

Board of Public Affairs Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2025

There was a regular meeting of the Blanchester Board of Public Affairs held on Thursday April 17, 2025.

This meeting was held at the BPA Conference Room.

The meeting was called to order at 6:22 PM by Chairman Bowling.

Attending was Chairman James Bowling, Trustee Dennis Blocker, Director Ram Reddy, Council Member Lynn Lewis, Mayor John Carman and Donna Johnson Business Manager/Clerk.

There was a motion/second by Trustee Blocker/Chairman Bowling 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.

Clerk's Report:

Asked for the Board approval to purchase new computers for Office Staff due to Windows 10 no longer being supported.

A motion/second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Blocker for the purchase of the New Computers

All in favor – All Yeas. Motion Carried.

Board approved a purchase of Hydro Excavation Equipment from Best Equipment Co. through Sourcewell pricing system for \$129K. The original price of the equipment was for \$140K. The cost will be shared among electric, water, and sewer departments.

A motion/second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Blocker to pay \$129K invoice from Best Equipment

All in favor – All yeas. Motion Carried

There was a discussion about the sign installed for the BPA future substation site.

Brought up a customer who has Solar Panels and not registered/hooked up with the BPA. Mayor, James and Ram looking into legal issues.

Engineering Services change order for the work on new Substation – Approval for ISC through IMPA to perform the work.

A motion/second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Blocker to approve the work not to exceed \$17K.

All in favor – All yeas. Motion Carried.

Director Report:

Staff continued to attend IMPA Board and Executive Committee and other meetings.

Staff updated the Board on funding and status of all the projects that are currently in process and future potential projects.

Staff planning to apply for CDBG/OPWC grant funding for S. Wright Street water main replacement and street improvements project. Also, planning to work on some inhouse small projects using our own staff.

Staff continued to work with AMP to get grant funding to help on Cyber Security.

Lazenby Street Water Main Replacement and Street Resurfacing project – Procured required funding of \$584,900 in grants for this project and the contract had been awarded to start work on this project. Construction Completion of this Project is scheduled to be by November 2025.

The projected potential local match for this project is to be \$0.00.

Orchard View/ Orchard Circle water, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and street resurfacing phase - 2 project: Procured required funding of \$795,400 in grants for this project and work on design and engineering plans is in process. Planning to bid the project soon.

The projected potential local match for this project is to be \$0.00.

Orchard View /Orchard Circle water, storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and street resurfacing phase– 1 project - procured required funding in grants for this project. The construction is in process. Potentially, we may not need any local match for this project.

- All sanitary sewer laterals have been separated.
- Contractor plans to work on the 24-inch storm sewer next, due to the depth of the pipe.
- Once storm sewer work is completed, the contractor plans to start installing the new water main

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 and were not successful in getting the funding in first phase.

Planning to apply again in next phase of funding release.

The BPA Board approved a Budgetary Construction Cost Estimate of \$10,373, 244 for the Substation Project, and IMPA/ISC staff started the engineering & design work on initial phase of the project.

The Board approved \$114,000 ISC proposal unanimously for the phase-1 engineering & design work.

The Board approved a change order for not exceed \$17,000

The site had been cleared and a sign had been installed.

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 We were not successful in getting the funding in first phase.

Planning to apply again in next phase of funding release.

Staff continued to work on Distribution System Upgrades with local funds.

Staff continued to meet and discuss with RCAP on GIS Mapping and Asset Management.

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 has increased from about 3.6 million to about \$4.3 million dollars. So far, we have acquired about 2.2 million dollars through OPWC and USACE for this project.

Working through ODNR to procure rest of the funding from FEMA (HHPD Grants) – Waiting for response from FEMA/ODNR (Funding is on hold due to President Trump’s executive order).

Current Status on the Project (Reservoir #3 Improvements):

- Specifications and construction plans have been approved by the ODNR for construction.
- Ohio EPA reviewed and approved construction plans
- Submitted plans to USACE review and approvals – in process
- 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 2025 project nomination for EPA funding for Reservoir #3.
- Trying to get some funding for the project through Senate Offices from Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funds – in contact with Senator’s staff, and
- Also trying for the same through Congressman’s office.
- Completed Survey work on Deeds for the land associated with the Reservoir #3 and submitted it to USACE as required.
- Bidding planned for June/September 2025.
- Working on some more information requests from USACE.
- FEMA Grant \$1,467,308 applied for has been put on hold pending the outcome of the President Trump’s executive order, holding all funding until a review has been completed
- Working with USACE to get reimbursement on expenses incurred for the project construction to-date.

Submitted a Draw request #1 for an amount of \$52,538.45 reimbursement, for the Period of Performance 05/12/23-07/12/23. Received the USACE portion of the payment

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 \$500,000 grant funding from CDBG for the project except a small amount for local match – construction work is in process and is in final stage - Completed installation of 8” water main.

Contractor to start work on Vine Street water tower project soon.

