

MINUTES
NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Darnell Brown.

President Brown opened the meeting by addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, and read the following statement:

Due to the COVID emergency, we are again conducting our board meeting via live stream video conference using the Zoom Video Communications tool and pursuant to continuing authority of House Bill 404.

Members of the public may observe and hear the meeting using the Zoom login link found on the top of the District website, and those who wished to address the Board were able to make that request through the Zoom system prior to the start of the meeting.

I. Roll Call

PRESENT: Darnell Brown
Ronald Sulik
Samuel Alai
Terence Joyce
Jack Bacci
Timothy DeGeeter
Sharon Dumas

The Secretary informed the President that a quorum was in attendance, remotely.

II. Approval of Minutes

MOTION – Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to approve the Minutes of the February 4, 2021, Board Meeting. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

III. Public Session

There were no items.

IV. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, Chief Executive Officer, provided an update regarding the District's ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response. Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells informed the Board that as of February 18, 2021, the District staff has ten active COVID-19 cases, of whom four have recovered

and are in various stages of the return-to-work process, and six are convalescing. There are no symptomatic employees awaiting test results. The District wishes them a full and speedy recovery. There has been a total of seventy-three employees with confirmed diagnoses since the beginning of the pandemic, with sixty-three having recovered and returned to work. There are currently two District employees who are not experiencing COVID-like symptoms remaining at home because a member of their household has tested positive for COVID-19.

The District met with Senator Brown's staff on February 16, as part of the ongoing discussions regarding the impacts of the pandemic and the need for federal funding for both customer assistance and infrastructure. The meeting included members of the Senator's staff from the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. The District presented its 2020 information on delinquencies, its affordability programs, and outreach efforts. It was a productive meeting, and the District will continue these discussions with the Senator's office regarding customer affordability and infrastructure funding.

Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells introduced Tiffany Jordan, Contract Compliance Manager, to provide an update regarding the impacts of the District's Business Opportunity Program (BOP).

Ms. Jordan advised the Board that during the Capital Improvement Project period of 2016 through 2020, the District's construction spend was \$806 million across 73 construction projects and of those, 66 projects had BOP goals. Within those 66 projects, the District worked with 41 BOP certified firms with nearly \$80 million paid to minority owned firms, \$81 million to women owned firms, and \$69 million to small firms, resulting in \$230 million total paid to certified BOP firms over the five-year period.

As an example, the Dugway Storage Tunnel Project had \$26.1 million paid to minority owned firms, \$12.8 million to women owned firms, and \$12 million to small businesses, for a total of \$49 million paid to 17 BOP certified firms for that project. Some of the trades included concrete, trucking, electrical, and landscaping.

The Dugway West Interceptor Relief Sewer Project was a smaller project with a total cost of \$53 million. Of that, \$2.1 million was paid to minority-owned firms, \$3.6 million to women-owned firms and \$5.7 million to small business firms for a total of \$11.3 million paid to BOP certified firms. Some of the services provided by those firms included paving, surveying, CCTV, photography, and lab testing.

Ms. Jordan noted that, frequently, the smaller firms that the District contracts with for its projects are certified under specialty trades, meaning that the business owners do not intend to be the primary contractor for the job, but rather provide the service that they specialize in such as paving or laboratory testing.

In 2020, the District's combined construction and stormwater costs were \$279 million and included 16 projects with BOP goals. The combined BOP goal was \$107 million, with \$35.3 million paid to minority-owned firms, \$37.3 million to women-owned firms and \$34.3 million to small business firms.

Ms. Jordan concluded her presentation with an update regarding the Business Opportunity Program Committee. On September 24, 2020, the Committee held its first meeting at the request of Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells. Several District departments will perform a detailed analysis of the program to review the policy, program application, and track spending, as well as seek out additional firms to join the program and increase its outreach efforts. The Board will be provided with status updates as the program progresses.

President Brown thanked Ms. Jordan for the update and added that the District has done a lot of work to incorporate some of these disciplines into its program to partner with these firms and the work is paying off. He asked that the District continue to find new opportunities where possible and further noted that this program has done much to benefit the local economy. President Brown offered kudos to the District for its efforts in this regard.

