

Board of Public Affairs Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2024

There was a regular meeting of the Blanchester Board of Public Affairs held on Thursday November 14, 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, and Donna Johnson Business Manager/Clerk.

There was a motion/second by Trustee Haines/Trustee blocker 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.

Clerk's Report:

Informed the Board of the complexity of the new VIP software program. Causing more clerical work to take place. Explained in detail and suggested the office staff be given a step raise.

At the suggestion of the Water Department, recommended we purchase A Jet-Vac for Hydro excavator. This would eliminate the hand digging of water main breaks etc. Should be divided between Water Sewer and Street. Suggested further discussion.

Mayor asked if we would split the cost of a tree removal on Supinger, cost of \$500. Village to also pay \$500.00.

A Motion/Second by unanimous vote by all Board Members All Yeas Motion Carried.

Director Report:

Staff continued to work on getting the quotes for Vine Street Water Tower Rehab Project Construction Inspection – Contractor to start Rehab work on it as weather permits. OPWC is funding this project with a small portion of it as local match.

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 is in process. 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 is in process. 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 construction is in process. With the Base bid been under budget, potentially, we may not need any local match for this project.

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 is working on to replace them by 2026. At this point we are about \$8,100 underbudget and no local match.

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 (Reservoir #3 Improvements):

- 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 – Approved.
- 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.
- **Working with USACE to get reimbursement on expenses incurred for the project construction to-date.**

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 from CDEG for the project except a small amount for local match – **work is in process.**

Electric System:

Electric Distribution system operation – Continued to be normal.

The bucket truck is back in service and the rental truck has been returned.

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.

Continued working on service upgrades in the alley next to Library.

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 145 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. Due to drought, we have been taking some conservative measures on water haulers, specifically on construction contractors.

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 reading water and electric meters.

Staff installed 1723 AMI meters have been installed to-date and 1720 are in service to-date, and 2 meters are removed to accommodate the owner for remodeling work on the property.

Staff working on clearing the brush around the reservoirs.

Staff flushed the dead-end fire hydrants as a part of the system flush.

Replaced a fire hydrant on Watkins Road.

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.

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.

Other Business:

There was a motion/second by Chairman Bowling/Trustee Haines at 8:31 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 Blocker to close executive session at 8:42 PM.
All Yeas. Motion Carried

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

Rusty Hampton from Step:	E-1-K to E-1-L
Matthew Johnson from Step:	S-1-F TO S-1-G
Kim Leath from Step:	A-3-I TO A-3-J
Wayne Moore from Step:	W-1-J TO W-1-K
Frank Rineair from Step:	S-2-E TO S-2-F

For December
Jeremy Canter from Step: E-2-K to E-2-L
All Yeas. Motion Carried

A Motion/Second by Trustee Blocker/Trustee Haines to close and adjourn the meeting at 8:44 PM
All Yeas. Motion Carried


James Bowling - Chairman


Donna Johnson, Clerk

Board of Public Affairs Meeting Minutes Appendix A

VENDOR	TOTAL	VENDOR	TOTAL
IMPA	\$ 377,938.02	JUSTIN DICKMAN	\$ 1,633.33
VILLAGE OF BLANCHESTER	\$ 16,976.00	DUKE ENERGY	\$ 71.94
TREASURER STATE OF OHIO	\$ 1,046.00	AMP	\$ 600.00
CINTAS	\$ 2,232.04	MILLER SECURITY SERVICES	\$ 75.00
PITNEY BOWES	\$ 865.52	STANLEY J. BOLKA	\$ 975.00
PITNEY BOWES	\$ 200.00	JR. O.U.A.M #134 116 N. BROADWAY	\$ 157.45
ADVANCED AUTO	\$ 239.75	CHOICE ONE ENGINEERING	\$ 80.00
VISA	\$ 3,890.53	CORE & MAIN	\$ 617.00
CLINTON ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING			
SUPPLY	\$ 1,444.00	BRENCO	\$ 350.47
COX PRINTING	\$ 1,435.86	NECO	\$ 1,089.74
BDK	\$ 123.05	THE HOME DEPOT	\$ 223.15
SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS	\$ 12,450.00	THERMODYNE	\$ 9,550.35
DUKE ENERGY	\$ 566.71	HYDRO CONTROLS	\$ 474.65
FRONTIER	\$ 1,622.24	CLERMONT COUNTY TREASURER	\$ 1,456.00
		CLINTON ELECTRICAL & PLUMBING	
WATER SOLUTIONS UNLIMITED	\$ 1,693.00	SUPPLY	\$ 138.63
CAPLINGER SALES AND SERVICE	\$ 105.34	PEREGRINE CORPORATION	\$ 1,087.24
VERIZON WIRELESS	\$ 856.84	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	\$ 2,600.00
COOKS ELECTRIC	\$ 1,000.00	CERTASITE	\$ 421.52
BONDED CHEMICALS	\$ 2,244.00	ICS ELECTRICAL SERVICES	\$ 2,575.05
THERMODYNE	\$ 20,636.00	ANIXTER	\$ 2,573.10
ANIXTER	\$ 1,673.00	TOTAL	\$ 486,436.53
MASI LABORATORIES	\$ 3,060.60		
WORLD FUEL/ LYKINS ENERGY	\$ 4,152.35		
OHIO EPA	\$ 45.00		
MIAMI PRODUCTS & CHEMICAL COMPANY	\$ 1,368.70		
OHIO ASPHALTIC LIMESTONE CORP	\$ 1,618.65		
BUCKEYE STATE PIPE & SUPPLY CO	\$ 203.71		