

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
LORAIN COUNTY RURAL WASTEWATER DISTRICT  
February 6, 2014**

**Call to Order:**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lorain County Rural Wastewater District was held at the LORCO offices, 22898 West Road, Wellington, Ohio. President McConnell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Trustee Roll Call:**

Howard Born – PRESENT	Bill Donges – PRESENT	Neil Lynch - PRESENT
Rita Canfield – ABSENT	Michael Hill – ABSENT	James McConnell - PRESENT
Gerald Cowie – PRESENT	Rick Hutman – PRESENT	John Piwinski - PRESENT
Mary Beth Derikito – PRESENT	Cindy Kurpely – PRESENT	Del Roig - PRESENT
Tom Steigerwald – PRESENT	Thomas Lahetta – PRESENT	James Wright - PRESENT
		James Woodrum – PRESENT

\*: LaGrange Township was represented by Trustee Doug Gardner but he was not an official alternate.

**Also in Attendance:**

Eugene M. Toy, Executive Director; Don Krueck, New Russia Twp.; Dave Covell, Lorain County Health Department; Paul Rickey, resident

**Approval of Minutes:**

It was moved by Jim Wright, with a second by Tom Lahetta to approve the January 9, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. All voted yea. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

A presentation was given to the Board by Mr. Dave Covell of the Lorain County Health Department. Mr. Covell briefed the Board regarding remaining homes in the Phase 1 project area that are not yet connected to the system. According to figures presented by Mr. Covell, 903 homes are connected and 136 are not connected. All unconnected homes have been sent “90/60/30 day” letters by the health department advising them of the requirement to connect. The health department will be holding informal hearings with these property owners. If the hearings do not produce satisfactory results then the health department will work with the county prosecutor’s office to pursue legal action and force connection. In order to force connection, the collection system must be both accessible (on the “property” side of the road) and available (in LORCO’s facilities planning area).

Finance Committee Chairman John Piwinski reported that the committee had met at 6 pm prior to the Board meeting. The committee discussed prioritizing existing debt and developing a schedule for debt repayment. A budget adjustment will be presented to the Board for consideration in March.

Area resident Paul Rickey addressed the Board about the condition of Flint Ridge Drive and claims that it was damaged and not properly repaired during the Phase 1 project.

**President’s Report:**

Reported that LORCO was represented at the January 21, 2014 ALMU board meeting. LORCO presented information regarding LORCO’s status as an Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 6119 organization. He reported that there is a good working relationship between the LORCO executive director and ALMU’s chief utilities executive Todd Danielson. The ALMU Board agreed to continue the \$15,000 monthly cooperative agreement payment for a period of at least six months. Reminded

Board members that they had received executive director performance evaluation forms and asked that they be returned within two weeks so that he could compile them and they would be discussed in executive session at the March LORCO Board meeting.

Mr. McConnell raised the issue of 10% rate increases that were implemented with January 2014 billing. It was his recollection that tap fee increases were to be automatic but that there was supposed to be a review and discussion by the Board prior to implementing the 10% rate increase. Board member Cindy Korpely agreed that it was her recollection also that the Board was going to review and discuss LORCO finances before authorizing rate increases. Mr. McConnell stated that a mailing should have been sent to customers sometime in late 2013 notifying them of the pending increase. He also stated that it may be difficult to justify to the ALMU Board rolling back the 10% increase. It was suggested by several Board members that the LORCO executive director have a discussion with ALMU to determine if ALMU had an opinion regarding a potential rollback of the rate increase. Board vice president Neil Lynch cautioned about stating that LORCO rates were the "most expensive" in the area. LORCO is a new organization in a rural setting with debt service payments that many older, more established utilities do not have.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-2 Approval of January deposits and payments** It was moved by Roig, with a second by Woodrum to approve the list as presented. The vote was as follows. 14 Yea. 0 Nay. Motion carried.

**Executive Director Report:**

Briefed the board regarding a meeting that he attended at Pheasant Run Village on January 20<sup>th</sup>; a meeting that was held January 17<sup>th</sup> at LORCO offices with area developers; Local Government Innovation Fund (LGIF) grant application status; attendance at Certified Public Records Training seminar he was attending February 7<sup>th</sup> in Westlake; and presented a petty cash report.

**Other Business:**

Board member Del Roig informed the Board of a presentation he had viewed on ALMU's "Pegcentral" web site regarding their January 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting. Board President McConnell and Executive Director Gene Toy were present at this meeting and Toy made a presentation to the ALMU Board about the history of LORCO and the authority of an ORC 6119 organization to assess specially benefitting users for water and sewer projects. He believes that the ALMU Board's position is that all LORCO entities should participate financially through paying property owner assessments. Mr. Roig stated that the LORCO Board passed a resolution in 2008 and that the resolution defines all LORCO member entities as specially benefitting users. He believes it is the expectation of the ALMU Board that LORCO seriously investigate the possibility of using their 6119 authority to assess specially benefitting property owners. By the next Board meeting, he would like for the executive director to report back to the Board with a preliminary determination as to what a "specially benefitting property owner" is

**Adjourn:**

With no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Howard Born and seconded by Cindy Korpely to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. and meet again on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

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President

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Secretary-Treasurer