V. Action Items

Authorization to Advertise

- Resolution No. 47-21 Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6119, for the purchase of Schneider Electric APC 100kVA Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) to support the instrumentation in the Analytical Services department.
- Resolution No. 48-21 Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6119, for the purchase of three Quantum Scalar i3 LTO8 backup tape drives and backup media to be used for both the business (IT) and control (OT) networks.

MOTION – Ms. Dumas moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 47-21 through 48-21. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Advertise and Enter Into Contract

- Resolution No. 49-21 Authorization to publish notice calling for bids, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Chapter 6119, for the purchase of natural gas supply for all wastewater treatment plants, -George J. McMonagle Building (GJM), Environmental and Maintenance Services Center (EMSC), and all outlying facilities, and authorization for the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a one-, two-, or three-year contract with the lowest and best bidder and execute any documents necessary to secure natural gas pricing for the term of the contract without additional Board approval, with a total expenditure not-to-exceed \$3,200,000.00.

MOTION – Mr. Joyce moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution No. 49-21. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown asked for additional information as to how Resolution No. 49-21 affects the District’s efforts to facilitate savings on gas purchasing initiatives.

Ken Duplay, Chief Financial Officer, explained that the District’s current contract for the commodity of natural gas expires in May of this year. The District routinely takes this to market to take advantage of best pricing. The District is looking at an option for a one-, two-, or three-year contract depending on the pricing. The \$3.2 million maximum amount would be in the event of a three-year contract.

Authorization to Purchase

Resolution No. 50-21 Authorization to purchase software and hardware maintenance and support services for Rockwell Automation products for a one-year term, from sole source vendor Rexel, in an amount not-to-exceed \$272,476.00.

MOTION – Mayor Alai moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 50-21. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Enter Into Agreement

Resolution No. 51-21 Authorization to enter into the Stormwater General Engineering Services III professional services agreement with Brown and Caldwell for task-order based engineering, design, and construction administration/resident project representation services in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,500,000.00.

Resolution No. 52-21 Authorization to enter into the Stormwater General Engineering Services III professional services agreement with Evans, Mechwart, Hambleton & Tilton for task-order based engineering, design, and construction administration/resident project representation services in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,500,000.00.

Resolution No. 53-21 Authorization to enter into a three-year professional services agreement with Blackline Safety Corp. for the Portable Gas Meter Replacement and Implementation project in an amount not-to-exceed \$350,000.00.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 51-21 through 53-21. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown noted that Resolution Nos. 51-21 and 52-21 are a continuation of stormwater work that the District has been doing for some time and asked for additional information as to what services Evans, Mechwart, Hambleton & Tilton (EMH&T) provide.

Frank Greenland, Director of Watershed Programs, explained that the District became acquainted with EMH&T when the firm submitted a proposal for the General Engineering Services II (GES II) contract in 2017. The District had hoped that there would be new firms with specific expertise in stormwater management and this is one of those firms. EMH&T was awarded the GES II contract and performed well. They have significant expertise in environmental permitting, ecological management, stormwater management, and wetlands delineation. The District has been happy with their performance.

President Brown added that there is a changing dynamic in the community as to the designation of flood plain areas and there has been discussion regarding the District's ability to ensure that it is properly mapping and advising member communities from a stormwater perspective. Mr. Greenland agreed and indicated that now that the Regional Stormwater Management Master Plans have been conducted, the District has learned much about what the FEMA maps show in terms of flood plain, delineation, and modeling versus Master Plan modeling results. The District will work with member communities to address these issues.

Authorization to Amend Agreement

Resolution No. 54-21 Authorization to amend professional services Agreement No. 19006317 with Jacobs Engineering Group for the Chippewa Creek Flood Reduction Project Near Echo Lane to add additional scope of services to design conveyance and storage improvements on the local stormwater system to be reimbursed with Community Cost-Share funds by the City of Broadview Heights under a separate agreement, and to increase the total agreement amount by \$239,000.00, thereby bringing the total agreement amount not-to-exceed \$2,325,000.00.

