

Board of Public Affairs Meeting Minutes – May 2, 2024

There was a regular meeting of the Blanchester Board of Public Affairs Thursday May 2, 2024. 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, John Hill Council Member, Lynn Lewis Council Member, Paul Daniels Parks Department, Patrolman Alex Bouton, Donna Johnson Business Manager/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. All in favor - All Yeas. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Officer Bouton requested the Board to use the Reservoir for having a Cops and Bobbers event in July. Board discussed and approved unanimously to the use of Reservoir as requested with a stipulation. The Police department have to have all the participants sign a waiver form that is used by the Parks department to protect BPA from any liabilities.

All in favor- All Yeas. Motion Carried.

Clerk's Report:

Staff presented a new written policy for Level Billing.

Motion/Second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Haines to approve the Policy as presented

All in favor – All Yeas. Motion Carried (Policy signed by Board members).

Identified all the Deeds for the Water Department and sent them to our Solicitor for review. This was needed to identify the deeds for the Reservoir #3 project for USACE Real Estate Department.

Discussed to change the effective date for the Sewer Rate increase. The effective date for the first 4% increase will be June of 2024 and the second 4% rate increase effective date will be June of 2025. All in favor – All Yeas. Motion Carried.

Board approved cost of \$2,985 for the inspection of water towers using Complete Restoration, LLC services.

Director:

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

Applied for OPWC grant funding for Lazenby Street Water Main Replacement and Street Resurfacing project to procure rest of the funding for Engineering and Construction of this project. This project has scored well in District 10 and been sent to OPWC for funding - **Waiting for the Approval from OPWC.** Planning to start working on the design in June/July of 2024.

Orchard View water, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and street resurfacing phase – 2 project - procured most of the required funding for construction and engineering and applied for the rest from OPWC. Total estimated project cost is \$800,500.00 (applied for OPWC Grant \$300,000.00, Has approved funds of \$500,500.00 from ODOD, and potentially the local match for this project is \$0.00).

This project has scored well in District 10 and been sent to OPWC for funding – **Waiting for the OPWC approval.** Planning to start working on the design in June/July of 2024.

Orchard View water, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and street resurfacing phase – 1 project -procured required funding. Total estimated project Cost is \$735,940.00 (OPWC Grant \$500,000.00, OPWC Loan \$235,940.00 at 0% interest for 20 years term, ODOD Grant funds \$204,590.00, and Local match \$25,460.00 which is shared by water and street departments at 40%/60% respectively).

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.

Procurement of land for substation construction is complete. Continued to work on construction plans, design, and funding for the project.

We have provided information and requested AMP to include our projects in the concept paper submitted by them on behalf of the members for DOE funding under the GRIP Topic 1 for this project and also for the Distribution system upgrade. We have asked funding for a projected cost of \$9,000,000 for the Substation Construction and \$10,000,000 for the Distribution System Upgrade including System Conversion from 4.16 KV to 12.47 KV.

Continued to work with AMP and providing the information on system improvements we have made in last 3 years along with the costs as required by the DOE - **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 – **Work in progress.**

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.

Part of the funding required for Vine Street Water Tower Rehab is approved by OPWC (\$500,000) through funding allocation for Small Governments. Applied for rest of the funding from Ohio EPA and; Also, reapplied for replacement of the water tower with a new one - grant of \$1.737 million from ODOD – **Waiting for response from ODOD.**

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

Staff submitted a 2024 project nomination for EPA funding for Vine Street Elevated Storage Tank.

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

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 - Total cost \$515,825.00 (CDBG Grant \$500,000.00 (Local match \$45,825.00). Completed survey, established right-of-way, and design is in process, and getting ready to bid the project in next few weeks.

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 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.

Staff continued to look for procuring grant moneys for 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.

Staff will be flushing the Fire Hydrants from May 6, 2024 to May 10, 2024.

Catholic 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.

