

Board of Municipal Utilities
Work Session Minutes
May 7, 2019
201 Miller Road
Avon Lake, Ohio

Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

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

Also present: CUE Danielson, CUO Munro, Technical Support Specialist Collins, Councilwoman Fenderbosch (arrived partway through the meeting), Mayor Zilka (arrived partway through the meeting), and Community Outreach Specialist Arnold (arrived partway through the meeting).

2019/2020 Projects

The CUE informed the Board that Avon Lake Regional Water has cut back significantly on their intended projects this year due to the large investments recently made in the community. The CUE also stated that demands for reinvestment in the system continue, and staff has been working to prioritize the reinvestments and consider multiple aspects before placing them on capital improvement plan.

The first project that was addressed was the Sewer Separation bundle. The CUE informed the Board that this project was a part of the agreement with the Ohio EPA to separate all sewers before 2020. The staff of Avon Lake Regional Water designed the sewer separation at Avondale and realignment at Moorewood. The CUE explained that for Avondale, a low pressure force main would run south from the two homes and connect into a new gravity sewer. The gravity sewer will be constructed from the business at the south end of Avondale and tie into the Walker Road sanitary sewer. He went on to say that at Moorewood the newer sanitary section south of Redwood now needs to be rerouted so that flow will no longer go to the combined sewer but, rather, to the new sanitary sewer.

Mr. Rush asked when the Avondale project is to begin. The CUE stated that the project should begin by June of 2019. Mr. Rush asked how reliable the grinder pumps are that would need to be installed and what type of maintenance they would require. The CUO informed the Board that the maintenance of the grinder pumps themselves really depends on the waste that comes from the homes. Mr. Rush followed up by asking whether there are alarms installed in the system. The CUO told the Board that there is a system that alerts the staff when the grinder pumps stop working. The Chairman asked why the management team was using cash to pay for this project as opposed to the other projects that were being detailed. The CUE stated that he prefers not to finance smaller projects with loans, especially if Avon Lake Regional Water has the cash on hand to cover the costs of those projects.

The second project discussed was the Flow Diversion Structure to divert a portion of water treated at the water reclamation facility to the storm sewer during wet weather

conditions. The CUE informed the Board that staff has been working with CDM Smith, an engineering firm, in anticipation of approval of the NPDES permit change allowing the diversion. He stated that the project is intended to be designed, bid, and possibly constructed before the year's end. By doing so, Avon Lake Regional Water hopes to secure 0% interest financing for the project. The CUE informed the Board that he believes that they can secure the 0% interest financing by working with the Ohio EPA. The Ohio EPA has given its preliminary confirmation; and, once the schematics of the project are completed, the CUE will begin the loan application process. The CUE also told the Board that the scope and budget for the project should be brought forth at the next meeting for the Board's review.

The CUE informed the Board that a pH control system will be included in the design. Chairman asked if neglecting to include pH control and the costs associated with it stemmed from a failure of the original design. The CUE informed the Board that the design was not faulty, instead a decision was intentionally taken to "wait and see" where pH levels came in after the new system became operational. The Chairman then asked if the makeup of the chemicals used in the process has changed. The CUE stated that the change to the solids dewatering process led to no longer adding lime to the process, which had historically helped to maintain pH. Mr. Rush asked if there was a reason lime was no longer being added to the process. The CUE informed the Board that they no longer needed to add lime to meet drying requirements, which helped with landfill expenses. He stated that lime significantly increases the expense of disposal.

The CUE informed the Board of the third and final project scheduled for the year for a replacement of water lines on Jaycox Rd, south of Walker Rd and a small section of Lake Rd, near Avondale. The section on Jaycox is 5,400 feet in length and has reached the threshold for replacement. The CUE stated that there have been 16 breaks since the beginning of 2014, therefore justifying the replacement and indicated a certain section of that line is not looped, which means that breaks in that area have a higher likelihood for service interruptions. Mr. Rush asked how many homes were in that specific section. The CUE stated that there were approximately 20 homes in that area. The CUO said that there have already been two breaks so far this year on the water line. Mrs. Fenderbosch asked if there were to be any pressure changes that customers should be made aware of. The CUE informed the Board that there would be no pressure changes made on the line that would affect the customer.

The CUE brought to the Board's attention the projects listed for the years 2020 or 2021. The first being Water Line and Storm Sewer Bundle. This project would help residents of ten streets north of Lake Road that are suffering from inadequate storm drainage. Avon Lake Regional Water is partnering with the City to improve the storm water drainage and implement water line replacements. The CUE stated that by partnering with the City it will help reduce both the cost to upgrade the water lines and improve the storm water collection. The CUE added that he understands the need to keep the bond rating of the City and Avon Lake Regional Water in mind. The Chairman said he would like there to be a 0% interest loan to finance the project. The CUE informed the Board that the rate, he believes, is currently about 1.9%. Mrs. Schnabel said that she would like to see an inquiry into the Ohio EPA to see if there are subsidies for replacing lead service lines, which there could be in this area.

The CUE concluded by detailing the final projects scheduled for 2020 and 2021 for the Board. The first project was the realignment of the water line on Route 83 near the high

school. The second project was the replacement of the water line serving Avon. The CUE stated that ODOT is replacing a culvert near the high school, which is forcing Avon Lake Regional Water to move the water line. The replacement of the line servicing Avon is being considered in order to improve redundancy to bulk customers and reduce pressure fluctuations within Avon Lake.

Adjourn

With no other business before the Board, Mr. Dzwonczyk adjourned the work session at 6:46 PM.

Approved _____ 2019

John Dzwonczyk, Chairman

Todd Danielson, Clerk