Resolution No. 55-21 Authorizing final adjusting change order for design-build Agreement No. 19000231A with Kokosing Industrial, Inc. for the Easterly Bar Screen Conveyor Belt Rehabilitation project by decreasing the agreement amount by \$1,186,534.35, thereby bringing the total agreement amount to \$2,120,439.65.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Mr. Joyce seconded to adopt Resolution No. 54-21. Without objection, by roll call vote, the motion carried with all present members voting yes and recusal from discussion and abstention from voting by Mayor Alai.

MOTION – Mayor Alai moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 55-21. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown noted that often, when attempting to solve stormwater problems, the District looks for the opportunity to isolate and mitigate a problem in a particular area and asked if this is one of those instances.

Mr. Greenland explained that this area was studied in Master Planning and early in the design phase, it was determined that although some of the regional improvements would solve some problems in this area, there were local problems that needed to be addressed. This was discussed with Broadview Heights and those discussions resulted in Resolution No. 54-21. The intent is to bid this as one project and work on a separate agreement with Broadview Heights regarding their construction cost component.

Authorization to Enter Into Contract

Resolution No. 56-21 Authorization to enter into a three-year requirement contract with ThyssenKrupp Elevator for elevator maintenance and repair services at all District facilities in an amount not-to-exceed \$209,548.00.

Resolution No. 57-21 Authorization to enter into a construction contract with Shook Construction Co. for the Southerly Building Demolition project in an amount not-to-exceed \$17,243,400.00.

MOTION – Mayor Bacci moved, and Mr. Sulik seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 56-21 through 57-21. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown asked for additional information regarding Resolution No. 57-21, and how the decision was reached that the buildings should be demolished.

Devona Marshall, Director of Engineering and Construction, explained that under this project, the District is demolishing decommissioned facilities to eliminate costs of maintaining the facilities and safety concerns. In total, this project will involve complete demolition of six buildings and their associated equipment, one partial demolition of one building and associated equipment, as well as one partial demolition wherein the remaining portion of the building will be repurposed, resulting in approximately two acres of new green space.

The District performed an evaluation of the return on investment and compared the outcomes of repurposing the buildings, maintaining them, and demolishing them. It was determined that it is best to fully demolish six, partially demolish one, and partially demolish and repurpose one with an estimated return on investment of less than 30 years. There is additional benefit in demolishing the buildings that results in the elimination of safety risks, especially as it pertains to the buildings associated with the old incineration process.

Authorization to Modify Contract

Resolution No. 58-21 Authorization to modify construction Contract No. 20006779 with Nerone & Sons, Inc. for the Doan Brook Culvert Debris Removal project by adding work scope to remove unforeseen additional debris deposits within the culvert and increasing the contract amount by \$200,000.00, thereby bringing the total contract amount not-to-exceed \$743,900.00.

MOTION –Mr. Joyce moved, and Mayor Bacci seconded to adopt Resolution No. 58-21. After the following discussion, without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

President Brown noted that this appears to be the second modification that has been made to this contract in response to discovering large amounts of debris downstream from areas intended to function as sediment traps. President Brown asked what precautions are being taken to ensure access to areas that are difficult to reach and maintain conveyance capacity.

Mr. Greenland explained that this is the first modification to this contract. There was 700 cubic yards of rock and debris removed, allowing access to areas upstream, where it was discovered that large amounts of river rock from the Doan Valley are depositing in different areas. Mr. Greenland provided photographs of the obstructions and explained that it is located upstream of what has been cleared so if left alone, it will be necessary to go back and clean up the same location again. Mr. Greenland provided additional images demonstrating the areas that have been addressed and those needing to be addressed and further explained that this will be approached from a different access point near Ambler Park, allowing for quick removal of the debris. This culvert will be added to the routine inspection program to monitor for accumulation of debris. This project will significantly improve the level of service to the Doan Brook area.

Property Related Transaction

Resolution No. 59-21 Authorizing the District to acquire one temporary easement on property known as part of PPN 581-08-097, located at 8211 Twin Oaks Drive, in the City of Broadview Heights, owned by Robert H. and Loretta J. Donner, necessary for the construction of the Chippewa Creek Flood Reduction Project Near Echo Lane with total consideration of \$3,450.00.

