

## **Board of Public Affairs Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2023**

There was a regular meeting of the Blanchester Board of Public Affairs held on Thursday May 18, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Chairman Bowling. Attending were Chairman Bowling, Trustees Robert Haines, Dennis Blocker, Director Ram Reddy, Mayor John Carmen, Wayne Moore, Don Gephart, Donna Johnson, clerk and Regina Johnson, clerk.

There was a motion/second by Trustee Blocker/Trustee Haines to approve the minutes.  
All in favor - All Yeas. Motion carried.

A motion/second by Trustee Haines/Trustee Blocker to approve the bills listed in Appendix-A for May 2023.  
All in favor - All Yeas. Motion carried.

### **Public Comments:**

Don Gephart asked the Board to consider paying the electric bill i.e., free electric supply for the Senior Citizen Building. Chairman Bowling said we will look in to the cost for further discussion.

### **Clerk's Report:**

The SSI software was discussed. We need to check to see what our agreement was with them as we may already be tied to them.

Taco Bell closing on the UDF property is not completed yet. Schedule wise, they are looking at June for tear down the existing building and then July/August for construction start date.

Staff discussed the continual change in construction material cost and the issue in providing a fixed cost estimation to extend new services or upgrades to customers. Staff prefers to add legal language to the quote such as "quoted price is subject to change due to changes in cost of raw material", to protect BPA from incurring losses due to price increases. Chairman Bowling to assist the staff on this.

Purchased a pickup truck for water department for \$35,436.

There was some discussion on a petition circulated by Council Member Mr. Parks for hiring a Village Administrator. Mayor confirmed the news. However, Chairman Bowling stated that no one has contacted or met him to discuss about it.

There was a motion/second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Blocker to raise postage charges to the Village's portion by \$0.07 (seven cents) to cover the costs.  
All in favor - All Yeas. Motion carried.

Following the Board's approval, staff sold the old/used equipment through Gov. Deals.com (Marketplace) for \$18,145. The Board agreed to deposit this amount into the Water Department Funds.

A total of 1061 water meters have been installed to-date and getting closer to updating the eGov billing software to VIP through SSI.

### **Director:**

The Board approved the Agreement with Jones & Henry to complete the Emergency Action Plan for Reservoir #3 to be qualified for funding to complete the improvements to meet the ODNR regulations, for \$52,400 (because of the time constraints, this agreement was made prior to the Board meeting ( on 4/7/2023) by phone consensus by all the Board members).

There was a motion/second by Trustee Blocker/Trustee Haines  
All in favor - All Yeas. Motion carried.

Procurement of substation construction site: Staff continued to work on Duke's property for Substation site. The BPA and the Duke's officials have come to an agreement and the Solicitor is working on closing documents.

Cherry Street water main replacement and street resurfacing Phase – 2 Project – contractor has resumed the construction work and working on storm sewer part of it. Expects to complete by June 2023.

Gradeco Completed the repairs to the pavement in several locations for \$3,840.

Staff continued to work with RCAP on the project to identify and map lead water service lines. Staff continued to meet and discuss with RCAP on this project.

Staff working with the Ohio EPA on source water protection plan: work in process.

Staff continued to install AMI Water Meters with some continued delays and issues in getting the material delivered by the vendors. 1061 AMI meters have been installed to-date and 1052 are in service to-date.

Staff continued to work with engineers, contractors, and funding and plan approval agencies on:

- Reservoir Number- 3 Improvements – Staff continued to work with ODNR and Jones & Henry on final submittal of plans, and potential cost over runs for construction and engineering and potential help from Ohio EPA for additional funding which is on their list of projects to be approved for funding in 2023. Staff continually following up with the engineers and the ODNR. Revised plans have been submitted for review and approval.

Staff continue to work on grounds maintenance.

**Sewer System:**

Sewer Treatment Plant and Collection System operations are continued to be normal and in compliance with the Ohio EPA Rules & Regulations.

Staff continued to work on repair and maintenance of various equipment at the WWTP and collection system.

Staff worked on several cleanouts for customers.

Staff cleaned the main behind China Dragon Restaurant with the help of Televac.

Board approved to purchase the pre-treatment equipment Bar Screen/Rake Assembly at a cost of \$122,748 and Grit Screw Conveyor and Grit Classifier at a cost of \$56,062 plus the installation costs for the both. The equipment is about 29 years old and way surpassed its life expectancy of about 15 years, and having ongoing expensive repairs – The equipment has been ordered and trying to get more quotes for installation.

Magna Rotor Gear Box locked up and beyond repairable condition. Getting a new Gear Box to replace it. This will be taken care by using the inhouse staff.

Started Chlorine and Bisulfite pumps for summer.

Staff continued to work on grounds maintenance.

**Other Business**

Motion to move into executive session per Ohio Revised Code 121.22 at 8:22 PM. Chairman Bowling/Trustee Blocker.

All in favor – All Yeas. Motion Carried.

Attending were Chairman Bowling, Trustees Robert Haines, Dennis Blocker, Director Ram Reddy, Mayor John Carmen, Donna Johnson, clerk and Regina Johnson, clerk.

Motion/second to end Executive Session at 8:40 PM by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Blocker  
All in favor – All Yeas. Motion Carried.

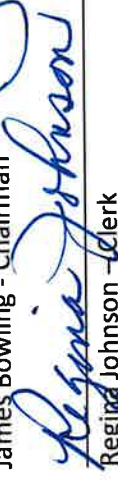
The Board agreed to allow Robert Morris, potential employee for Water Department to reapply after failing drug test in 30 days.

The Board agreed to revise the current official wage scale for BPA to accommodate the proposed wages for electric department employees.  
Staff to prepare the draft incorporating the proposed wages as discussed and present it to the Board's approval and recommendation for the Council's approval to make it official Wage Scale for BPA employees.

All in favor – All Yeas. Motion Carried.

Motion/Second to close the Board meeting at 8:42 pm by Trustee Haines/Trustee Blocker.  
All in favor. All Yeas. Motion Carried

  
James Bowling - Chairman

  
Regina Johnson -Clerk