

Board of Municipal Utilities
Work Session Minutes
May 19, 2020
201 Miller Road
Avon Lake, Ohio

Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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. Phillips, Mr. Rush, and Mrs. Schnabel.

Also present: CUE Danielson, CUO Munro, Water Treatment Plant Manager Baytos, and Technical Support Specialist Collins, and Tony Farina and Jamie Gellner of Hazen and Sawyer.

Residuals Master Plan

Hazen and Sawyer's Tony Farina presented to the Board the progress that has been made in regards to the Residuals Master Plan. He explained what the original work entailed, and how Hazen has researched all of the options available to Avon Lake Regional Water. He said that the Biosolids option, from what the team had determined, would be the most cost effective.

The Chairman asked if there was a "do nothing" option if Avon Lake Regional Water decided to not pursue any of the other options. Mr. Farina informed the Board that if the Board decided to continue to do what they are currently doing, the total cost would be about \$4,200,000.00 over a 20-year period. He said that Hazen would suggest some repairs and capital improvements to maintain the current digesters.

The Chairman asked how long the \$4.2 M could be deferred before it would absolutely be necessary. Mr. Farina informed the Board that he believed Avon Lake Regional Water did not have too much longer. He said if the primary digester is repaired it would add some more time, but, he said, the second digester has a number of issues and with the problem being deferred before it needs to be addressed now. Mr. Baytos agreed with Mr. Farina's assessment and added that there were a number of issues with the digesters which are making them difficult to operate as they should.

The Chairman asked the CUE if the "do nothing" option of \$4.2M had been budgeted for over the next couple of years. The CUE said that the amount had been budgeted for, but it was budgeted for a higher capital cost so he did not believe it would be as impactful as originally prepared for. The Chairman asked if the amount could be financed through operations or if it would require a loan. The CUE stated that he did not believe it could be paid for through the revenues of Avon Lake Regional Water unless done so over a 6 to 7 years. He said that with the cost of financing being so affordable, the impact would be negligible on the rates.

Mr. Rush asked about during the process the use of the landfill requires stabilization first or if it is no longer allowed. He continued by asking if Hazen had been exploring that regulatory situation and when they expected that to happen. He said that if that was a consideration it was more about when Avon Lake Regional Water would have to make a

larger investment not if they would need to. Mr. Farina said that Hazen had been looking into that option, and he said they have found that no imminent danger to the use of a landfill being blocked off. He stated that there had been rumors elsewhere in the country regarding landfills no longer being accepting organic materials, which the residuals would classify as, but it was not the case in Ohio that this was an imminent concern. He also said that the cost in this area is very affordable as opposed to elsewhere in the United States. Jamie Gellner added that there is no indication of an exact date when a landfill will no longer be a viable option. He said that will evolve over time, but it comes down to the cost and availability of accepting truckloads of material.

Mr. Gellner said that his team recommended spending an additional \$7.6M in case of the increase in landfill costs for land application instead. The CUO commented that the landfill costs for Avon Lake Regional Water are very affordable right now as compared to other parts of the country. Mr. Gellner said that these lower costs might not always be the case, but that Hazen has been working to help Avon Lake Regional Water prepare should it occur.

The Chairman stated that due to COVID there will most likely be an economic trough and that environmental regulations put a damper on economic activity, given that the current president will be re-elected, wouldn't it be expected that there would be some relief in environmental enforcement. Mr. Gellner said that he agreed that there will be a recession from the pandemic, and he said that there will be a delay in the focus on contaminants for the foreseeable future. The CUE stated that he has been continuously monitoring Washington regarding the current administration and Congress's interest in contaminants.

Mrs. Schnabel asked what the surrounding communities are doing with their residuals. Mr. Farina stated that they have reached out to other utilities, and a number of them incinerate their own waste. He asked if those utilities would consider taking Avon Lake Regional Water's biosolids since they have the capacity, and he would like to keep that as an option. He also said that a number of smaller utilities use land application and landfills as well.

The Chairman asked if Avon Lake Regional Water could take advantage of the geographical convenience of Quasar or the Kurtz Brothers being so close. Mr. Farina said that his team did reach out to both companies and both have come back with some options that are being considered. He also said there is some interest with some of companies in the area for the bio-solids, and Hazen is still looking into those options.

Adjourn

With no other business, the Mr. Abram moved to adjourn, Mr. Rush seconded. The Chairman concluded the work session at 6:48 PM.

Approved _____ 2020.

John Dzwonczyk, Chairman

Todd Danielson, Clerk