

## **Board of Public Affairs Meeting Minutes – September 5, 2024**

There was a regular meeting of the Blancheater Board of Public Affairs held on Thursday Sept. 5, 2024. This meeting was held at the BPA Conference Room.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman James Bowling.

Attending was Chairman James Bowling, Trustee Robert Haines, Trustee Dennis Blocker, Director Ram Reddy, Mayor John Carman, Lynn Lewis Village Council, Matt Matthews, Marie Brooker, Chris Hamilton, Beau Hamilton, Jim Stamens (AJ's Pizza) and Donna Johnson Business Manager/Clerk.

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

A motion/second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Blocker to approve the bills listed in Appendix-A.  
All in favor - All Yeas. Motion carried.

### **Public Comment:**

Marie Brooker asked if the Reason for Ignition BBQ problems was the fault of the BPA. Chairman Bowling explained in full detail what took place. Ignition BBQ did apologize publicly to the BPA for their statement on Facebook. This started a conversation from everyone on the function of the BPA. It was explained in full details on our expenses, which most of who was here was unaware of the increases in costs of parts and equipment, materials, operation and maintenance of the systems and business, etc., due to inflation and supply chain issues from last few years.

Questions were asked about allowing Solar Panels: The board informed them that we do allow Solar Panels, and whoever is interested in installing Solar Panel System can pick up an information packet from the BPA office.

It was suggested that we inform the public of what they heard.

We iterated there is a Board Meeting the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month at 7:00PM . We also let them know we publish our minutes and bills every month on the BLANVillage.com webpage.

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

Asked the board to approve a quote from Gardner Denver Nash for a Chlorine Blower for the Wastewater Plant at the cost of \$45,859.00. Delivery estimated at 26 weeks.

A motion/second by Trustee Haines/Trustee Blocker for approval of the quote.  
All Yeas. Motion Carried.

A study was performed by Sekure Merchant on Credit Cards. This is a marketing program offering to make things easier for Board of Public Affairs. Asked the board for approval to proceed with the program.  
A motion was made by all parties to decline the offer.  
All Yeas. Motion Carried.

Informed the Board the New VIP Billing software will go live on 10/25/2024.

We should receive quote from Phoenix Industries in Goshen within a week for a refurbished tanker trailer to haul sludge for the Wastewater Plant.

Agreed by Board to publish a Facebook Page for the Board of Public Affairs.

A motion was made by all parties to agree to setting up a Facebook Page  
All Yeas. Motion Carried

The Board approved the proposed bill format by the staff.

Suggested a 5 Minute recess for the Board meeting.

A motion/Second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Bloker to exit the meeting at 7:56PM

A motion/Second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Haines to re-enter the Board meeting at 8:01PM

### **Director Report:**

Staff asked for the Board's approval to Pay Jones & Henry Engineering \$48,900 to complete the FEMA requirements. This needs to be paid them upfront and will be reimbursable by the funding later.  
All Yeas. Motion Carried.

Staff discussed with the Board on the details of Vine Street Water Tower Rehab Project Bids. Board approved and recommended the Council to award the bid to Clearcreek Coatings, LTD based on the Base Bid with

Alternate #1 and Alternate #2 for \$341,450.00 contingent upon the approval of the BPA and the Village's Solicitors.

A Motion/Second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Haines for the approval as discussed above. All Yeas. Motion Carried.

Staff spent lot of time in identifying the underground lines to help Alta Fiber construction. Ended up fixing several services where the Alta Fiber contractors run into those lines.

Baldwin Street Water Main Replacement project work has been completed using inhouse staff with some help from the Street department. The materials and supplies costed about \$73,000.

Staff attending IMPA Board and Executive Committee and other meetings.

Staff updated the Board on funding and status of all the projects currently in process.

