

Board of Public Affairs Meeting Minutes – January 5, 2023

There was a regular meeting of the Blanchester Board of Public Affairs held on Thursday January 5, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Bowling. Attending were Chairman Bowling, Trustees Robert Haines, Dennis Blocker, Director Ram Reddy, Don Gephardt, John Hill, Riley Hopkins and Donna 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 Blocker/Trustee Haines to approve the bills listed in Appendix-A of January 2023. All in favor – All Yeas. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

John Hill reported a 6-inch flow of water coming from Supinger to John Street Thru the Manhole. The Supervisors of the Water and Sewer Dept.'s let me know this is a normal flow of water and is not a leak. Also, a reminder that the public should not be lifting the lids to the manholes. If something needs checked out to call the office.

John Hill is still questioning the transformer on his property on Columbus Street. I contacted the Electric Supervisor to check on this situation, I was informed the Electric Department would not be making any more trips to check this problem. After 3 trips already made, they have assured us that there is nothing wrong with the transformer and has more capacity than what is needed for the load or any connections.

Don Gephardt and Riley Hopkins discussed increasing the BPA's portion or contribution to pay for the increased cost to restore the men's bathroom (main level of Municipal Bldg.) to \$7785.03.

Motion/Second was made by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Haines to increase the amount. All in favor – 2 Yeas and 1 Nay. Majority rules. Motion carried.

Clerk's Report:

The Board approval for 2023 Board Meetings Calendar.

A motion/second by Trustee Blocker/Trustee Haines to approve. All in favor – All Yeas. Motion carried.

Discussion to nominate the Board Chairman.

Motion/Second to Nominate James Bowling Trustee Haines/Trustee Blocker. All in favor – All Yeas. Motion Carried

Motion/second by Trustee Blocker/Chairman Bowling to Re-appoint BPA employees. All in favor – All Yeas. Motion carried.

Over 90 Days Delinquent accounts total \$14,866.43
Down just a little.

Due to cold weather, service disconnections were not done.

Director:

Procurement of substation construction site: Staff continued to work on Duke's property for Substation site. Working on the site survey.

ISC continued the process of doing the Electric Rate and Cost-of-Service Study as approved by the Board. Staff continued to work on providing the data and information required for the study, to ISC.

Staff continued to have virtual meetings with RCAP, Ohio EPA, and the Engineers to discuss funding and approvals for the projects.

BPA Board Chairman, staff and Legal counsel continued to work with the school district officials and solar power company on some issues with the solar park built by the school district/SP&L at the elementary school. Fence from the unauthorized area has been moved by SP&L.

Cherry Street water main replacement and street resurfacing Phase – 2 Project – contractor waiting for better weather to complete the construction work.

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 continued to meet and discuss with RCAP, EPA, and Jones & Henry on the Reservoir #3 project approvals and funding.

Applied for funding through OPWC for Orchard Circle and Orchard View water main replacement, sewer improvements, and street resurfacing project phase 1 – The project scored well at the County and district 10 level and made it to the list of projects for approval by the State and has a very good chance of getting funded – waiting for the approval by the OPWC.

Staff continued to work on potential funding from local, State and Federal funding agencies for the electric, water, street, and sewer projects.

Mayor continued to look into the required CDBG Income Survey for the area to see if we are qualified to apply for the CDBG funding for the West Fancy Street Water Main Replacement and Street Resurfacing Project phase-2.

Electric System:

Electric Distribution system operation – Continued to be normal with minor problems here and there due to severe winter weather.

Staff continued to work on relocating the primary line on Main Street.

Staff continued to work on upgrading the primary line on Center Street.

Staff helped on the Christmas lighting.

Staff continued to work on non-pay disconnections every month. All or most of the non-paid accounts are disconnected remotely using the AMI system.

Staff started looking for hiring a lineman.

Staff continued to work on system improvements.

Water System:

Water Treatment and Distribution systems operation – continued to be normal and meets the Ohio EPA Rules & Regs.

Staff continued to work with vendors on the cost information for potential repairs and maintenance of water towers on Vine and Fancy Streets, and is in process of review.

Staff hired a part time employee following the Board's approval for a full-time employee due to not finding a suitable candidate.

Part of the funding required for Vine Street Water Tower Rehab is approved by OPWC through funding allocation for Small Governments. Applied for rest of the funding from Ohio EPA. The approval date is moved to June 2023 from February 2023 due to the delays in project schedule.

Staff working with a Vendor on a problem with Raw Water flow meter at the WTP. The repair cost of the meter is estimated to be about \$2,500.

Freezing weather caused plumbing breaks for several commercial, industrial, and residential customers and the distribution system lost about 650,000 gallons of water.

Staff submitted an application to Ohio EPA for a grant approval to procure water distribution system leak detection equipment.

Staff helping sewer department on plant and other equipment repairs.

Reservoir water storage levels: We have about 193 million gallons of storage available to treat and supply for about 17 months at the current flow rate to our residents and neighboring water haulers.

Staff continued to work on various field and treatment plant equipment, and pickup trucks maintenance.

Staff continued to help water and electric meter reading.

