

Board of Municipal Utilities
Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2021
201 Miller Road
Avon Lake, Ohio

Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM. As allowed by the Ohio Legislature during the Governor's declared emergency, the meeting was held using web-based video conferencing technology and streamed live over Facebook.

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

Also present: Acting CUE Munro and Technical Support Specialist Collins.

Approve Minutes

Chairman Dzwonczyk presented the Minutes of the April 20, 2021 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 dated May 4, 2021, for funds and amounts as follows, Mr. Abram moved, Mrs. Schnabel seconded, to approve the expenditures of May 4, 2021:

Water Fund 701	\$	177,657.77
Wastewater Fund 721	\$	203,341.75
MOR Fund 703	\$	43,739.65
MOR Fund 762	\$	10,927.97
West Ridge Interconnect Fund 702	\$	306.55
LORCO Fund 749	\$	4,943.84

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Pole Barn

The Acting CUE said that in December 2020, during the 2021 budgeting process, staff discussed with the Board about installing a pole barn at 201 Miller Road for vehicle and material storage. He said the pole barn will provide UV light and freeze/thaw protection for these

materials. He also said that staff is working on the site plan development and concept plans for the pole barn's foundation and supports, with plans to put the project out to bid the end of spring/early summer. This was a budgeted item for 2021. Mr. Munro said that staff is looking into using different materials other than wood for the structure due to the increase in price for lumber. The Chairman asked how large the pole barn will be. Mr. Munro said it will be approximately 60' x 140'.

The Chairman asked if the structure will be inside the fence. Mr. Munro answered that the pole barn will be inside the fence, and the fence will be enlarged to include more of the property. The Chairman asked what types of pipe, materials, and vehicles would be kept in the pole barn. Mr. Munro said the valve-turning equipment, the vacuum truck, and a few other vehicles like the front-end loader. The Chairman asked if it would be heated building. Mr. Munro said that heating the building is something that is still being discussed among staff. There are a few vehicles in particular, the vacuum truck has a water pump on it, which will require winterization if staff would not be using it. He said that staff currently to uses the vacuum truck during the winter and to prepare it for jobs during the winter gets more complicated if the truck is below freezing. He added that the Board has worked to replace the fleet over the past few years, and he would like to protect those assets by housing them in the pole barn.

The Chairman said that staff should look into floor heat instead of heating the vast space in the pole barn. He added that the floor heat should be enough to keep everything above freezing. He said that it is very expensive to heat air. Mr. Munro said the pole barn at the Water Reclamation Facility uses floor heat, and staff would probably consider the same type of heat for this pole barn. He said this structure should be needing only a building permit and would not require the Planning Commission. Mr. Munro added that the pole barn would be similar to the new Board Room where staff would work with the Building Department and Zoning. Mr. Abram asked if this structure would be exempt from the auditor of Lorain County. Mr. Munro said that since the pole barn will be on the 201 Miller Road property it will be exempt from the auditor.

2021 Equipment Expenditures

Mr. Munro informed the Board that as a part of the asset management program, staff included the replacement of fleet equipment in the 2021 budget. He said staff is currently working with various vendors to obtain pricing for two work trucks for the Distribution and Collection division. These will replace 2 trucks that are at the end of their useful life. He also said that staff is obtaining quotes for replacing the front-end wheel loader used to load material into trucks. The current front-end loader was purchased in 1984 and has served the utility well, but recent repairs have been prohibitively costly. He said the front-end loader can be traded in, and one of the initial quotes he received for the trade-in was for \$12,000. He said that once all price quotes are received staff will seek authorization from the Board for those purchases.

The Chairman asked if staff has looked into leasing versus buying future fleet vehicles. Mr. Munro said that he has, specifically for the front-loader and for the vacuum truck. He said that the vacuum truck is around \$300,000 purchased new. He said he has found many attractive municipal lease options available. He said one would be a multi-year lease with the ability to get out of the lease after the first year. The Chairman asked if staff would still bid the vehicle if it was leased. Mr. Munro said that there is usually a state bid for the year, and staff would use that for either purchasing or leasing.

Water Filtration Plant Operator

The Acting CUE said that staff would like to recognize Mr. Kameron Kuhl, Jr. as the new Plant Operator at the Water Filtration Plant. He said Mr. Kuhl will begin on May 12th at Step 2.

Project Updates

Orthophosphate Point of Application: The Acting CUE said the taps were performed at the designated injection points. He said when the tubing material that will go into the taps is delivered, staff will be doing the installation. He said that in the meantime, while waiting for the tubing material, staff is working on programming the pumps for the new injection point. The Chairman said that this should include making sure the orthophosphate new injection point is working as it was intended to. He asked that there be some graphs showing how well the project is working.

SCADA Upgrade: The Acting CUE said the new system continues to run in parallel with the current system. He said SOS Integration is in the process of verifying the PLC tags for accuracy.

WFP & ETL Design Services: The Acting CUE said HDR continues to fine-tune the chemical feed alternative/enhancements at the Water Filtration Plant based on staff feedback from the workshop held on April 13th. He said HDR is also working with the surveyors on the ETL lines.

Acting CUE Reports & Action Items

Mr. Munro informed the Board that the testing of the effluent flow diversion at the Water Reclamation Facility went well. During the first large rainfall of the year, the flow diversion structure was able to handle 13.5 million gallons of flow. He said usually the overflow point at the Center Road Pump Station is about 180 inches, and the level of water never came close to that point thanks to the diversion structure. The Chairman said that it looks preliminarily like it was a good investment. The Chairman asked if there were any complaints from customers or the City. Mr. Munro said he did not receive any complaints about overflows or flooded basements.

Mr. Abram asked if all of the regulators are closed. Mr. Munro said yes they are all closed, but there are some regulators that are considered sanitary overflows and some as combined overflows. He said the Center Road Pump Station is considered a combined overflow, and in accordance with the NPDES permit, Ohio EPA has given Avon Lake Regional Water the ability to monitor that station for any overflows through the end of 2021 in case there is any additional work needed. He added that there will be an expenditure coming in the future from an engineering firm to assist in the monitoring of those overflows in the future.

The Chairman said that our public affairs should let the Ohio EPA know how well the effluent flow diversion structure is working since it was a pilot program from the Ohio EPA. He said it would go to further being in the Ohio EPA's good graces. Mr. Munro also said that the Ohio EPA will be conducting an in-person review of the records and procedures and a sanitary survey of the Water Filtration Plant in May. Mrs. Schnabel asked when the Ohio EPA comes will the Orthophosphate project be completed. Mr. Munro said that it is possible that the project will be completed by the time the Ohio EPA comes for their visit.

Member Reports

The Chairman said he may ask for permission from the Board to attend remotely to Board meetings. He said this would take place during the last meeting in June and first meeting in July. He asked that Vice Chairman Rush handle the chairman duties against the possibility of the technology not working.

Miscellaneous

None.

Public Speakers

None.

Adjourn

As there was no further business, Mr. Abram moved to adjourn, and Mr. Rush seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Approved _____ 2021.

John Dzwonczyk, Chairman

Robert Munro, Clerk