

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
LORAIN COUNTY RURAL WASTEWATER DISTRICT  
MARCH 9, 2017**

**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. Board president Korpely called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Trustee Roll Call (by Secretary-Treasurer Lahetta):**

|                 |   |                 |   |                |   |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|----------------|---|
| Will Schlechter | √ | Bill Donges     |   | Neil Lynch     | √ |
| Doug Gardner    |   | Karol Cornelius |   | Jim McConnell  | √ |
| Jerry Cowie     | √ | Rick Hutman     | √ | Patti Brubaker | √ |
| Jed Lamb        | √ | Cindy Korpely   | √ | Del Roig       | √ |
| Tom Steigerwald | √ | Tom Lahetta     | √ | Jim Wright     | √ |
|                 |   |                 |   | Jim Woodrum    | √ |

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First LORCO Board Meeting:**

Board President Korpely announced that this month's board meeting marked 20 years since the first LORCO board meeting. Asked anyone in attendance if they would like to say a few words. Executive Director Toy read remarks that were received from previous executive directors. After refreshments, regular board meeting resumed at 7:25 pm.

**Also in Attendance:**

Eugene M. Toy, Executive Director; Rich Radachi, Radachi & Company; Dave Rickey, Avon Lake Regional Water; Tom Berry, Cinnamon Lake Utilities Association

**Changes or Additions to the Agenda:**

None

**Approval of Minutes:**

It was moved by Lamb, with a second by Roig to approve February 9, 2017 regular meeting minutes. Voice vote for approval was unanimous.

**Old Business:**

Board president Korpely stated that information had been received from legal counsel about a tentatively-approved item in the most recent executive director's employment agreement addendum. As opposed to providing the executive director with a cell phone, legal counsel recommends increasing the current subsidy for use of personal cell phone. Motion was made by McConnell and seconded by Lamb to increase monthly cell phone subsidy from \$25 to \$50 and to not provide executive director with a LORCO cell phone. Voice vote for approval was unanimous.

**New Business:**

None

**President's Report:**

None.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-7 Approval of non-LMRE-related February deposits and payments.** It was moved by Woodrum, with a second by Schlechter to approve the resolution. The vote was as follows: 13 Yeas. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-8 Approval of LMRE-related February payments.** It was moved by Steigerwald, with a second by Lahetta to approve the resolution. The vote was as follows: 12 Yeas. 0 Nays. McConnell abstained. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-9 Authorize removal from tax duplicate of 33722 Brokaw Road assessments and liens.** Kurpely asked executive director to provide background. Parcel had been removed by county prosecutor's office from lawsuit requiring them to connect. It was moved by Lamb, with a second by Roig to approve the resolution. The vote was as follows: 12 Yeas. 0 Nays. Motion carried.

**Other Business:**

Finance committee chair McConnell reported on earlier finance committee meeting. Discussed history of treatment rate increases from Avon Lake Regional Water and compared to LORCO rate increases. J. McConnell asked Executive Director Toy to begin discussion. Rates have not been increased since 2013. LORCO's custodial fund is managed by Avon Lake Regional Water and is part of their wastewater fund. Since there have been no rate increases since 2013, this has an impact on Avon Lake Regional Water's wastewater fund. Treatment rates have increased \$1.79 per 1,000 gallons since last LORCO rate increase. D. Roig relayed the Eaton Township trustees' position that the average homeowner in Eaton Township was currently paying approximately \$120/month for combined water and sewer and the trustees were not in favor of an increase. Jim Wright stated that smaller, more frequent increases were better than larger, occasional increases. D. Roig stated that in 2011, LORCO rates were the highest in the county but that was no longer the case. McConnell suggested increasing the Phase 1 area rate by \$3.60 for the first 2,000 gallons and by \$1.80 for each 1,000 gallons after the first 2,000 gallons. Executive Director Toy will prepare some sample calculations for the next Finance Committee meeting on April 13 to illustrate the impact of various rate increase scenarios. Discussed current tap fee structure. \$8,000 for gravity connection and \$10,000 for force main connection. During Phase 1 construction, tap fees were the same. After construction, force main tap fees were increased by \$2,000 due to the fact that grinder units were placed near the house and LORCO was responsible for running the lateral from the road to the house. Currently, LORCO requires grinder units to be placed at the edge of road right-of-way and the homeowner is responsible for lateral installation. Lorain County General Health District has requested that LORCO do away with the two-tiered tap fee structure in order to make it easier for them to rule on the accessibility of the system. Motion by Roig and seconded by Woodrum to recommend to the LORCO board to have one tap fee of \$8,000 regardless of method of connection. All committee members were in favor. Motion by Lamb and seconded by Brubaker to have only one, \$8,000 tap fee regardless of method of connection. Voice vote for approval was unanimous.

**Executive Director Report:**

1. Reminder that 3-year LORCO board seats expire March 27, 2017 for the townships of Huntington, LaGrange, New Russia, Pittsfield, Rochester, and Wellington. Have received resolutions or meeting minutes from some townships.
2. Checked in with Ohio EPA about village of LaGrange Application for Modification of Ohio NPDES Permit. Public comment period ended December 7, 2016. Project is still under technical review by Ohio EPA.
3. NOACA Water Quality Subcommittee meeting is March 24, 2017. Hawke Road FPA change will be on agenda. 12243 Grafton Road (Springvale Development) FPA change may be on agenda.
4. Trying to work out a few difficulties with FirstMerit to Huntington transition.
5. Cinnamon Lake – had teleconference last week. Trying to work out easement and board representation language in the agreement.

**Adjourn:**

With no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Steigerwald and seconded by Lamb to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm and meet again on Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm. Voice vote to approve was unanimous.

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President

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Secretary-Treasurer