

Board of Municipal Utilities
Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2021
201 Miller Road
Avon Lake, Ohio

Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM following the scheduled Work Session. The meeting was held using web-based video conferencing technology and streamed live over Facebook.

Present: Mr. Abram, Mr. Dzwonczyk, and Mr. Rush.

Excused: Mr. Phillips and Mrs. Schnabel.

Also present: CUE Munro, Technical Support Specialist Collins, and Water Filtration Plant Manager Yuronich.

Approve Minutes

Chairman Dzwonczyk presented the Minutes of the October 19, 2021 work session meeting. With no changes, additions or corrections noted, he ordered that the minutes stand and be distributed as presented.

Chairman Dzwonczyk presented the Minutes of the October 19, 2021 regular meeting. With no 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 date November 2, 2021, for funds and amounts as follows, Mr. Abram moved, Mr. Rush seconded, to approve the expenditures of November 2, 2021:

Water Fund 701	\$	520,947.11
Wastewater Fund 721	\$	153,663.61
MOR Fund 703	\$	50,605.67
MOR Fund 762	\$	144,236.09
West Ridge Interconnect Fund 702	\$	129.21
LORCO Fund 749	\$	2,577.19

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Spieth Road Water Tank Mixer Project

Mr. Munro informed the Board that included in the 2021 ETL2 Fund 762 budget was the purchase and installation of mixers and other maintenance work at the Spieth Road Water Tank. He said the mixers will be installed to help with water quality and water age, exterior pressure washing, and repair/maintenance as needed was included in the scope of work. He said bids were opened on October 11th with three bidders on the project, and after reviewing the bids staff is recommending the award of the project to Practical Inspections, LLC from Oak Harbor, Ohio for the amount of \$193,180. Mr. Munro added that the bid price was below the engineer's estimate of \$214,407. The Chairman asked if this will be paid with money from the consortium. Mr. Munro said that it will be paid with consortium money, and the percentage that ratepayers of Avon Lake will be paying is minimal.

The Chairman asked Mr. Yuronich to explain water age in the system. Mr. Yuronich said that as the water ages the chlorine residual can increase. One issue that can occur in the system, is that as the water ages there is a disinfectant byproduct that occurs. He said that the organization tries to keep the water age to minimum, because the less time chlorine can interact with the water the less chance of a disinfectant byproduct. That is why water is raised and lowered in the water towers and tanks to help reduce the age of the water.

Mr. Yuronich said that installing the tank mixers would mean staff will not need to vary the water tanks and will allow the tanks to serve as more of a flow through. He said as the water comes in, it will mix, and then go out. It provides flexibility because instead of refilling the water towers throughout the night, staff can maintain more of a constant level. He said with demand increasing or decreasing, less water will need to be pumped through the ETL. Mr. Yuronich said this will help save on energy with less starting and stopping of the pumps. The Chairman asked if this will help provide more of a reserve in the event of an outage. Mr. Yuronich confirmed that would be the case. The Chairman said this is a very good deal for the ratepayers.

Mr. Rush moved, and the Chairman seconded, to award the Spieth Road Water Tank Mixer project to Practical Inspections, LLC for the amount of \$193,180 and authorize the CUE up to a 5% contingency for out-of-scope items.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Sodium Hypochlorite System Design

Mr. Munro explained to the Board the current issues associated with the chlorine gas disinfectant used at the Water Filtration Plant. He stated that during the October 19th Work Session, HDR presented their recommendation to the Board for replacing the chlorine gas system at the Water Filtration Plant. He said that after the discussion during the previous work session, and reviewing the scope of services, staff has recommended the approval of Amendment #3 for the design services of a bulk sodium hypochlorite disinfection system. Mr. Munro added that the services also include the design of an on-site sodium hypochlorite generation system that may be constructed at a future date.

Mr. Rush asked if by changing from one disinfectant to another the disinfectant byproduct would change as well. Mr. Yuronich said that there wouldn't be a significant change in the disinfectant byproduct. He said the amount of byproduct would be moderately better, and he confirmed that

sodium hypochlorite was the product used most often around the country. The Chairman asked if this would be in the budget for the next year, and if the Board would see that over the next few meetings. Mr. Munro confirmed that that is correct, and design services will be included in the budget for next year. He said that the anticipated design will be completed in April 2022, and once the design is completed the project will go out to bid. He added that ALRW has been very successful with low and zero-interest rate funding, and there would not be any real impact on the debt service for some time before the loan needed to be paid back.