Lazenby Street Water Main Replacement and Street Resurfacing project – Procured required funding for this project and work on design and engineering plans has started with the approvals from the Board and Council in July 2024. The projected potential local match for this project is to be \$0.00 – **Planning to bid the project in spring of 2025.**

Orchard View/ Orchard Circle water, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and street resurfacing phase – 2 project - Procured required funding for this project and work on design and engineering plans has started with the approvals from the Board and Council in July 2024. The projected potential local match for this project is to be \$0.00 - **Planning to bid the project in spring of 2025.**

Orchard View /Orchard Circle water, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and street resurfacing phase– 1 project - procured required funding. The BPA/Village Awarded the contract to Panetta Excavating, Inc. for the construction. Had a pre-construction meeting on 5/31/2024 and the work to start soon. With the Base bid coming under budget, we may not need any local match for this project – **Contractor plans to start construction work this month (September).**

#### **Electric Substation Construction Project:**

- Procurement of land for substation construction is complete.
- Continued to work on construction plans, design, and funding for the project.
- We have applied for DOE grant funding for a projected cost of \$9,000,000 for this project

**Waiting for the DOE approval.**

The Board unanimously approved to start working on clearing the site while waiting for the funding approval – **working on scope of work and specifications.**

#### **Electric Distribution System Upgrade and System Conversion (4.16 KV to 12.47 KV):**

- We have applied for DOE grant funding for a projected cost of \$10,000,000 for this project

**Waiting for the DOE approval.**

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. RCAP's staff and the BPA staff are finishing up the field work – **Contractor's portion of the work is complete. One (1) Lead service line is identified on customer side of the service for which the customer is responsible to replace, and (5) on BPA side on which the staff will be working on to replace them by 2026.**

Staff continued to meet and discuss with RCAP, EPA, USACE, ODNR, FEMA, and Jones & Henry Engineers on the Reservoir #3 project approvals and funding. Current cost estimation to complete this project is about 3.6 million dollars. So far, we have acquired about 2.2 million dollars through OPWC and USACE for this project. Submitted a preliminary application through ODNR to FEMA (HHPD Grants) for procuring rest of the funding – **Waiting for response from FEMA/ODNR.**

#### **Current Status on the Project:**

- Specifications and construction plans have been approved by the ODNR for construction.
- Submitted plans to Ohio EPA and paid the fee for their review and approval for construction – review in process.
- Submitted plans to USACE review and approvals
- Entered into PMP agreement with USACE
- Emergency Action Plan has been submitted and approved by the ODNR.
- FEMA has released the NOFA and the ODNR applied for funding on behalf of the Village/BPA for rest of the funding for construction.
- Staff submitted a 2024 project nomination for EPA funding for Reservoir #3.
- Applied for funding for Reservoir #3 project through Senator Brown's Office from Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funds – in contact with Senator's staff, and
- Also trying for the same through Congressman Wenstrup's office.

- Surveyors working on the Deeds for the land associated with the Reservoir #3 as required by the USACE.

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

West Fancy Street Phase – 2 water main replacement and street resurfacing project – Procured funding for the project except a small amount for local match. Completed survey, established right-of-way, and design is in process – **Completed work on bid documents and engineering, and will be bidding the project this month.**

#### Electric System:

Electric Distribution system operation – Continued to be normal with minor outages due to Duke’s incoming wholesale power.

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

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

Staff continued to work on systemwide improvements.

#### Water System:

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

Reservoir water storage levels: We have about 189 million gallons of storage available to treat and supply for about 12 months at the current flow rate to our residents and neighboring water haulers.

Staff continued to look for procuring grant moneys for an additional emergency generator for water plant.

Cathodic protection unit in Fancy Street Water Tower is damaged due to icing and staff is looking into repair or replace it - staff continued to work on it.

Staff helping sewer department on plant and other equipment repairs.

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 installed 1700 AMI meters have been installed to-date and 1698 are in service to-date.

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.

Annual calibration of Lab Scales been done by Brech Buhler Scales to meet the Ohio EPA Regulations.

Penetta Co. assisted in repairing the equipment at the sewer lift station on St. Rt. 123. Staff continued to work on PT Building Equipment.

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

Staff worked on several cleanouts for customers.

A new water pump has been ordered for the backup generator – waiting for parts.

Staff working on Secondary Clarifier #1. Ordered parts for repairs – waiting for parts.

Staff continued to work on grounds maintenance.

**Other Business:**

There was a motion/second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Haines at 8.55 pm to move into executive session per ORC 121.22 for the discussion of compensation for employees  
All in favor - All Yeas. Motion Carried

A motion/Second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Haines to close executive session at 9:00PM.  
All Yeas. Motion Carried

A Motion/Second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Haines to approve the following step increases for the following employees.

