

Board of Public Affairs Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2023

There was a regular meeting of the Blanchester Board of Public Affairs held on Thursday October 5, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Trustee Robert Haines in place of Chairman Bowling. Attending were Trustee Robert Haines, Trustee Dennis Blocker, Mayor John Carmen, Council Member Reilly Hopkins, Director Ram Reddy, and Donna Johnson.

Chairman Bowling was out of country and Regina Johnson clerk wasn't feeling well. Both were excused.

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.
All in favor - All Yeas. Motion carried.

Clerk's Report:

Board discussed and approved to hire Christopher Reiley as Water Plant helper at a starting wage step W-3-J.

Staff discussed the VIP billing Software upgrade and issues with SSI. Staff to check on SSI contract and investigate other better options available.

The Board has discussed the Orchard View and Orchard Circle Water Main and Street Improvements Project Phase 1, and the Engineering Agreement for the same from Choice One Engineering Co. for \$40,650. Local Match for this project is to be shared 40% by Water Department and 60% by the Street Department.
A motion/second by Trustee Blocker /Trustee Haines to approve the Engineering Agreement as proposed by Choice One Engineering Co. and recommend the Council to approve the same
All in favor - All Yeas. Motion carried.

Discussed the delays in getting the BPA bills processed by the Fiscal Office with the Mayor and the Mayor plans to have a meeting with the Fiscal Office on the issue on Tuesday next week.

Director:

Stone Environmental started working on Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste Investigation for the Reservoir #3 Improvement Project as it is required by the USACE.

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

A \$500,000 CDBG grant funding is approved for West Fancy Street Water Main and Storm & Sanitary Sewer, and Street Resurfacing phase-2 Improvements project.

We have applied for OPWC grant funding for Lazenby and Orchard Circle projects to procure rest of the funding for these projects.

Taco Bell under construction and there is substantial progress.

Procurement of substation construction site: Staff continued to work on Duke's property for Substation site. The BPA Solicitor Justin Dickman and Duke's Legal Counsel are in process finalizing the paper work for closing.

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, USACE, ODNR and Jones & Henry on the Reservoir #3 project approvals and funding. Current cost estimation to complete this project is between 3.0 and 3.2 million dollars.

Applied for funding for Reservoir #3 project through Senator Brown's Office from Congressionally Directed Spending(CDS) funds – in contact with Senator's staff.

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

Preparation of specifications and bid documents to bid for rehab work on Vine Street Elevated Storage Tank is in process.

East Fancy Street Water Main Replacement and Street Resurfacing project – substantial completion is done.

BP Gas Station & convenience store is under construction.

Electric System:

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

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 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 system improvements.

Water System:

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

Water usage has increased due to hot and dry weather, pool filling, and hydrant flushing.

Staff continued to look into applying for a grant to procure an additional emergency generator for water plant.

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.

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 and ODOD.

Staff helping sewer department on plant and other equipment repairs.

Reservoir water storage levels: We have about 157 million gallons of storage available to treat and supply for about 14 months at the current flow rate to our residents and neighboring water haulers.

Due to hot and dry weather conditions the chemical costs have gone up to treat the water and to stay in compliance with Ohio EPA.

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 continued to work with the Ohio EPA on source water protection plan: work in process.

Staff continued to install AMI Water Meters with continued delays and issues in getting the material delivered by the vendors. 1427 AMI meters have been installed to-date and 1426 are in service to-date.

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

- Reservoir Number-3 Improvements – Finally the specifications and construction plans have been approved by the ODNR for construction.
- EAP has been approved by the ODNR and working on applying for FEMA funding through ODNR.

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.

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 – Continued.

Chlorine blower has been sent for repairs and waiting for them to complete the repairs.

Received new Magna Rotor Gear Box and the installation is completed using the inhouse staff and it is back in operation now.

Yearly calibration on lab equipment and the plant flow (Influent and Effluent) equipment has been completed.

Staff continued to work on grounds maintenance.

Staff continued to get ready to start sludge hauling.

Other Business

Motion/Second to close the Board meeting at 7:57 pm by Trustee Blocker/Trustee Haines.

All in favor - All Yeas. Motion Carried



James Bowling - Chairman

Regina Johnson, Clerk

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VENDOR	TOTAL	VENDOR	TOTAL
CINTAS	\$1,849.65	PANETTA EXCAVATING	\$20,000.00
ADVANCE AUTO PARTS	\$103.49	MASI LABORATORIES	\$354.60
IMPA	\$461,019.53	UNITED SYSTEMS	\$12,141.60
TREASURE STAT OF OHO	\$1,154.00	MICRO CENTER	\$59.98
VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER	\$17,963.88	ALLOWAY	\$140.00
LOWES	\$17.08	STANLEY J BOLKA	\$780.00
PITNEY BOWES	\$200.00	ANIXTER	\$2,091.80
PEELLE LAW OFFICE	\$1,633.33	BEST ONE	\$1,877.57
AUTOZONE	\$33.55	DUKE	\$48.78
KILEY TREE SERVICE	\$7,177.50	MASI LABORATORIES	\$836.25
CLINTON ELECTRICAL	\$56.25	LYKINS	\$1,704.19
KOI	\$172.03	CLINTON ELECTRICAL	\$35.07
DUKE	\$777.81	MIAMI PRODUCTS &	
NEWS JOURNAL	\$165.00	CHEMICAL	\$515.00
VERIZON	\$803.50	SPECTRUM	\$413.46
USIC	\$3,651.14	VISA	\$3,405.95
		TOTALS	\$541,181.99