

Board of Municipal Utilities
Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2025
201 Miller Road
Avon Lake, Ohio

Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM following the work session. The meeting was held in-person using web-based video conferencing technology.

Present: Mr. Dzwonczyk, Mr. Mondello, Mr. Rickey, Mr. Rush and Mrs. Schnabel.

Also present: CUE Munro, CUO Yuronich, Attorney Anthony Coyne of Mansour-Gavin, William Zimmerman and Gerald Phillips. Mayor Spaetzel arrived shortly after the meeting began.

Approve Minutes

Mr. Dzwonczyk presented the Minutes of the May 6, 2025 regular meeting. With no additional changes, additions or corrections noted, he ordered that the minutes stand and be distributed as presented.

Public Speakers

William Zimmerman stated that he felt Mr. Munro was not responding to his requests quickly enough and that he hoped Mr. Munro would fulfill them in the near future.

Gerald Phillips stated that he was disappointed that ALRW did not provide an advance copy of the water and sewer rates that were going to be presented at this Board Meeting. Mr. Phillips stated that he felt that ALRW was purchasing too much property to justify a rate increase. Mr. Dzwonczyk stated that he hopes Mr. Phillips is able to stay for the presentation of the proposed rates later in the meeting.

Correspondence

None.

Expenditures

Following review of expenses for funds and amounts as follows, Mr. Rickey moved, Mrs. Schnabel seconded, to approve the expenditures of May 2 through May 16, 2025:

Water Fund 701	\$	236,074.85
Distribution Fund 723	\$	127,391.58
Wastewater Fund 721	\$	158,288.67
Collection Fund 722	\$	93,839.93
ETL1 Fund 703	\$	188,301.13
ETL2 Fund 762	\$	484,842.82
LORCO Fund 749	\$	9,080.93
Water Construction Fund 704	\$	735,429.32

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Resolution of Appreciation

Mr. Munro presented a proposed Resolution of Appreciation in honor of long-time ALRW Jack Gaydar after his retirement on May 12, 2025. Mr. Munro read the resolution as it is in the attached copy. Mr. Dzwonczyk stated that he and the Board commend Mr. Gaydar for his service to the organization and the high standard he has set for the position. Mrs. Schnabel stated that for the ten years she has served on the Board Mr. Gaydar has been great to work with and that he always took the time to fully answer her questions. Mrs. Schnabel also added that Mr. Gaydar has been an asset to the organization and will be missed. Mr. Rush stated that Mr. Gaydar has been very valuable to the organization for multiple decades. Mr. Munro stated that Mr. Gaydar had started the asset tracking system ALRW utilizes in managing its equipment and had vastly expanded ALRW's GIS system along with creating a template for standard operating procedures. Mr. Munro added that Mr. Gaydar will be missed on both professional and personal levels as he and Mr. Gaydar were both born in Pennsylvania and shared a good friend from before they worked together. Mr. Dzwonczyk stated that ALRW was advertising for a Senior Professional Engineer in anticipation of Mr. Gaydar's retirement but that this was unexpected. Mr. Dzwonczyk stated he didn't feel the position would be vacant for long and Mr. Munro stated that he agreed.

Mr. Dzwonczyk moved, Mr. Rush seconded to pass a Resolution of Appreciation dated May 20, 2025 for Jack Gaydar. Furthermore, the Board of Municipal Utilities instructs the CUE to present Mr. Gaydar with a fully executed copy of said resolution.

Mr. Dzwonczyk stated that he was sure Mr. Munro would provide a high-quality presentation of the executed resolution to Mr. Gaydar and expressed his thanks to him again.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

2026 Water & Sewer Rates

Mr. Munro presented charts comparing ALRW's current water and sewer rates to other utilities in Ohio. Mr. Munro stated that ALRW proudly maintains the lowest water rate of any incorporated city in the state of Ohio while the sewer rate falls in the thirtieth percentile. Mr. Munro added that ALRW currently has adequate reserve funds and a positive cash flow so no rate increase is recommended. Mr. Munro proposed increasing the minimum service fees from \$7.97 to \$8.37 per bill on the water side and from \$24.31 to \$25.53 per bill on the sewer side. Mr. Munro stated that the minimum service fee includes the first two thousand gallons of usage and that many utilities do not provide any usage in their minimum service fees. Mr. Munro also stated that this increase will cover fixed costs such as meter reading, generating bills and maintain hydrants. Mr. Munro added that this is approximately a 1% increase in cost and that compared to other inflationary figures, a very modest increase. Mr. Munro stated that the average customer will see a yearly increase of \$6.48. Mr. Rickey inquired why Avon and Rural Lorain County Water Authority were not included on the charts. Mr. Munro stated that they purchase their water from ALRW and that there would be slight increases due to their operating costs but that other treatment plants were more accurate to compare. Mr. Rickey stated that he was expecting to raise the rates but was pleasantly surprised to see that they were staying the same with only a small increase to the minimum fees. Mr. Rickey stated that while rates remain low, he is concerned that at some point in the future, some residents may start to request

