

Board of Municipal Utilities
Meeting Minutes
December 21, 2021
201 Miller Road
Avon Lake, Ohio

Call to Order – Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held using web-based video conferencing technology and streamed live over Facebook.

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

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

Approve Minutes

Chairman Dzwonczyk presented the Minutes of the December 7, 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 December 21, 2021, for funds and amounts as follows, Mr. Abram moved, Mr. Rush seconded, to approve the expenditures of December 21, 2021:

Water Fund 701	\$	435,682.41
Wastewater Fund 721	\$	448,663.85
MOR Fund 703	\$	37,651.71
MOR Fund 762	\$	11,017.05
West Ridge Interconnect Fund 702	\$	237.70
LORCO Fund 749	\$	13,737.97

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Board Appointment

The Chairman stated that per Chapter IX, Section 48 of the Avon Lake Charter, whenever the office of a member of the Board of Municipal Utilities becomes vacant, the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board. He said the Board is required to fill the vacant seat of Mr. Paul R. Phillips no later than January 5, 2022.

The person selected by the Board will fulfill the remaining two years of Mr. Phillips term expiring December 31, 2023. The Chairman moved, and Mr. Rush seconded, to appoint Mr. Dave Rickey to full the unexpired term of Paul R. Phillips effective January 4, 2022.

Mr. Rush said that Mr. Rickey has served on the Board before and he will be a welcome addition. He added that with the sudden and recent passing of Mr. Phillips a replacement appointment must be made in a timely fashion. Mrs. Schnabel said that she is happy to see Mr. Rickey back on the Board. She said he was on the Board before and he did a great job, and he will be a welcome addition to the Board. Mr. Abram said that he has known Mr. Rickey for a long time and he will be a good addition to the Board. The Chairman said he seconds the sentiments of the Board.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Chief of Utility Operations

Mr. Munro informed the Board that over the past several weeks, with the help of Avon Lake Regional Water's consultant, Miles LeHane, the HR selection committee performed an extensive search to fill the position of Chief of Utility Operations. There were four very talented individuals who interviewed for the position. He said that the HR selection committee recommends the promotion of Greg Yuronich from Water Filtration Plant Manager to Chief of Utility Operations. Mr. Rush moved, and Mrs. Schnabel seconded to appoint Greg Yuronich to the position of Chief of Utility Operations at a salary of \$117,000 per year and become effective January 1, 2022.

Mr. Rush said he was able to sit in for most of the interviews, and the person who rose to the top was Mr. Yuronich. He said he is happy to have him in the position. Mrs. Schnabel said that she thinks this will be great for Mr. Yuronich and this will only further benefit the organization. Mr. Abram said that he was glad to have interviewed other candidates, but he was glad to have promoted someone in house to the position of Chief of Utility Operations. The Chairman said that he supports the appointment and echoes the sentiments of the Board.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Mr. Yuronich thanked the Board and he appreciated the opportunity. He looks forward to serving the organization and the community, and he looks forward to showing the Board that they made the correct choice.

Water Filtration Plant Manager

Mr. Rush said that with the promotion of Mr. Yuronich to the position of CUO there was a vacancy for the Water Filtration Plant Manager position. He said the HR selection committee recommends the hiring of John Christopher as the Water Filtration Plant Manager. Mr. Rush stated that Mr. Christopher has over twenty years of experience in the water and wastewater field serving in a variety of roles. He has dual licensure in water and wastewater and also laboratory certifications. Mr. Rush said staff looks forward to having him as a part of the leadership team. Mr. Rush moved, and Mr. Abram seconded, to appoint John Christopher to the

position of Water Filtration Plant Manager effective January 17, 2022 at an hourly rate of \$38.46/hour.

The Chairman said that all of the members at the interview believed this was an opportunity to hit two birds with one stone to bring on Mr. Christopher as Mr. Yuronich moves into the CUO position. Mr. Munro said Mr. Christopher brings over 20 years of water and wastewater experience to the organization. He said he is very seasoned and professional, and he is looking forward to having him join the utility.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Facilities & Asset Manager

Mr. Abram said that at the November 18th meeting the job description and salary range for the Facilities & Asset Manager position was approved by the Board. He said on December 13th the City Council HR Committee and the full Council body recognized the job description and set the proposed salary range based on the Board's approval. Mr. Abram stated that staff recommends to the Board that Robertino Kimevski is appointed the Facilities & Asset Manager effective January 1, 2022. Mr. Abram moved, and Mrs. Schnabel seconded, to appoint Robertino Kimevski as the Facilities & Asset Manager effective January 1, 2022 at an hourly rate of \$44.25/hour.

Mrs. Schnabel said she believes this is a great role for Mr. Kimevski. She said he is very on top of the asset management and the facilities in general, and she is excited that this will be his new role. The Chairman said he knows Mr. Kimevski from many interactions, and he supports the appointment.

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

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Non-Bargaining Wage Adjustments

Mr. Munro stated that he recommends to the Board that a 2% cost of living adjustment is added to the following non-bargaining staff wages effective January 1, 2022. These proposed increases fall within the approved wage ranges and are included in the 2022 budgets.

	<i>Current Hourly Rate</i>	<i>Proposed Hourly Rate</i>
Cheryl Arnold – Community Outreach Specialist	\$28.77	\$29.35
Dennis Collins – Technical Support Specialist	\$24.32	\$24.81
Jack Gaydar – Engineering Services Manager	\$57.23	\$58.38
Ryan Hill – Water Reclamation Facility Manager	\$45.67	\$46.58
Jarod Larson – Engineer	\$29.59	\$30.18

Mrs. Schnabel moved, and Mr. Abram seconded, to increase hourly wages 2% effective January 1, 2022, for the Community Outreach Specialist, Technical Support Specialist, Engineering Services Manager, Water Reclamation Facility Manager, and Engineer.

The Chairman said these are modest increases. With the increase in prices due to inflation this year the wage adjustments are justified and he supports them.

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

Project Updates

WFP & ETL Design Services: Mr. Munro said HDR provided staff with 75% ETL design drawings for review and comment. He said staff is currently working through this plan set and will provide HDR with comments in the next couple of weeks. HDR will provide staff with an updated opinion of probable construction costs in the coming weeks. He said staff met with HDR on December 21 to update on the progress of the WFP design.

Spieth Road Water Tank Mixers: Mr. Munro said the mixers have been ordered and are expected to arrive at the end of January or early February. He said Practical Inspections, LLC completed the pressure washing of the tanks and they have indicated that the tanks are in good shape and should not need any work for approximately five years. He said this is another example of the maintenance under the asset management program.

CUE Reports & Action Items

None.

Miscellaneous & Member Reports

The Chairman said the candidates have been interviewed for the open positions and the ones chosen have been appointed. He said be safe and healthy during the holiday season, and he wishes everyone a very happy and prosperous 2022.

Public Speakers

None.

Adjourn

As there was no further business, Mr. Abram moved to adjourn, and Mr. Rush seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.

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

Approved _____ 2021.

John Dzwonczyk, Chairman

Robert Munro, Clerk