Resolution No. 60-21 Authorizing the District to acquire one temporary easement on property known as part of PPN 581-08-067, located at 8193 Twin Oaks Drive, in the City of Broadview Heights, owned by Nancy B. Kalinsky, necessary for the construction of the Chippewa Creek Flood Reduction Project Near Echo Lane with total consideration of \$1,000.00.

- Resolution No. 61-21 Authorizing the District to acquire one temporary easement on property known as part of PPN 581-08-066, located at 8183 Twin Oaks Drive, in the City of Broadview Heights, owned by Lisa C. Hawkins, necessary for the construction of the Chippewa Creek Flood Reduction Project Near Echo Lane with total consideration of \$2,850.00.
- Resolution No. 62-21 Authorizing the District to acquire one temporary easement on property known as part of PPN 581-08-096, located at 8201 Twin Oaks Drive, in the City of Broadview Heights, owned by Donald W. and Celeste A. Baker, necessary for the construction of the Chippewa Creek Flood Reduction Project Near Echo Lane with total consideration of \$3,200.00.
- Resolution No. 63-21 Authorizing the District to acquire one temporary easement on property known as part of PPN 581-01-001, located at 8065 West Ridge Road, in the City of Broadview Heights, owned by Robert S. and Kristine H. Snider, necessary for the construction of the Chippewa Creek Flood Reduction Project Near Echo Lane with total consideration of \$2,750.00.
- Resolution No. 64-21 Authorizing the District to acquire one permanent stormwater easement on property known as part of PPN 531-28-013, located at 1000 Resource Drive, in the Village of Brooklyn Heights, owned by R&J Real Estate Holding Company, LLC, necessary for the construction and maintenance of the West Creek Stabilization in Brooklyn Heights project with total consideration of \$1.00.
- Resolution No. 65-21 Authorizing the District to grant a Drainage Easement to C&Y Group Cleveland, Inc. for the permanent use of District-owned property known as part of PPN 631-13-002, located along Lakeland Freeway, in the Village of Bratenahl, necessary for C&Y's stormwater basin project with total consideration of \$500.00 to be paid to the District.
- Resolution No. 66-21 Authorizing the District to acquire one temporary easement on property known as part of PPN 483-20-001, located at 11293 Royalton Road, in the City of North Royalton, owned by Jessica Development Co., LLC, necessary for the construction of the Rocky River Stream Stabilization and Sewer Protection in North Royalton project with total consideration of \$10,750.00.

MOTION – Mr. Sulik moved, and Mayor Alai seconded to adopt Resolution Nos. 59-21 through 66-21. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

VI. Information Items

Mr. Duplay informed the Board that his update would include the preliminary 2020 year-end results with final information to be available at a later date following the annual audit, as well as a preview of the proposed 2021 budget, to be discussed in more detail in March.

The District was able to meet all five of its key financial objectives for 2020 despite impacts of the pandemic.

The District is in the fourth year of its current five-year rate study. The further into a rate study, the more likely it is that there will be deviation from the plan; however, the District's deviations are favorable. The 2020 preliminary revenue is \$348.8 million, which is higher than predicted by the rate study due to higher-than-expected consumption.

Operating expenditures were significantly less than predicted in the rate study due to increased efficiencies that resulted in cost savings as well as salaries and benefits and other categories being decreased primarily due to the pandemic. Utilities continued to be below rate study projections due to improved utility usage and more favorable rates than anticipated.

There were some general items that saw decreased spending due to the choice to defer and in other cases spending slowed as priorities changed during the pandemic.

As for debt service, the District is lower in actual debt service than the rate study due to lower than planned borrowing rates combined with lower debt service expenses related to utilizing SRF loans and savings realized through refinancing bonds.

Regarding 2020 budget versus actuals, the preliminary revenue of \$348.8 million is slightly less than anticipated for budget. The District initially forecasted very conservative estimates in terms of potential impacts of the pandemic and continued to monitor and revise the estimates throughout the year.

Consumption declined 5% total for the year versus 3% for the budget. There was a 12.5% decline in commercial consumption which was offset by a 1.5% increase in residential consumption, the net of which was a 5% decline for the year.