Electric System:

Electric Distribution system operation – Continued to be normal with minor weather-related problems.

Staff working on commercial and residential customer service upgrades.

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 working on upgrading the primary line on West Fancy Street.

Completed work on service upgrades in the alley next to Library.

Staff continued to work on systemwide improvements as weather permits.

Water System:

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

Reservoir water storage levels: We have about 236 million gallons of storage available to treat and supply for about 19 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 continued to help 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 reading water and electric meters as required.

1742 AMI meters have been installed and are in service to-date. Staff continued to install new heads and radios on majority of the larger meters in town for remote reading purposes.

Staff continued to work on clearing the brush around the reservoirs as weather permits.

Fill station quit working and costing about \$2,000 to fix it.

Staff installed a flush hydrant at Vine Street water tower.

Replaced Fire Hydrant at the intersection of Depot and Walnut Streets.

Staff continue to work on grounds maintenance as weather permits.

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 on the collection system.

Working on plant electric control systems wiring upgrade.

Staff worked on several cleanouts for customers.

Hired Televac to clean Fancy Street sewer main. Found a brick in the main and some roots in the main.

Magna Rotor needs bearing replacement.

Both the digester blowers need to be worked on.

Secondary Clarifier #1 needs rebuild of work gear.

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.

Old fence between BPA and Mr. Wilson property has been removed, and cleaned the brush to replace fence – in process and will be worked on as time and weather permits.

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 G1 for the discussion of compensation for BPA employees
All in favor - All Yeas. Motion Carried

A motion/Second by Trustee Blocker/Chairman Bowling to close executive session at 9:33 PM.
All Yeas. Motion Carried

No action to be taken.

A Motion/Second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Blocker to close and adjourn the meeting at 9:34 PM
All Yeas. Motion Carried


James Bowling - Chairman


Donna Johnson, Clerk

Board of Public Affairs Meeting Minutes Appendix A

BILLS FOR APRIL 2025

VENDOR	TOTAL	VENDOR	TOTAL
IMPA	\$ 490,651.34	BILL MARTIN AUTO CENTER	\$ 1,321.08
VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER	\$ 20,007.00	CHOICE ONE	\$ 370.00
TREASURER STATE OF OHIO	\$ 1,520.00	MAGULACS TIRE SERVICE	\$ 1,023.00
CINTAS	\$ 2,884.95	DUKE ENERGY	\$ 57.51
DUKE ENERGY	\$ 2,801.60	EJP	\$ 3,080.72
IMPA SERVICE CORP	\$ 3,398.70	PEREGRINE COOPERATION	\$ 1,182.11
CLINTON ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING SUPPLY	\$ 317.48	VERIZON BUSINESS	\$ 856.84
FRONTIER	\$ 1,820.20	BUCKEYE STATE PIPE & SUPPLY	\$ 1,695.29
BODIE MECHANICAL SERVICES	\$ 32,722.20	UTILITY TRUCK EQUIPMENT	\$ 3,667.36
ALTEC PARTS	\$ 3,874.71	ROBINS DRAWER	\$ 39.25
THE JOHNSON ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY	\$ 1,820.00	CUSTOM RYTING	\$ 670.00
WATER SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED	\$ 709.45	STANLEY J. BOLKA	\$ 780.00
GRAINGER	\$ 106.86	AMERICAN SAFTEY UTILITY CORPORATION	\$ 347.62
HACH	\$ 680.25	USIC	\$ 1,167.76
OTC INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES	\$ 7,212.12	CAPLINGER SALES AND SERVICE	\$ 126.44
THERMODYNE	\$ 6,136.00	T & R ELECTRIC	\$ 2,187.82
WINDY RIDGE LAND MANAGEMENT	\$ 12,000.00	CORE & MAIN	\$ 11,446.96
DUKE ENERGY	\$ 733.42	SHEAKLEY WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT	\$ 55.00
TELE VAC ENVIRONMENTAL	\$ 2,800.00	IRWIN FIRE EQUIPMENT	\$ 20.00
SIMPLE CELL MONITORING	\$ 360.00	CHOICE ONE	\$ 165.00
STANLEY J. BOLKA	\$ 780.00	JONES & HENRY	\$ 1,660.08
USA BLUEBOOK	\$ 467.68	THOMASSON COMPANY	\$ 13,650.00
ANIXTER	\$ 13,526.40	RAM REDDY	\$ 600.00
BDK	\$ 698.12	BEST EQUIPMENT	\$ 124,228.00
SUNRISE COOPERATIVE	\$ 2,546.01	JUSTIN DICKMAN	\$ 1,633.33
MASI LABORATORIES	\$ 3,347.60	VISA	\$ 2,355.51
BONDED CHEMICAL	\$ 2,244.00	WILSON EXCAVATING OF JACKSON COUNTY	\$ 98,035.34
HYLANT	\$ 559.00	TOTAL	\$ 889,147.11

