

Board of Municipal Utilities
Meeting Minutes
May 30, 2023
201 Miller Road
Avon Lake, Ohio

Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM. The meeting was held in-person using web-based video conferencing technology and streamed live over Facebook.

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

Excused: Mr. Dzwonczyk

Also present: CUE Munro, CUO Yuronich, Attorney Coyne of Mansour Gavin, Attorney Carr of Seeley, Savidge, Ebert and Gourash and Mayor Zilka.

Approve Minutes

Mr. Rush presented the Minutes of the May 2, 2023 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 dated May 16, 2023, for funds and amounts as follows, Mr. Abram moved, Mrs. Schnabel seconded, to approve the expenditures of April 28 through May 11, 2023:

Water Fund 701	\$	164,400.80
Wastewater Fund 721	\$	267,398.94
ETL1 Fund 703	\$	124,858.36
ETL2 Fund 762	\$	344,077.40
LORCO Fund 749	\$	14,855.05
Water Construction Fund 704	\$	7,023.15
Wastewater Construction Fund 724	\$	6,877.48

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Following review of expenses dated May 30, 2023, for funds and amounts as follows, Mr. Abram moved, Mr. Rickey seconded, to approve the expenditures of May 12 through May 26, 2023:

Water Fund 701	\$	420,820.90
Wastewater Fund 721	\$	267,729.40
ETL1 Fund 703	\$	29,857.14
ETL2 Fund 762	\$	23,364.60
LORCO Fund 749	\$	2,658.03
Water Construction Fund 704	\$	73,845.70
Wastewater Construction Fund 724	\$	610.72

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Lab Equipment

Mr. Munro stated that one of the most important pieces of lab equipment, the atomic absorption spectrometer, was purchased in 2010. With regular maintenance it has exceeded its life expectancy by three years. It is in need of over \$10,000 worth of repairs and even then, it would still be past its useful life. Ion coupled plasma-mass spectrometry is a newer, more efficient analysis method. Staff is working on bidding this equipment and plan on having a recommendation for the Board at the June 20, 2023 meeting. Mr. Munro stated that there is a price of at least \$125,000 associated with this newer equipment.

Mr. Yuronich stated that it is used not only at the Water Filtration Plant (WFP) for metals analysis but also for the Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) for both their testing and for any industrial users with a pre-treatment program and their own national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) permit. Over \$17,500 has been spent this year from the WRF testing alone. This figure will increase even more as the WFP and bulk customers begin their lead and copper testing later this summer. Those tests will all have to be outsourced and add to a loss of revenue.

Mr. Rickey inquired as to the lead time for this equipment as other supply chains have significant delays. Mr. Yuronich informed him that a lead time of 45 to 60 days was passed on to him by a sales representative.

Mr. Rush asked if this was the type of item that would benefit from redundancy and if we should procure a second unit as a backup. Mr. Yuronich stated that in five years it could be beneficial to have a backup but that we probably would not want to have two units with same expected life span. This is something that staff will assess once a unit is purchased.

Bi-Annual Chemicals Bid

Mr. Munro stated that staff received the bids for chemicals for the second half of 2023 for use at the treatment plants. He informed the Board that most of the chemical prices remained static, a couple increased and that a few actually went down. Mr. Munro also informed the Board that due to the exceptions included in the liquid chlorine bids, staff does not recommend awarding that bid and that staff is re-bidding that chemical. He stated that in all of his years of experience this is the first time he's seen a bid from any company besides JCI Jones, Inc. for liquid chlorine. Alexander Chemical based out of Chicago submitted a bid lower than JCI Jones, Inc. but that their price was based off full truckloads which exceeds the amount of chlorine able to be stored at the WFP.

With no further discussion, Mrs. Schnabel moved, Mr. Abram seconded, to authorize the CUE to execute chemical supply contracts, valid from July 1, 2023 and running through December 31, 2023, in accordance with the following:

Chemical	Vendor	Unit Price
<i>Liquid Alum</i>	<i>USALCO, LLC</i>	<i>\$553.73/Ton</i>
<i>Hydrated Lime</i>	<i>Bonded Chemicals, Inc.</i>	<i>\$336.00/Ton</i>
<i>Sodium Silicofluoride</i>	<i>SAL Chemical</i>	<i>\$3,139.00/Ton</i>
<i>Potassium Permanganate</i>	<i>Bonded Chemicals, Inc.</i>	<i>\$8,880.00/Ton</i>
<i>Dry Polymer</i>	<i>Polydyne, Inc.</i>	<i>\$4,900.00/Ton</i>
<i>Liquid Polymer</i>	<i>Polydyne, Inc.</i>	<i>\$3,400.00/Ton</i>
<i>Ferrous Chloride</i>	<i>PVS Technologies</i>	<i>\$725.00/Ton</i>
<i>Carbon</i>	<i>Chemrite, Inc.</i>	<i>\$2,529.00/Ton</i>
<i>Liquid Orthophosphate</i>	<i>Bonded Chemicals, Inc.</i>	<i>\$1,392.00/Ton</i>
<i>Liquid Sodium Hydroxide</i>	<i>Bonded Chemicals, Inc.</i>	<i>\$1,180.00/Ton</i>
<i>Sodium Bicarbonate</i>	<i>SAL Chemical</i>	<i>\$1,010.00/Ton</i>
<i>Sodium Hypochlorite</i>	<i>Alexander Chemical Corp.</i>	<i>\$498.80/Ton</i>
<i>Hydrofluorosilicic Acid</i>	<i>Bonded Chemicals, Inc.</i>	<i>\$600.00/Ton</i>
<i>Liquid Calcium Hydroxide</i>	<i>Chemtrade Chemicals US LLC</i>	<i>\$200.00/Ton</i>
<i>Magnesium Hydroxide</i>	<i>Bonded Chemicals, Inc.</i>	<i>\$1,000.00/Ton</i>