Robin Hillard from A-3-K to A-3-H  
Jared Horner from W-2-I to W-2-F  
Mike Shaw from W-3-J to W-3-G  
Cody Snyder from E-4-J to E-4K (off Probation)  
Dennis Stewart from S-3-H to S-3-E

A Motion/Second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Blocker to close and adjourn the meeting at 9:02 PM  
All Yeas. Motion Carried



James Bowling - Chairman



Donna Johnson, Clerk

Board of Public Affairs Meeting Minutes Appendix A

Bills for September 2024

| VENDOR                               | TOTAL         | VENDOR                         | TOTAL         |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| TREASURER STATE OF OHIO              | \$ 1,188.00   | THERMODYNE                     | \$ 6,136.00   |
| VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER               | \$ 17,718.00  | KOI AUTO PARTS                 | \$ 253.82     |
| PITNEY BOWES                         | \$ 961.83     | OHIO CAT                       | \$ 905.24     |
| PITNEY BOWES                         | \$ 200.00     | CONNOR HOFFMAN                 | \$ 150.00     |
| CINTAS                               | \$ 642.60     | AMWELL                         | \$ 1,272.00   |
| IMPA                                 | \$ 442,594.79 | CHOICE ONE                     | \$ 4,887.50   |
| ADVANCED AUTO PARTS                  | \$ 191.49     | PANETTA EXCAVATING             | \$ 850.00     |
| CAPLINGER SALES AND SERVICE          | \$ 733.45     | ANIXTER                        | \$ 5,205.70   |
| DICKMAN LAW OFFICE LLC               | \$ 2,250.00   | AIM MEDIA MIDWEST              | \$ 243.00     |
| MIAMI PRODUCTS & CHEMICAL COMPANY    | \$ 1,402.00   | ANIXTER                        | \$ 12,725.50  |
| UTE (UTILITY TRUCK EQUIPMENT)        | \$ 17,208.22  | THE HOME DEPOT                 | \$ 85.36      |
| UNITED SYSTEMS                       | \$ 824.12     | MIAMI PRODUCTS & CHEMICAL CO   | \$ 501.20     |
| BUCKEYE STATE PIPE & SUPPLY CO       | \$ 1,251.48   | MCCARTY ASSOCIATES             | \$ 6,900.00   |
| FRONTIER                             | \$ 1,587.23   | EJP                            | \$ 1,013.16   |
| DUKE ENERGY                          | \$ 379.89     | HACH                           | \$ 888.60     |
| DUKE ENERGY                          | \$ 143.14     | UNITED SYSTEMS                 | \$ 387.05     |
| VERIZON WIRELESS                     | \$ 879.28     | PHOENIX INDUSTRIES & APPARATUS | \$ 17,750.00  |
| IMAGINE THAT TOOL RENTAL             | \$ 1,075.00   | UTILITY TRUCK EQUIPMENT        | \$ 3,780.00   |
| CLINTON ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING SUPPLY | \$ 443.89     | MASI LABORATORIES              | \$ 2,271.45   |
| PROSOURCE WATER PRODUCTS             | \$ 345.00     | BONDED CHEMICALS               | \$ 5,400.00   |
| HYDRAMACHINE INC                     | \$ 428.74     | COX PRINTING                   | \$ 1,334.00   |
| BDK                                  | \$ 566.83     | WORLD FUEL SERVICES            | \$ 2,100.32   |
| BETHESDA HEALTHCARE INC              | \$ 56.00      | BUCKEYE STATE PIPE & SUPPLY CO | \$ 581.88     |
| SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS                   | \$ 21,092.10  | WATER SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED      | \$ 1,693.00   |
| CALGON CARBON                        | \$ 29,600.00  | USA BLUEBOOK                   | \$ 717.75     |
| JUSTIN DICKMAN                       | \$ 1,633.33   | JEREMY CANTER                  | \$ 150.00     |
| DUKE ENERGY                          | \$ 70.90      | SPECTRUM ENTERPRISE            | \$ 416.47     |
| ANIXTER                              | \$ 1,777.50   | BPA CASH DRAWER                | \$ 31.70      |
| STANLEY J. BOLKA                     | \$ 780.00     | JAMES BOWLING                  | \$ 165.00     |
| GFS CHEMICALS                        | \$ 526.41     | VISA                           | \$ 1,913.64   |
| OHIO ASPHALTIC LIMESTONE CORP        | \$ 2,457.24   | TOTAL                          | \$ 632,487.13 |
| COPP SYSTEMS (CERTASITE)             | \$ 769.33     |                                |               |

