

Board of Municipal Utilities
Meeting Minutes
June 3, 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. Mondello, Mr. Rickey, Mr. Rush and Mrs. Schnabel.

Excused: Mr. Dzwonczyk

Also present: CUE Munro, CUO Yuronich, Attorney Anthony Coyne of Mansour-Gavin and Avon Lake Councilwoman Amy Gentry

Approve Minutes

Mr. Rush presented the Minutes of the May 20, 2025 regular meeting. Mr. Munro informed the Board that there were amended copies of the draft minutes in front of them with minor changes requested by Mr. Dzwonczyk. Mr. Munro stated that the Board packets were distributed just prior to the edits requested by Mr. Dzwonczyk. With no additional changes, additions or corrections noted, Mr. Rush 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. Rickey moved, Mrs. Schnabel seconded, to approve the expenditures of May 16 through May 29, 2025:

Water Fund 701	\$	157,350.52
Distribution Fund 723	\$	131,690.17
Wastewater Fund 721	\$	112,049.28
Collection Fund 722	\$	64,835.57
ETL1 Fund 703	\$	7,899.28
ETL2 Fund 762	\$	5,725.79
LORCO Fund 749	\$	14,828.98
Water Construction Fund 704	\$	9,871.83

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

2025 Water Bundle Project

Mr. Munro informed the Board that the 2025 Water Bundle Project was a cooperative project that included work for the City of Avon Lake as it contains multiple components. Mr. Munro stated that in past cooperative projects with the City there were typically four parts: A-Water, B-Sanitary Sewer, C-Storm Sewer and D-Roadways. Mr. Munro added that for this project there is no sanitary sewer work but there is a bridge culvert the City is replacing that is installed over a twenty-inch concrete water main that is part of the scope of this project. Mr. Munro stated that the culvert work has been added as Part E. Mr. Munro informed the Board that 79.8% of the project cost will be borne by ALRW with the City of Avon Lake being responsible for the remaining 20.2%.

Mr. Munro summarized the project by stating that there will be over 21,000 linear feet of water main replaced, 423 water meters will be relocated from within residences to outside meter vaults, replacement of the bridge culvert, new and/or replacement of over 2,300 feet of storm sewer piping, and over 2,200 feet of road replacement. Mr. Munro stated that the project will take approximately two-and-a-half years to complete.

Mr. Munro informed the Board that the project was bid from January 24, 2025 to May, 20, 2025, there were 51 plan holders with eighteen of those being prime contractors. Mr. Munro stated that at the mandatory pre-bid meeting there were seven contractors in attendance. Mr. Munro stated that while ALRW was disappointed that there was only one bid received at the bid opening, it came in very close in price to the engineer's estimate (2.7% above) at \$17,147,080.59 by Underground Utilities, Inc. from Monroeville, OH. Mr. Munro added that ALRW has worked with UUI numerous times in the past. Mr. Munro stated that there is a recommended motion to award the contract but that contract is contingent upon securing the funding that will be discussed next on the agenda.

Mr. Rickey inquired if ALRW would be reaching out to the other plan holders to see if the projects were too big for smaller contractors or why they did not bid on this project. Mr. Munro responded that ALRW does not reach out to anyone until the project has been awarded to avoid any conflicts but that once the contract is finalized, staff would reach out. Mr. Munro added that a likely contributor is that the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act are being spent before that source of funding is closed so many large projects are taking place at this time. Mr. Rickey also inquired about the 423 water meters and wanted to know if ALRW was no longer going to have to purchase those. Mr. Munro stated that ALRW purchased any materials under existing contracts to avoid any markup by the contractor. Mr. Rickey asked if these meters were the new-style radio read meters and Mr. Munro confirmed that they were. Mr. Munro added that debt service payments for this project will not take place until six months after the project is completed so the debt service will not show on the books until three years from now. Mrs. Schnabel inquired if the loan would cover the entire project and the City and ALRW will work out the percentages later. Mr. Munro responded that he would discuss this under the next agenda item.