monthly bills to keep the cost per month down if they don't budget their funds. Mr. Dzwonczyk stated that he believes ALRW has done very well in maintaining the lowest water rates in the state and not having to increase water rates in six years and credited Mr. Munro and staff along with the work of Raffelis on analyzing the budget and recommending rates for the coming years.

Mrs. Schnabel moved, Mr. Rush seconded, to pass the 2026 Water & Sewer rate structure as presented, dated May 20, 2025 and these rates will take effect January 1, 2026.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Project Updates

Power Plant Update: Mr. Yuronich informed the Board that cleanup of debris and demolition of the administration building and wall along Lake Rd. continues. Mr. Yuronich referenced a picture that showed the intake structure for cooling water at the power plant that will be removed but the concrete foundation that it sits on will remain in answering a question from the previous meeting about plans for that area of the power plant site.

ETL Design Services: Mr. Yuronich informed the Board that ALRW staff had met with the ETL consortium members on Thursday May 15, 2025 at the offices of Rural Lorain County Water Authority and the CUE presented drafts of the updated cooperative agreements along with the draft capital improvement plan. Mr. Yuronich added that the drafts were well received and all the members will review those and meet again to finalize both documents. Mr. Yuronich stated that Attorney Connie Carr has spoken with each of the property owners that will require easements and that the process continues to progress.

WFP Improvements: Mr. Yuronich stated that The Great Lakes Construction Company (GLC) completed pouring the horizontal roof supports for the chemical feed building and that once those have cured the forms and supports will be removed so that the trades can enter the building and begin installing the plumbing, electrical and masonry. Mr. Yuronich stated that rebar and forms have been placed for the bottoms of the new filters and work will progress in that area once the concrete has been poured. Mr. Yuronich added that additional piping for the filter effluent and backwash piping has been installed as well. Mr. Rush inquired about the completion date for the work at the WFP. Mr. Yuronich stated that late spring or early summer is the tentative date of project completion.

Techwin Project: Mr. Yuronich informed the Board that Techwin had two staff members onsite the previous week to perform repairs for items that were damaged during shipping. Mr. Yuronich stated that those repairs were completed and that he is working to assist Techwin in obtaining the necessary visas for their employees to visit the site during the summer for startup of the equipment and to provide training on the proper operation and maintenance of their equipment.

CUE Report

Mr. Munro stated as Mr. Yuronich had touched on earlier, he, Mr. Dzwonczyk, Mr. Yuronich and other ALRW staff attended the ETL Consortium meeting on May 15, 2025 and that there were very productive conversations about the draft agreement presented to them. Mr. Munro stated that there are plans to meet again in the coming weeks to keep moving towards finalizing those agreements. Mr. Munro also stated that the draft Capital Improvement Plan for the ETLs was

also presented and discussed and consortium members will review and offer comments on the draft CIP as well.

Mr. Munro informed the Board that bids for the 2025 Water Bundle Project were opened earlier in the day. Mr. Munro stated that this project involved working with Mayor Spaetzel, Public Works Director Liskovec and Engineer Chris Howard on the Electric Boulevard culvert replacement and street repairs on any roads that will be disturbed by ALRW's work. Mr. Munro added that part of this project will involve moving inside meters outside of customer's homes and replacing several valves on Electric Blvd. Mr. Munro stated that Mr. Larson is reviewing the bids. Mr. Munro added that there were four general contractors that attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting but unfortunately there was only one bid by Underground Utilities Inc. Mr. Munro stated that he anticipates a recommended award at the next Board Meeting. Mr. Dzwonczyk inquired if all bidding was done following State Auditor recommended practices and if the bid was within the engineer's estimate. Mr. Munro stated that the bid was just under one-percent off of the Engineer's estimate and that ALRW is allowed to award contracts up to ten-percent over. Mr. Munro stated that this is a sign of accurate calculations as the estimate is not released to bidders or even staff prior to the bid opening. Mr. Munro also thanked Engineer Chris Howard for reviewing the bids with Mr. Larson as a professional courtesy. Mr. Munro also stated that Mr. Larson is expecting to receive his Professional Engineer's license any day now.