Reservoir water storage levels: We have about 235 million gallons of storage available to treat and supply for about 22 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 continued to install AMI Water Meters with continued delays and issues in getting the material delivered by the vendors. 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.

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.

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 (New Bar Screen and Rake Assembly, and New Grit Classifier) ordered has arrived, and getting quotes from vendors for installation – Continued.

Staff continued to work on grounds maintenance.

Other Business

There was a motion/second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Blocker at 8:30 pm to move into executive session per ORC 121.22 for the discussion of compensation for employees
All in favor - All Yeas. Motion Carried

There was a motion/second by Charman Bowling/Trustee Blocker to exit executive session at 8:40 pm

All in favor - All Yeas. Motion Carried
Discussed employee compensation, Board agreed for Ram Reddy to speak with Mayor. Waiting for approval.

Motion/Second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Blocker to close the Board meeting at 8:47PM
All in favor - All Yeas. Motion Carried.



James Bowling - Chairman



Donna Johnson, Clerk

Board of Public Affairs Meeting Minutes Appendix A

Bills for May 2024

VENDOR	TOTAL	VENDOR	TOTAL
ADVANCED AUTO PARTS	\$ 357.54	CAPLINGER SALES AND SERVICE	\$ 341.96
IMPA	\$ 430,914.50	THERMODYNE ENGINEERING	\$ 10,426.73
CINTAS	\$ 789.04	CITY OF WILMINGTON LABORATORY	\$ 720.00
VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER	\$ 17,367.25	NECO WATER	\$ 4,440.00
TREASURER STATE OF OHIO	\$ 1,199.00	USA BLUEBOOK	\$ 485.30
CLINTON ELECTRICAL AND PUMBING	\$ 1,277.27	MIAMI PRODUCTS & CHEMICAL	\$ 617.75
IMAGINE THAT	\$ 100.00	JUSTIN DICKMAN	\$ 1,633.33
CORE & MAIN	\$ 2,740.12	ANIXTER	\$ 1,723.00
MILLER SECURITY SERVICES	\$ 75.00	STANLEY J. BOLKA	\$ 780.00
VISA BILL	\$ 1,034.21	WATER SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED	\$ 1,603.00
OTC INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES	\$ 568.69	SMITHS AUTOMOTIVE	\$ 379.98
GRADECO OF CLINTON COUNTY	\$ 4,250.00	DUKE ENERGY	\$ 75.66
WORLD KINECT ENERGY SOLUTIONS	\$ 3,203.37	DUKE ENERGY	\$ 460.67
EJP	\$ 202.75	MASI LABORATORIES	\$ 644.00
KOI AUTOPARTS	\$ 593.37	FRONTIER	\$ 1,545.23
SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS	\$ 3,920.00	VISA	\$ 1,338.71
SPECTRUM ENTERPRISE	\$ 830.58	VERIZON WIRELESS	\$ 815.90
SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS	\$ 24,900.00	DONNA JOHNSON	\$ 41.67
PRIME FLEET DIELECTRIC SERVICES	\$ 380.00	PANETTA EXCAVATING	\$ 9,887.76
SIMPLE CELL MONITORING	\$ 235.00	SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS	\$ 1,036.13
MIAMI PRODUCTS & CHEMICAL	\$ 284.75	PITNEY BOWES PURCHASE POWER	\$ 200.00
CLINTON ELECTRICAL AND PUMBING	\$ 29.86	DUKE ENERGY	\$ 544.97
TIRE DISCOUNTERS	\$ 1,197.76	BONDED CHEMICALS	\$ 1,834.00
CHOICE ONE ENGINEERING	\$ 3,788.10	BDK FEED & SUPPLY	\$ 309.60
BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS	\$ 36.93		\$ 627,434.02
HYLANT ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	\$ 42,765.26		
CHOICE ONE ENGINEERING	\$ 10,197.50		
GREAT LAKES COMMUNITY ACTION	\$ 4,100.00		
USIC LOCATING SERVICES	\$ 438.22		
EJP	\$ 27,772.60		