Mr. Rickey inquired if there were any concerns about the large amount of clean-up and remediation that will be needed once the project is complete. Mr. Munro stated in the seven years of working with UUI they have always been very diligent about ensuring residents were satisfied and have returned to properties multiple times to address any concerns. Mr. Munro added that communication with residents will be a major focus during this project and added that the contract stipulates only one area may be worked on at a time so that the efforts will all be focused in one area. Mrs. Schnabel inquired if there was a tentative start date. Mr. Munro stated that will be determined at the pre-construction meeting that will take place once the contract is executed and that mobilization will likely not take place until the end of August or September of this year.

With no further discussion, Mrs. Schnabel moved and Mr. Rickey seconded, to authorize the CUE to execute a contract with Underground Utilities, Inc. of Monroeville, Ohio for the 2025 Water Bundle Project in the amount of \$17,147,780.59 plus an additional 10% contingency for any out-of-scope items, and the award of this contract is contingent upon securing the necessary financing. Furthermore, I move that the ALRW financial responsibility of this project is 79.8% and the City of Avon Lake financial responsibility is 20.2%.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

OWDA Project Funding

Mr. Munro stated that the second agenda item related to the 2025 Water Bundle Project was the procurement of funding through the Ohio Water Development Authority and that because it is a partner project, the City of Avon Lake will have to take similar steps. Mr. Munro informed the Board that ALRW will have to pass a resolution and the City of Avon Lake will have to pass an ordinance authorizing application for funding. Mr. Munro further explained that the OWDA portal will only show the loan as City of Avon Lake and an amortization schedule laying out what the biannual payments will be. Mr. Munro added that the breakdown of payments will be tracked through internal accounting and that is why the percentages are so important. Mr. Munro stated that it is possible the contractor will perform all water line work first so when those invoices come due it would all be paid by ALRW and then submitted for reimbursement in the same way the WFP Improvements Project is handled. Mr. Munro stated that if there are invoices where multiple facets of the project are billed together, they would be invoiced by the contractor as Part A, Part C, Part D or Part E and be paid by the appropriate organization.

Mr. Mondello inquired about the rate on the OWDA loan. Mr. Munro stated that the rate will be determined at the time the loan application is approved by OWDA. Mr. Munro added that there are discounts available such as past use of the OWDA loan program and those discounts will reduce the percentage by up to a quarter of a percent. Mr. Munro stated that the rate on a thirty-year loan is under four percent although it has not been decided if this will be a twenty- or thirty-year loan. Mr. Mondello also asked if ALRW will be managing all the pay applications to the contractor. Mr. Munro replied that ALRW will be fully managing the project including providing inspector services and managing pay applications. Mr. Munro added that ALRW does not charge the City for these services. Mr. Munro also stated that all pay apps are reviewed by a Professional Engineer (PE) and that Mr. Larson has just received his PE license. Mr. Munro stated that the proposed resolution will designate himself and Business & Financial Coordinator Logan as the owner for ALRW, so that there are multiple individuals available to sign off in the event the CUE is unavailable.

With no further discussion, Mr. Mondello moved, and Mr. Rush seconded, for passage of Resolution #2025-02 titled “2025 Water Bundle Project Loan” and authorize the CUE and Business & Financial Coordinator to submit a funding application to the Ohio Water Development Authority for the 2025 Water Bundle Project in the amount of \$17,147,780.59 plus an additional 10% contingency.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Project Updates

Power Plant Update: Mr. Yuronich stated that cleanup of debris continues as well as the demolition of the administration building.

ETL Design Services: Mr. Yurnoich informed the Board that Attorney Connie Carr continues to be in contact with the individual property owners negotiating the necessary easements. Mr. Yuronich stated that the CUE is following up with the bulk customers and will be setting a meeting date to continue the talks regarding the updated cooperative agreements.

WFP Improvements: Mr. Yuronich stated that The Great Lakes Construction Company (GLC) is currently focused on the filter construction while the concrete for the chemical feed building finishes curing and the scaffolding and temporary work area is removed to allow the trades to begin work on that building. Mr. Yuronich stated that the base for the norther two filters has been poured and work has moved to the southern two filters while the concrete cures on the northern side. Mr. Yuronich added that some of the supports and piping to connect these new filters to the existing plant have been installed.