Staff and the engineers getting ready to rebid the Fancy Street project.

Staff has repaired several water services.

Stonelick pump station control needs repair and may cost about \$2,400.

Staff repaired water main breaks on W. Fancy St.

Staff continued to install AMI Water Meters with some continued delays and issues in getting the material delivered by the vendors. 851 AMI meters have been installed to-date and 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 worked 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.

Fancy Street sewer lift station pump (one of the two) has been sent for repairs.

Pre-Treatment Equipment - Bar Screen/Rake and Grit Classifier/Auger issues. The equipment is old and way surpassed its life expectancy. Staff continued to look for repair and replacement options and cost estimations.

Electrical contractors continued to work on repairs of a control panel for secondary pump, and on secondary clarifier electrical issues.

Staff continued to work on grounds maintenance.

Other Business

Motion/second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Blocker to move into executive session including Mayor Carman, Director Ram Reddy, and Clerk Donna Johnson according to the ORC section 1.21.22 at 8:09 PM.
All in favor – All Yeas. Motion Carried.

Motion/second to end Executive Session at 9:00PM by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Blocker
All in favor – All Yeas. Motion carried.

Discussion and signature of contract for Legal Representation for BPA by Justin Dickman of Peelle Law for two (2) year term effective February 1, 2023 and ending January 31, 2025 at \$19,600 per year, payable in twelve equal monthly installments.

Motion/second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Haines.
All in favor – All Yeas. Motion Carried.

The Board discussed One time Cost of living Wage Increase/adjustment of 3% for the BPA Hourly Employees, and 3% for the Village Hourly and Salaried Employees, and 5% for the Village Police Hourly and Salaried Employees.

Unanimously approved by the Board Members and to be effective contingent upon Council approval.
All in favor – All Yeas. Motion carried.

The Board Members discussed and approved the Compensatory Time proposal for all the Village/BPA employees unanimously and to be effective contingent upon Council Approval with amending 2022.033 and 2021.003

All in favor – All Yeas. Motion carried.

Discussed extension of probation period for Andrew Johnson and Brennen Hofer (water department employees) for three (3) months.

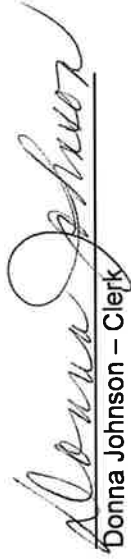
Motion/second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Blocker to extend Probation period for Andrew Johnson and Brennen Hofer (water department employees) for three (3) months
All in favor - All yeas. Motion carried.

Clerk - Donna Johnson Gave her notice to leave the Board of Public Affairs at the end of March.

Motion/Second to close the Board meeting at 9:15 pm by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Blocker.
All in favor. All Yeas. Motion Carried



James Bowling - Chairman



Donna Johnson – Clerk

**Board of Public Affairs Meeting January 5, 2023
Bills for January 2023**

Appendix A

VENDOR	TOTAL	VENDOR	TOTAL
TREASURER, STATE OF OHIO	\$ 1,945.00	DUKE ENERGY	\$ 866.74
IMPA	\$ 390,957.87	EJ PRESCOTT	\$ 260.10
VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER	\$ 13,681.89	BRETT LAY	\$ 150.00
PITNEY BOWES INC.	\$ 511.98	SCOTT HOFFMAN	\$ 150.00
VISA	\$ 301.77	FASTENAL	\$ 52.65
HACH CO.	\$ 702.24	JOHNSON ELECTRIC	\$ 127.74
PITNEY BOWES	\$ 1,073.32	ARAMARK	\$ 3,128.70
VERIZON WIRELESS	\$ 828.75	PITNEY BOWES INC	\$ 280.99
FRONTIER	\$ 2,147.27	PITNEY BOWES INC	\$ 1,596.75
DUKE ENERGY	\$ 3,722.53	VISA	\$ 5,524.68
LYKINS OIL CO.	\$ 3,427.25	ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	\$ 295.32
ALLOWAY	\$ 420.00	CLINTON ELEC & PLUMBING	\$ 165.00
MASI ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	\$ 429.90	KOI ENTERPRISES	\$ 966.97
MIAMI PRODUCTS	\$ 914.00	MASI ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	\$ 160.45
OHIO ASPHALTIC LIMESTONE	\$ 761.63	LYKINS OIL	\$ 2,675.51
MCCOY LAW OFFICES	\$ 1,633.34	BDK FEED & SUPPLY	\$ 600.54
RAWDON MYERS INC	\$ 536.64	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN	\$ 386.69
THERMODYNE ENG	\$ 2,133.00	1ST AYD CORP	\$ 206.94
USIC LOCATING SERVICE	\$ 919.18	THERMODYNE ENG	\$ 18,503.00
CITY OF WILMINGTON LAB	\$ 640.00	TOTAL	\$ 465,809.09
USA BLUEBOOK	\$ 245.93		
STANLEY J BOLKA	\$ 975.00		
CAPLINGER SALES & SERVICE	\$ 45.99		
CORE & MAIN	\$ 755.84		