The collection rates were lower than a typical year, though not as low as was projected in April. In a typical year, collection rates are 96% to 97%, and 2020 was closer to 94%.

The District revenue is primarily made up of user charges, accounting for 99.5% and the remaining \$1.7 million is primarily septic fees from companies who bring septage to the Southerly Wastewater Treatment Plant. The bulk of District billing is done through its billing and collection agents with Cleveland being the largest, then Berea and North Royalton accounting for a combined 91% of billings. The District directly bills \$29.1 million in service charges as well as the \$1.7 million in other revenue.

Regarding operating expenses, there were several items in the professional and contractual services categories that the District chose to defer. Additionally, the District maintained a partial hiring freeze in response to the pandemic and ended up \$4.7 million under budget in salaries and wages. Benefits came in at \$5 million under budget primarily due to a decrease in health care costs, as many medical facilities were not performing nonessential medical procedures, this greatly reduced the amount of healthcare claims. Contractual services and professional services combined accounted for \$8 million under budget. Ultimately, the year ended about \$233 million under the operating budget. The District is in a strong financial position heading into 2021.

Looking at expenses by department, Operations includes all plants, collection system and other related departments which make up \$58.6 million of the actual expenses. Human Resources includes healthcare benefits of \$9.4 million. Professional services in the Engineering and Construction Department include the cost of the ongoing local sewer system evaluation studies at \$5.4 million. The Finance Department includes \$8.6 million in fees to its billing agents. Salaries, wages, and benefits make up about 59% of the total budget and utilities and contractual services also account for large portions.

Regarding capital expenditures, early in the pandemic the District chose to defer \$12.5 million of capital spending that was not CSO-related. There was a COVID-19 related construction delay in the Westerly Storage Tunnel project that resulted in \$14 million less than the expected spend for the year.

The actual spend for capital expenditures was \$169.9 million. Of that, \$100.1 million is related to the CSO long-term control plan and \$52.2 million is related to plant improvement projects. Per the financing plan from the last rate study, most of the 2020 projects were funded through low interest loan financing for a total of \$118.8 million, equal to 70% of expenditures. \$42.2 million of District funds were also used to fund projects. This was the lowest year for capital spending since 2014.

Debt service was below budget for 2020 primarily due to change in timing of the estimated closing dates of certain loan funded projects.

In 2020 the District financed 11 new capital projects with low interest loans totaling \$60.8 million, all at an interest rate below the planning rate of 3.2%. The five largest projects were funded at a rate below 1%.

The District performed an analysis going back to 2017 to estimate the savings that have been realized from utilizing low interest loans compared to if the District had issued bonds over that time. The net present value debt service savings is \$107.8 million which will impact District rates and benefit ratepayers over the next twenty to thirty years.

Over the past three years, the District has undertaken three significant bond refinancings that resulted in net present value debt service savings of \$83.6 million, which will also positively impact ratepayers.

Since 2017, the District has executed 31 loans and bond transactions for a total issuance amount of \$1.4 billion. Through combined savings of loan utilization and refinancing debt, the District has realized \$191.4 million in debt service savings for customers. In terms of debt service coverage for the year, the District meets all debt service coverages, including levels associated with the rating agency expectations of two times senior debt service and 1.5 times all debt service.

As for stormwater, there is less fluctuation in revenue as rates are based on impervious surface and not consumption; however, there was still a decrease in collection rates. In terms of billings, it is slightly above budget for the year.

Stormwater operating expenditures were also below budget. Early in the pandemic, the District chose to defer \$4 million in expenditures. As the year progressed, the spending slowed at a pace similar to the sewer expenses as priorities shifted.

Regarding capital, the purchases of land for the year were slightly below the budget as project activities slowed.

Stormwater operating revenues, similar to sewer, rely on the billing agents from the City of Cleveland for 99% of the stormwater fees and the District direct bills about \$600,000 in stormwater fees.

The 2020 actual expenses were similar to 2017 actuals. The program activities have been gaining momentum over the past three years but were intentionally slowed in 2020 in anticipation of COVID-19 related budgetary concerns.