Techwin Project: Mr. Yuronich informed the Board that talks with the Techwin staff continues as both organizations plan for the startup and training on operation of the equipment. Mr. Yuronich stated that per the advice of a lawyer who specializes in immigration law, the Techwin staff that will be coming for the startup will be able to enter the United States under the visa waiver program using the electronic system for travel authorization. Mr. Yuronich added that one Techwin employee is expected to be onsite for up to two weeks. Mr. Yuronich stated that staff is still awaiting First Energy to schedule a time to perform the final electrical hookup for the OSHG equipment.

CUE/CUO Report

Mr. Yuronich informed the Board that staff had interviewed several very qualified applicants and had reached a decision to fill the final Operator-in-Training (OIT) position at the WFP. Mr. Yuronich stated that the selected individual had completed the grant-funded OIT program through Owens Community College and has already passed his OEPA license exam and will just need to complete the experience requirement to obtain his operator’s license. Mr. Yuronich stated that Caleb Weber will begin June 9, 2025 at Step 2 on the OIT wage scale and earn \$25.88 per hour.

Mr. Munro informed the Board that he will have the biannual chemical bids for award of the contracts at the next meeting.

Miscellaneous & Member Reports

Mr. Rickey stated that he will be attending the LORCO meeting and will report on that at the next meeting. Mr. Rush stated that he will not be in attendance at the June 17, 2025 meeting.

Public Speakers

Councilwoman Amy Gentry asked if she could be provided a map of the areas affected by the 2025 Water Bundle Project. Mr. Munro stated that would be provided to her and that the residents will be kept informed through various means of communication provided by ALRW. Ms. Gentry inquired if white sidewalk markings were related to the upcoming project and Mr. Munro stated that was part of the pre-construction work along with photographing and video recording of all areas so that all preexisting conditions are documented prior to work commencing. Ms. Gentry also inquired if ALRW was aware of any plans for the transformer building at the power plant property. Mr. Yuronich stated that he had heard talk of that building remaining but that plans had not been finalized. Mr. Yuronich stated he would provide an update if he hears of any finalized plans for that building. Ms. Gentry stated that the Buildings & Utilities meeting was rescheduled from its normal Wednesday time to Monday, June 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM in City Council Chambers.

Adjourn

As there was no further business, Mrs. Schnabel moved, and Mr. Rickey seconded, to adjourn.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.

Approved June 17, 2025.

Tim Rush, Acting Chairman

Robert Munro, Clerk

2025 Water Bundle Project Loan

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF UTILITIES EXECUTIVE AND BUSINESS & FINANCIAL COORDINATOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE 2025 WATER BUNDLE PROJECT BETWEEN AVON LAKE BOARD OF MUNICIPAL UTILITIES DBA AVON LAKE REGIONAL WATER, THE CITY OF AVON LAKE, AND THE OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

WHEREAS, the City of Avon Lake and the Avon Lake Board of Municipal Utilities dba Avon Lake Regional Water (hereinafter referred to as the "LGA") seek to improve the storm water system and appurtenances and drinking water infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the LGA desires to obtain a loan from the Ohio Water Development Authority (hereinafter referred to as the "OWDA") to finance costs of the construction of such facilities on the terms set forth in the Cooperative Agreement (defined below); and

WHEREAS, the OWDA has indicated its willingness to make a loan for that purpose and on those terms;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Municipal Utilities of Avon Lake, Ohio:

Section 1. That the LGA hereby approves the construction of the aforesaid 2025 Water Bundle Project in cooperation with the OWDA under the provisions, terms and conditions set forth in the "Cooperative Agreement for State Planning Project" as set forth in Exhibit A (the "Cooperative Agreement") and hereby authorizes the Chief Utilities Executive and Business & Financial Coordinator of the LGA to execute the Cooperative Agreement with the OWDA substantially in the form set forth in Exhibit A.

Section 2. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were passed in an open meeting of this Board, and that all deliberations of this Board and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 3. That this resolution is hereby deemed necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety, and welfare the Avon Lake Regional Water service area for the immediate construction of the 2025 Water Bundle Project at the earliest possible time is necessary in order to protect the health of the inhabitants of the LGA by providing safe drinking water and adequate storm system improvements; wherefore, this resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately after its passage.

Passed: JUNE 3, 2025

Attest:

Timothy M. Rush Acting Chairman

Dana M. Schnabel

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0