

Board of Municipal Utilities
Work Session Minutes
August 21, 2018
201 Miller Road
Avon Lake, Ohio

Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

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

Also present: CUE Danielson, CUO Munro, Engineering Services Manager Gaydar, Community Outreach Specialist Arnold (arrived at 6:15 PM), and Mayor Zilka.

Asset Management

CUO Munro presented an update to the Board about progress toward launching the asset management program required by Senate Bill 2 (SB 2). SB 2 requires a program be in place by October 1, 2018. However, the regulations have not yet been adopted. Ohio EPA staff has indicated that regulations may be adopted as early as November 1, 2018. CUO Munro indicated that though the regulation is exclusively for water systems, staff intends to implement organization wide, focusing first on water assets and specifically valves (which is Ohio EPA's stated initial focus). The CUO indicated staff has certain tasks completed, including a draft valve exercising SOP, and is working on an inventory of assets and the written asset management plan.

Members asked a number of questions including why does Ohio EPA want to know these details, would anything staff include in the planning information lock the utility into specific replacement schedules, and are there specific security concerns. Staff indicated that Ohio EPA's stated reason for implementation of these regulations is to help assure competency of utilities and reduce chances for public health issues. Staff does not believe that if, for instance, an estimated 10-year replacement schedule was used for certain pumps, Ohio EPA would not cite the utility if the pumps were not replaced in 10 years. Ohio EPA does not require copies of any of the documents that will be included in the plan, and they have indicated that any sensitive documents would continue to be protected and not required to be presented under FOIA.

Members indicated that the asset management program could be considered an unfunded mandate and that staff would very likely need to budget a number of line items over the next few years and, possibly, need to increase staffing as a result of these requirements, which could lead to rate increases. In support of these statements, staff mentioned an automatic valve-turning machine that is currently being considered to help adhere with the regulations, reduce the chances for breakage, and reduce the potential for workplace injuries.

Adjourn

Following conclusion of the discussion, Mr. Dzwonczyk adjourned the meeting at 6:30 PM.

Approved September 4, 2018

John Dzwonczyk, Chairman

Todd A. Danielson, Clerk