Mr. Rushed moved, and Mr. Abram to authorize the CUE to execute Amendment #3 for the Redundancy & Future Capacity Plan for the amount of \$273,783.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Annual Step Increases

Mr. Munro presented to the Board that due to the Ordinance, annual step increases due April 1st must be approved by the preceding December. He said that based on the recommendations of their supervisors, the following employees will receive their annual step increases due April 1st, 2022:

Rudy Ackerman – Line Maintenance Operator – Step 4

Heather Barnes – Customer Service Representative – Step 4

Tim Bradley – Line Maintenance Man – Step 4

George Caruso – Underground Asset Locator – Step 7

Michael Clough – Water Reclamation Facility Operator – Step 5

Greg Kushner – Water Filtration Plant Operator – Step 5

Vince Petrucci – Maintenance II – Step 4

Rebecca Robertson – Customer Service Representative – Step 5

Project Updates

WFP & ETL Design Services: Mr. Munro said staff has a scheduled project update meeting with HDR on November 3rd. Staff will also be meeting with two of the national PVC large diameter pipe manufacturers. He said with the execution of Amendment #3 HDR will begin the design work for the new sodium hypochlorite disinfection system.

Mr. Munro said obtaining easements is a priority for the ETL work and the he is discussing this topic with Law Director Ebert to determine the best path forward for the process. The Chairman asked if there are services that will do the easement work. Mr. Munro said that there are services, and historically ALRW used a service on the ETLs, but the owner has retired. He said Mr. Ebert does have an attorney at his firm who specializes in real estate and easements and Mr. Munro will be meeting him for the easement process.

CUE Reports & Action Items

Mr. Munro said the upcoming Annual Consortium meeting will be taking place on November 18th for the members of ETL1 and ETL2. That meeting will be held at Rural Lorain County Water Authority's administration building. The 2022 Budgets will be discussed, and the funding for construction on the ETL projects. He said he did speak with Department Environmental Finance Agency (DEFA) and OWDA about the ETL project, and because the project will benefit

many municipalities that this is a great candidate for a zero-interest loan. He said the nomination period takes place in February, and he has already begun compiling documents to submit those when the nomination period opens.

Mr. Munro said there were significant rain events that took place at the end of last week. He said Avon Lake received a decent amount of rain, and the flow diversion structure at the Water Reclamation Facility operated flawlessly. There were no overflows and the treatment plant was able to handle the increased flow. He said thank you to Mr. Ryan Hill and his staff at the Water Reclamation Facility. The Chairman said these are some of the dividends from the sewer separations that took place over the past few years.

Member Reports

The Chairman reported that he had a new portrait done by Thomas & Thomas in Avon Lake. The Chairman also said he and Mr. Munro met with the attorneys at Mansour Gavin, LLP to go over some topics that would be discussed during the executive session.

The Chairman said there was a meeting with Raftelis during the Work Session, and so far their findings have been favorable for the operations and financial situation of Avon Lake Regional Water. He said their final report should be completed in about sixty days. Mr. Munro confirmed that they are expecting to have their results by the end of the year or the beginning of New Year. The Chairman said these results will be helpful for the Board for financial forecasting and preparing for potential expenditures and projects in the future.

Mr. Abram said that sometime after the first of the year, he would like to arrange a Work Session with Engie Resources so they could assist the Board in how to help save money on electricity. Mr. Munro said that he would suggest Brakey Energy to come in and assist the Board since they are ALRW's energy consultant. He said that Engie Resources is the current supplier, and staff is shopping around for other suppliers. Mr. Munro said that because of the aggressive nature of energy savings from Avon Lake Regional Water, this has helped save the ratepayers tens of thousands of dollars. The Chairman said that Brakey Energy can always meet with the Board over Zoom.

Miscellaneous

None.

Public Speakers

None.

Executive Session

Mr. Rush moved, and Mr. Abram seconded, to meet in executive session as allowed by ORC §121.22 G (3) to discuss legal matters and to include the CUE and Technical Support Specialist.

Ayes (per roll-call vote): Abram, Dzwonczyk, and Rush.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

The regular session reconvened at 8:27 PM.

Mansour Gavin Legal Fees Budget

The Chairman moved, and Mr. Rush seconded, to approve a budget extension up to and not to exceed \$190,000.00 for legal fees in the legal matter of the Aquamarine sewer fee dispute payable to Mansour Gavin, LPA as services demand.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Adjourn

As there was no further business, Mr. Abram moved to adjourn, and Mr. Rush seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Approved _____ 2021.

John Dzwonczyk, Chairman

Robert Munro, Clerk