

Board of Municipal Utilities
Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2024
201 Miller Road
Avon Lake, Ohio

Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held in-person using web-based video conferencing technology and streamed live to Facebook and YouTube.

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

Also present: CUE Munro, CUO Yuronich, Mayor Spaetzel and Attorney Anthony Coyne of Mansour Gavin.

Approve Minutes

Mr. Dzwonczyk presented the Minutes of the May 7, 2024 regular meeting. With no additional 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 for funds and amounts as follows, Mr. Abram moved, Mrs. Schnabel seconded, to approve the expenditures of May 3 through May 16, 2024:

Water Fund 701	\$	207,702.61
Wastewater Fund 721	\$	179,396.45
ETL1 Fund 703	\$	165,243.80
ETL2 Fund 762	\$	385,940.30
LORCO Fund 749	\$	11,023.27
Water Construction Fund 704	\$	129,912.85
Wastewater Construction Fund 724	\$	7,075.15

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Non-Bargaining Employee Wages

Mr. Munro informed the Board that he and Mr. Yuronich had completed the performance reviews of all non-bargaining employees. Mr. Munro stated that these reviews and recommendations will be discussed in further detail in Executive Session.

Project Updates

Power Plant Update: Mr. Yuronich informed the Board that the demolition of the main turbine hall is over halfway completed and two of the precipitators have also begun being taken down. Mr. Yuronich also stated that the implosion of one of the main stacks has been pushed back until the fall and two of the other precipitators and a boiler will be imploded in late June or early July.

Mr. Dzwonczyk stated that Charah has been doing a great job when it comes to safety throughout the work that has taken place so far and he looks forward to them continuing to make safety a priority as they continue.

ETL Design Services: Mr. Yuronich stated that the Engineering Services Manager has been working on the final design to reroute the path of the new suction line. Mr. Yuronich reminded the Board that the original design of this infrastructure had to be abandoned due to reaching an impasse with the railroad and easement fees required. Mr. Yuronich also added that soil borings and hydro-excavation is being performed to verify no infrastructure exists where the water line will cross.

Mr. Munro added that this redesign requires six additional base maps to allow the infrastructure to cross the railroad at the public right-of-way at the Moore Rd. crossing. Mr. Munro also added that the agreements with all of the bulk customers are being reworked and modernized to account for all of the current conditions facing all parties.

Mr. Rickey inquired as to when ALRW expect the project to proceed to the bidding phase. Mr. Munro responded that he expects another two and a half months of design work and easement acquisition with the intent to bid the work in the fall of this year.

Mr. Rickey also expressed his disappointment with the railroad and the difficulty in negotiating with them. Mr. Munro responded that the railroads have traditionally been difficult to work with and that staff is also relocating another section of ETL1 so that it does not encroach upon railroad property in other locations.

WFP Improvements: Mr. Yuronich stated that The Great Lakes Construction Company (GLC) continues to verify underground infrastructure through potholing in the areas of the filter building expansion and the chemical feed building. Mr. Yuronich also stated that they have removed the mound that sat to the east of the existing filter building and have temporarily relocated the fence to allow work to be conducted while also maintaining the security of the WFP.

Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer (ICP): Mr. Yuronich stated that on May 15, 2024 WFP Lab staff had completed the certification process for all the methods to be used on the ICP unit and will begin testing drinking water samples. Mr. Yuronich stated that staff has been reaching out to neighboring communities to acquire additional customers now that they are able to fully utilize this equipment.

SCADA Communication Upgrade: No update.

CUE/CUO Report

Mr. Munro informed the Board that approximately 450 customers plus the IGA store will be brought in to the LORCO system as an agreement is drafted between Lorain County, LORCO and ALRW.

Mr. Munro also informed the Board that staff has a meeting scheduled May 23, 2024 with Techwin to discuss the partnership related to the onsite generation of sodium hypochlorite. Mr. Munro stated that the scheduling and shipping of the equipment is going to be finalized.

Miscellaneous & Member Reports

Mr. Abram stated that he had provided the Board with two articles. Mr. Abram stated that the first article dealt with PFAS compounds and the associated regulations and how they relate to utilities. Mr. Abram stated that the second article was on the topic of septic systems and the issues failure of those systems can cause.

Mr. Rickey informed the Board that he had attended the Building and Utilities Committee meeting and that ditch clean-out and CALDIP (Central Avon Lake Drainage Improvement Project) were the main topics that were covered.

Mr. Dzwonczyk stated that he, Mr. Munro and Mr. Yuronich had met with members of the Sixmo architectural firm and that plans for properties recently acquired by ALRW were the focus of that discussion.

Mr. Dzwonczyk stated that he had drafted messaging to be included in the 2024 ALRW Consumer Confidence Report and was requesting feedback to ensure that met what was needed. Mr. Munro responded that he and Mr. Yuronich were going to verify that the draft language could be formatted appropriately to fit in the available space but that the content was what was needed.

Public Speakers

None

Executive Session

Mr. Rush stated that based on discussion in Executive Session the Board may take action upon returning to Open Session.

Mr. Rush moved, Mr. Abram seconded, to meet in executive session as allowed by ORC §121.22 (G)(1) and (G)(3) to discuss the employment and/or dismissal of a public employee and pending or imminent court actions and to include the CUE, the CUO and a representative from Mansour Gavin.

Ayes (per roll-call vote): Abram, Dzwonczyk, Rickey and Schnabel

Nays: None

Motion carried.

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:01 PM

The Board reconvened the public meeting at 8:37 PM

Following the Executive Session, Mrs. Schnabel moved, and Mr. Rush seconded, to set the hourly rates for non-bargaining employees in accordance with the following:

Robert Munro	\$ 84.41 per hour plus a one-time equity adjustment in the lump-sum amount of \$10,000.00.
Greg Yuronich	\$ 63.11 per hour
Jack Gaydar	\$ 62.85 per hour
Bill Logan	\$ 53.64 per hour
Jason Gibboney	\$ 50.14 per hour
Ryan Hill	\$ 50.14 per hour
Robertino Kimevski	\$ 47.63 per hour
Jarod Larson	\$ 32.49 per hour
Dale Mitchell	\$ 27.00 per hour

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

Adjourn

As there was no further business, Mr. Abram moved, and Mr. Rush seconded, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

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

Approved June 4, 2024.

John Dzwonczyk, Chairman

Robert Munro, Clerk