Miscellaneous & Member Reports

Mr. Mondello inquired about the number of unknown service line surveys that have been returned by residents. Mr. Yuronich stated that there has been over one-hundred returned that were complete with pictures and multiple others that were incomplete. Mr. Yuronich added that staff was working with those residents to assist them in completing the surveys. Mr. Yuronich also stated that in the coming months staff were going to be taking the vacuum truck out to expose both sides of the meter and positively identify the material on both the utility and customer side of the meters. Mr. Mondello also inquired if the antenna for the meter reading had been installed at the high school. Mr. Yuronich stated that work has been completed. Mrs. Schnabel inquired if the lead rule was a statewide rule and Mr. Yuronich stated that it was a nationwide rule that is coming from the United States EPA. Mr. Munro added that Ohio is in the top five states as far as number of lead service lines. Mrs. Schnabel added that her son will be living in Columbus and wanted to know what kind of service line they have serving their house. Mr. Munro responded that the City of Columbus has a robust program in place identifying those service line materials and that they would likely be able to provide that information. Mr. Rush inquired about plans for the demolition of the Division Rd. water tower and the cell tower at that site. Mr. Munro responded that he has had correspondence with a third-party company that is interested in assuming the cell leases and constructing a new dedicated cell tower to improve reception in that area as that has long been the source of complaints regarding poor reception. Mr. Munro stated that now that the water bundle project has been bid, Mr. Larson will be preparing documents for demolition of the old buildings at the WFP along with the Division Rd. tower. Mr. Rush inquired about a time frame for this work and Mr. Munro responded that it will likely be early 2026. Mr. Munro added that it will take some time to prepare the bid documents, get zoning approval for the tower, wetlands delineation and actual construction. Mr. Munro stated that the work at the WFP cannot take place until the new structures are completed. Mr. Dzwonczyk stated that the bulk customers were pleased with the fact that there will be no rate increases in 2026. Mr. Dzwonczyk also stated that he will be absent from the next meeting and that Mr. Rush will take his place as Chairman for that meeting.

Public Speakers

Mr. Phillips inquired whether they would be allowed to do a walk-through of the property acquired by ALRW. Mr. Phillips also stated that he approved of the way ALRW has managed rates and finances and felt that the organization was doing much better for the residents than neighboring communities. Mr. Phillips also stated that billing should remain quarterly to keep the costs of preparing the bills to a minimum.

Executive Session

The CUE requests to meet in Executive Session to discuss pending or imminent court action. The CUE does not anticipate any formal action upon reconvening the public meeting.

Mr. Rush moved, Mrs. Schnabel seconded, to meet in executive session as allowed by ORC §121.22 (G)(3) and (G)(3) to discuss the purchase and/or sale of property and pending or imminent court action and to include the CUE, the CUO, and Attorney Anthony Coyne of Mansour Gavin.

Ayes (per roll-call vote): Dzwonczyk, Mondello, Rickey. Rush and Schnabel
Nays: None
Motion carried.

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:32 PM

The public meeting was reconvened at 8:20 PM.

Adjourn

As there was no further business, Mr. Dzwonczyk moved, and Mr. Rush seconded, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

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

Approved June 3, 2025.

John Dzwonczyk, Chairman

Robert Munro, Clerk

Resolution of Appreciation

WHEREAS, *Jack R. Gaydar, P.E., P.S., has served Avon Lake Regional Water with distinction and dedication as the Engineering Services Manager since December 16, 2002; and*

WHEREAS, *Mr. Gaydar brought to his position a wealth of professional knowledge and experience as a licensed Professional Engineer, Professional Surveyor, and Certified Professional Operator, consistently demonstrating the highest standards of technical competence; and*

WHEREAS, *during his tenure, Mr. Gaydar played a vital role in the planning, development, and execution of numerous infrastructure and capital improvement projects that have significantly enhanced the reliability, efficiency, and sustainability of the water and wastewater systems serving the Avon Lake service areas for the health, safety, and welfare of the public; and*

WHEREAS, *Mr. Gaydar has exemplified public service through his collaborative approach, his thoughtful leadership, and his unwavering commitment to the mission of Avon Lake Regional Water and the public it serves; and*