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

Bi-Annual Distribution Supplies Bid

Mr. Munro stated that there was only one bidder, Core & Main, for the bi-annual distribution supplies bid that was opened May 19, 2023. Some prices slightly increased while others had small decreases. There were a few exceptions noted but staff is recommending the award of this contract to Core & Main.

Mr. Rickey inquired what other companies have bid in the past. Mr. Munro stated that during the last bid, Pipeline Supply submitted bids. In the past there have been multiple bidders but due to the supply chain issues, smaller companies may have difficulty obtaining items. Mr. Munro also added that even though Core & Main has a contract price, if the market fluctuates and the prices drop, Core & Main has historically offered us the products at a lower price than they are required to and pass the savings on to ALRW.

Mr. Abram stated that it is beneficial to utilize a local company that is able to respond to any issues in a timely manner.

With no further discussion, Mr. Rickey moved, Mrs. Schnabel seconded, to authorize the CUE to execute a contract with Core & Main, valid from July 1, 2023 and running through December 31, 2023, for the supply of bid items on the 2023 Bi-Annual Water Distribution Supplies Bid – Second Half, per the Engineer’s certified bid tabulation.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Project Updates

Power Plant Update: No updates.

ETL Design Services: No updates.

WFP Improvements: No updates.

2022 Water Line Bundle Project: No updates.

Additional Storage Building: Mr. Yuronich stated that Northbay Construction has installed most of the lights and internal electrical conduits. The expected lead time for delivery of the major electrical equipment, the transformers and panels that will tie in to the main electrical feed, are believed to be 90 days out. Staff is coordinating with Northbay Construction to perform the external site grading work in preparation for installation of the outdoor concrete pads so as not to interfere with Northbay’s access to the building.

CUE Report

Mr. Munro reported that he and staff members recently made a presentation to the City of Lorain Sewer and Water Advisory Board on May 11, 2023. ALRW had approached them a month prior about possibly supplying water or even constructing a water filtration plant in Lorain. He felt the presentation was well received and that staff has processed public records requests related to ALRW staffing levels and rates of pay. This would also open up a new service area that ALRW would be able to supply in the areas west and south of the City of Lorain.

Mr. Rickey stated that it was public knowledge and had read the article in The Chronicle Telegram about the presentation. Mr. Rickey stated that he had fielded several questions from Avon Lake residents and that he’ll keep them informed as talks progressed.

Miscellaneous & Member Reports

Mr. Munro informed the Board that two new team members will be hired as Line Maintenance Technicians. Shaun Hutchenson will be hired as Line Maintenance Technician – Step 1 beginning June 19, 2023 and Shannon Plum will be hired as Line Maintenance Technician – Step 3 on June 26, 2023.

Both of these candidates bring a lot of relevant experience. Mr. Munro also noted that we still have multiple open positions that staff is working on filling which include a laborer, lab analyst, WFP operator and Senior Operator at the WFP.

Mr. Rickey asked how we are filling in for the lack of operators at the WFP. Mr. Munro stated that it is split between overtime from the other operators and that there are several employees in other positions that have the licensure and experience of operating the WFP.

Mr. Rickey also asked where staff advertises for operators. Mr. Munro informed him that staff advertises on the Operator Training Committee of Ohio website, www.avonlakewater.org, social media, the Ohio American Water Works site, Cleveland.com, and are also pursuing advertising on Jobs Ohio. Mr. Rickey inquired if offering a finder's fee or other incentives would be something staff should look into. Mr. Munro stated that signing bonuses after a new employee has worked a specific amount of time could potentially be utilized.

Public Speakers

None.

Executive Session

Mr. Abram moved, Mrs. Schnabel seconded, to meet in executive session as allowed by ORC §121.22 (G)(2) and (G)(3) to discuss the purchase and/or sale of property and pending legal matters and to include the CUE, the CUO, Attorney Coyne from Mansour Gavin and Attorney Carr from Seeley, Savidge, Ebert and Gourash.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:58 PM

The Board reconvened the public meeting at 8:05 PM

Adjourn

As there was no further business, Mr. Abram moved, and Mr. Rush seconded, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Approved June 6, 2023.

Tim Rush, Acting Chairman

Robert Munro, Clerk