

Board of Municipal Utilities
Work Session Minutes
September 18, 2018
201 Miller Road
Avon Lake, Ohio

Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:54 PM.

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

Also present: CUE Danielson, CUO Munro, CUO Eberle, WPCC Manager Baytos, Community Outreach Specialist Arnold (arrived at 6:40 PM), Ed St. John (CDM Smith), Councilmember Fenderbosch, and Councilmember Zuber.

WPCC Rehabilitation Project Contingency

CUO Munro presented an update on the status of the rehabilitation project, changes authorized to date by staff under loan contingency, and additional work that staff would like to complete using loan funds. The Chairman asked whether some items discussed such as the digester cleaning should be capitalized or considered as operation and maintenance expenses and expressed a desire to assure rates cover all operation and maintenance expenses. The Chairman further commented that assuring that the rates included all relevant operation and maintenance expenses help to reduce future rate shocks. Staff agreed and indicated that this cleaning would be capitalized to limit negative impacts on the new equipment.

Members questioned whether the request to authorize contingency should be stated as a percentage of project cost or an actual dollar amount. The chairman indicated his support to finish the project appropriately but not to overdo it.

Compliance with November 30, 2018 Deadline

CUE Danielson indicated that customers have been contacting Avon Lake Regional Water regarding the lateral compliance dates, indicating that they are trying to get contractors to separate the laterals on their properties, and the contractors are unable to complete the work by the deadline. The CUE asked Board members for input regarding the Sewer Lateral Path Forward they approved in January 2018.

The Chairman indicated he had been giving this some thought and presented a draft flow chart for consideration. Members indicated that the ultimate goal was compliance and that there was a willingness for property owners with signed contracts to be allowed past the November 30, 2018, deadline to complete the work. Member Rush requested that there be recognition that any delay for compliance for the first group (Group A) impacts subsequent groups. Therefore, the deadline cannot be delayed too much; and the next group may also need some additional time for contracted work to be completed. Members concurred and indicated that Avon Lake Regional Water has a hard deadline of December 31, 2019, by which all sewers must be separated. Members also discussed

the concept of issuing fines for non-compliance, compared to court action compelling compliance or authorizing public action to separate laterals on private property.

Members generally agreed that to avoid negative action, property owners need to have a signed contract by their due date and will lose the ability to receive the \$1,000 wastewater bill credit if they do not have a contract in place. Property owners must provide a copy of this contract to Avon Lake Regional Water. There was a suggestion that projects for Group A homes must be complete by the end of March or April 2019. Members will further consider that before potential action at the next Board meeting.

Councilperson Fenderbosch added to the conversation, indicating that the Sewer Committee authorized the Public Works Director to seek bids for contractors to perform the separations on private property if the property owners do not complete the required work.

Adjourn

Following the discussion, Mr. Dzwonczyk adjourned the meeting at 6:57 PM.

Approved October 9, 2018

John Dzwonczyk, Chairman

Todd A. Danielson, Clerk