The primary source of stormwater expenditures is Watershed Programs for projects such as stream restorations. Professional services accounted for \$9.6 million for the year. Significant expenditures include the ongoing Stormwater Master Plans with Chagrin River and Lake Erie Tributaries at \$3.3 million. Contractual services were \$6.1 million and included the Big Creek Stabilization Project, Shaker Lakes Dam Rehabilitation, and Stickney Creek projects.

Mr. Duplay provided a graph demonstrating revenue versus expense and explained that the District had positive cashflow in terms of intake versus expenditures, resulting in higher reserves than 2019. The operating reserve of 90 days of sewer operating budget as required by trust agreements was maintained throughout the year. Surplus funds went to the capital account that is used to fund capital projects and pay debt services. The year-end account balance was \$227.5 million versus \$186.9 million in 2019. The insurance reserve that is used to fund self-insured workers' compensation claims and other insurance costs is down slightly. The rate stabilization account and equipment reserve had no change from 2019 other than interest in the equipment account. There have not been any funds added to the rate stabilization account in several years, nor is it anticipated that there will be a need to withdraw from it in the near future. The account is associated with bond debt service. Should an issue of revenue shortfalls to meet our debt service coverage arise, the District could withdraw from that to offset unexpected fluctuations in revenue.

Stormwater closed with \$20 million in the District account and the Community Cost-Share account closed with \$29.6 million.

Mr. Duplay advised that investment returns are down with a year-to-date return of .94% versus almost 2.5% percent the year prior. It is anticipated that interest rates will stay low throughout the year. The Fourth Quarter Investment Advisory Report was included in the Board Packet.

Mr. Duplay provided a graphic demonstrating the overall preliminary financial metrics and explained that the District is doing better than in 2019 due to slower expenditures related to COVID-19. The senior debt and total debt service coverages met all thresholds, and the cash on hand had increased from 900 days to 1,100 days.

As for 2021, compared to the 2020 budget, the projections for operating revenue are essentially flat. There is an anticipated slight decrease in operating expenditures and a decrease in expected capital expenditure to \$211.1 million. Debt service will increase to \$106.1 million.

Projections remain conservative for Stormwater with a slight decline in operating revenue to \$43.2 million, operating expenses will be below last year's budget at \$33.8 million, and capital expenditures are expected to increase to \$6.2 million.

In summary, the District's conservative response to the pandemic allowed it to maintain a solid financial condition going into 2021. The District met all of its obligations and financial benchmarks in 2020. The 2021 budget is supported by revenue projections, meets all financial metrics, and is informed by the actual results of COVID-19 on the District's customers and the economy.

The budget for sewer for 2021 is a 3.3% decrease from 2020 and there is an 8.4% decrease for stormwater. The District is maintaining its conservative approach going into 2021 as it is potentially another uncertain year.

The 2021 budget will be presented to the Finance Committee on March 11, wherein Mr. Duplay will provide a detailed reporting and the budget will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval on March 18, 2021.

President Brown thanked Mr. Duplay for his report and the detail provided regarding the impacts of COVID-19 and the uncertainty that remains ahead in 2021. President Brown noted the importance of being fiscally prudent in terms of planning while continuing to provide services at a level so as to not overextend financially. President Brown added that as the District evaluates its rate structure and works on other areas of concern, it will need to be sensitive to the financial standing of the country and continue to work with its partners in terms of lobbying efforts for infrastructure and the needs of the customer base to focus on equity for the community while upholding its responsibility to protecting the environment in such a way that is considerate of customers' financial challenges as well.

Ms. Dumas commended Mr. Duplay for the fiscal performance of the District in 2020 and his ability to plan strategically for the anticipated as well as the unanticipated. Ms. Dumas referenced the SRF loans wherein the District was able to obtain interest rates of 0% to less than 1%, generating millions of dollars in savings, as well as bond refunding accounting for almost \$200 million in savings. Ms. Dumas added that to her knowledge, the District did not receive CARES Act funding and being able to plan accordingly through budgeting deserves recognition.

Ms. Dumas noted that going into 2021, these are still unprecedented times and there will continue to be challenges. Ms. Dumas commended Mr. Duplay and Ms. