

**MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
LORAIN COUNTY RURAL WASTEWATER DISTRICT
March 13, 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. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustee Roll Call (by Secretary Lahetta):

Howard Born – ABSENT	Bill Donges – PRESENT	Neil Lynch - PRESENT
Rita Canfield – PRESENT	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

Also in Attendance:

Eugene M. Toy, Executive Director; Don Krueck, New Russia Twp.; Brad Dicken, Chronicle-Telegram; Dick Knechtges, Eaton Twp. resident; Linda Morrison, Eaton Twp. resident; Bert Latran, Jr., Pittsfield Twp. resident; Elizabeth Rattray, Eaton Twp. resident; numerous other guests that did not sign in.

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Tom Steigerwald, with a second by Del Roig to approve the February 6, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. All voted yea. Motion carried.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Finance Committee Chairman John Piwinski reported that the committee had met at 6 pm prior to the Board meeting. The committee recommends to the Board passage of Resolution 2014-5. Finance Committee will meet March 27, 2014 at 7 pm to discuss a scope of service for a future cost of service/rate study. Requested that LORCO Executive Director begin to talk with firms capable of providing the necessary consulting services to LORCO. Requested that customers be notified by bill insert or similar means of the billing correction.

President's Report:

Jim McConnell discussed Resolution 2012-19 and the LORCO Board's attempt to correct improper January 2014 rate increases based on advice from legal counsel.

RESOLUTION NO.2014-3 Approval of February deposits and payments. It was moved by Roig, with a second by Wright to approve the list as presented. The vote was as follows. 14 Yea. 0 Nay. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-4 Amending 2014 appropriations. It was moved by Roig, with a second by Wright to approve the resolution. The vote was as follows. 14 Yea. 0 Nay. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-5 Rescind January 2014 rate increases. It was moved by Kurpely, with a second by Woodrum to approve the resolution. The vote was as follows. 14 Yea. 0 Nay. Motion carried.

Executive Director Report:

1) Reminded townships with expiring three-year terms that LORCO Board representatives need to be appointed by March 27, 2014 or at least before the next LORCO Board meeting. 2) Informed the Board that past LORCO practice of reimbursing the Executive Director for use of personal vehicle is not consistent with employment agreement language (reimbursement based on receipts and determination of personal versus business use). The matter was discussed with Dennis O'Toole and he agreed that the past practice of reimbursement based on current IRS business mileage was acceptable as long as the Board acknowledged that they were aware of actual practice versus employment agreement language. The Board agreed that monthly expense reimbursement will be made to the LORCO Executive Director based on the then-current IRS rate for business mileage. 3) Reported receiving a letter dated February 14, 2014 from the North Coast Building Industry Association. The letter encouraged the LORCO Board to keep tap fees as low as possible. 4) Local Government Innovation Fund (LGIF) meeting with LORCO project consultants to be held at LORCO offices March 14, 2014 at 2 pm.

Other Business:

Victor Vetrano – addressed the Board regarding a \$1,000 fine he had been assessed for allegedly draining his front yard into the LORCO sanitary sewer in June 2013; a swimming pool credit he believes he is entitled to but has not yet received; and alleged property damage resulting from the Phase 1 project that has not been corrected to his satisfaction.

Dick Knechtges – all debt service burden is currently on Eaton and Carlisle Township users. Thinks LORCO should consider assessments. Board President McConnell responded that LORCO will soon be undertaking a cost of service and a rate structure study. Part of this study will include a review of possible district-wide assessments but all revenue sources will be considered and it is premature to focus on only one possible source.

Linda Morrison – thinks LORCO should look at tap fees and rates. Resolution 2012-19 says that 2014 tap fees are both \$8,000 and \$9,000. Stated that she has reviewed project financing history since 2006. Discussed the 2006 LORCO audit.

Donna Hicks – wants to know how there are only nine homes that are exempt. Stated that she knows someone that lives in North Ridgeville and they pay \$60 a month for water, sewer, and trash service. Stated that it is not fair that Columbia Township side of Hawke Road does not have to connect to the system.

Don Krueck – asked about the LGIF feasibility study.

Elizabeth Rattray – not fair that current rate payers are paying for entire project.

Executive Session:

Requested by Jim McConnell for the purpose of discussing employment/performance evaluation/compensation of the Executive Director. It was moved by Lahetta, with a second by Derikito to enter into executive session for the purpose stated by Mr. McConnell. The vote was as follows. 14 Yea. 0 Nay. Motion carried. Entered executive session at 8:45 pm.

It was moved by Kurpely, with a second by Woodrum to re-enter regular session at 9:10 pm. The vote was as follows. 14 Yea. 0 Nay. Motion carried.

Adjourn:

With no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Cindy Kurpely and seconded by Jim Woodrum to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. and meet again on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

President

Secretary-Treasurer