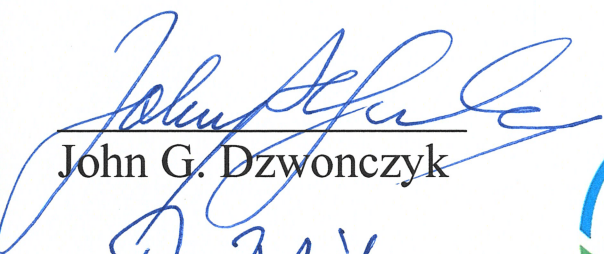
WHEREAS, *his contributions have left a lasting legacy on the organization, including improvements in engineering processes, project management, and long-term planning that will benefit future generations; and*

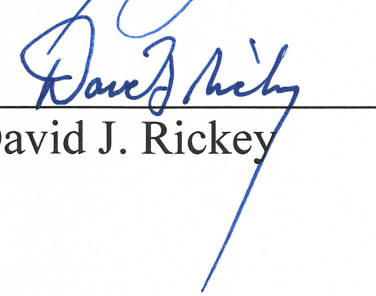
WHEREAS, *the Board of Municipal Utilities wishes to recognize and express its sincere appreciation for Mr. Gaydar's dedicated service and many contributions to the success of Avon Lake Regional Water;*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *by the Board of Municipal Utilities that we do hereby extend our heartfelt gratitude and commendation to Mr. Gaydar, on his retirement.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, *that this resolution be made a permanent part of the official records of the Board, and that a copy be presented to Mr. Gaydar as a token of the Board's appreciation and best wishes for a fulfilling and well-deserved retirement.*

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, *the Avon Lake Board of Municipal Utilities has affixed their signatures hereon this 20th day of May, 2025.*

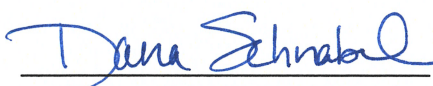

John G. Dzwonczyk


David J. Rickey




Nicholas C. Mondello


Timothy M. Rush


Dana M. Schnabel

Water Use Rates Effective January 1, 2026

04/25/2025 RKM

Avon Lake Customers	2023 Water Rate	2024 Water Rate	2025 Water Rate	2026 Water Rate
First 50,000 gallons	\$2.08	\$2.16	\$2.25	\$2.25
Next 200,000 gallons	\$1.71	\$1.78	\$1.85	\$1.85
Next 250,000 gallons	\$1.42	\$1.48	\$1.54	\$1.54
*Minimum Service Fee (Includes first 2,000 gallons)	\$6.38	\$6.38	\$7.97	\$8.37
Direct Connections (Bulk)	2023 Water Rate	2024 Water Rate	2025 Water Rate	2026 Water Rate
First 50,000 gallons	\$2.29	\$2.38	\$2.48	\$2.48
Next 200,000 gallons	\$1.88	\$1.96	\$2.04	\$2.04
Next 250,000 gallons	\$1.56	\$1.63	\$1.69	\$1.69
ETL1	2023 Water Rate	2024 Water Rate	2025 Water Rate	2026 Water Rate
Consumption Rate	\$1.56	\$1.63	\$1.69	\$1.69
MOR Rate	\$0.47	\$0.49	\$0.52	\$0.52
Total	\$2.03	\$2.12	\$2.21	\$2.21
ETL2	2023 Water Rate	2024 Water Rate	2025 Water Rate	2026 Water Rate
Consumption Rate	\$1.56	\$1.63	\$1.69	\$1.69
MOR Rate	\$0.37	\$0.37	\$0.39	\$0.39
Power Cost (Island Rd.) (RLCWA, Medina, Medina County)	\$0.10	\$0.04	\$0.04	\$0.04
Total	\$2.03	\$2.04	\$2.12	\$2.12

Sewer Use Rates Effective January 1, 2026

Avon Lake Customers	2023 Sewer Rate	2024 Sewer Rate	2025 Sewer Rate	2026 Sewer Rate
All sewer flow	\$7.30	\$7.45	\$7.45	\$7.45
*Minimum Service Fee (Includes first 2,000 gallons)	\$23.00	\$23.15	\$24.31	\$25.53
Direct Connections	2023 Sewer Rate	2024 Sewer Rate	2025 Sewer Rate	2026 Sewer Rate
All sewer flow	\$8.03	\$8.20	\$8.20	\$8.20

Note: All rates are per 1,000 gallons