonczyk requested that staff investigate preparing a brief informational video that could be shared with the public.

ETL Design Services: No update.

WFP Improvements: No update.

2022 Water Line Bundle Project: No update.

Additional Storage Building: Mr. Yuronich stated that staff is finalizing the selection of the roll up doors for the building and wash bay on the structure. Due to the delivery times of any material the north section of the building will have its doors covered with Visqueen to allow the construction of the demising wall to begin prior to the doors being installed.

CUE Report

Mr. Munro reported that the annual Consortium Meeting with the bulk customers was held on February 9, 2023 with various ALRW staff members and Mr. Dzwonczyk in attendance. Mr. Munro informed the Board that there was very productive and well received discussion with those in attendance on project updates and necessary rate adjustments to cover the cost of the improvements to the suction line supplying the ETL pump station and ETL 1 water transmission main. Mr. Rickey asked about a water break that recently occurred. Mr. Munro informed the Board that there were three breaks on the ETL 1 line and three on the suction line in 2022. Mr. Rickey also asked if it was still possible to rehabilitate ETL 1 and Mr. Munro informed him that once the new ETL 1 line was operational a full evaluation will be completed so that we can assess which parts of the line could be rehabilitated with slip-lining and which sections may need fully replaced so that we can have a reliable, redundant line to provide water. Mr. Munro stated that easement acquisition continues along the suction line route so that work can proceed for bidding material and construction.

Mr. Munro informed the Board that he and Mr. Yuronich met with Law Director Ebert and Finance Director Widman to discuss various finance questions. The main topic of discussion related to making sure that the City of Avon Lake and the Board of Municipal Utilities is following the Ohio Revised Code that requires separation of utility funds from the general budget.

Miscellaneous & Member Reports

Mr. Rickey stated that he had visited Coveland and was extremely pleased with how this joint project with the City of Avon Lake produced exceptional results. He would like the partnership on projects with the City to continue.

Mr. Dzwonczyk stated that he and Mr. Munro met with Lorain County Administrator Armbruster to discuss mutual interests. Mr. Dzwonczyk also stated that he, Mr. Munro, and Mr. Yuronich also met with Jim Ziemnik of the Lorain County Metroparks to discuss future plans of various properties in Avon Lake.

Public Speakers

None.

Executive Session

Mr. Rush moved, Mrs. Schanbel 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 entered Executive Session at 7:22 PM

The Board reconvened at 7:48 PM

Adjourn

As there was no further business, Mr. Abram moved to adjourn, and Mr. Dzwonczyk seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

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

Approved March 7, 2023.

John Dzwonczyk, Chairman

Robert Munro, Clerk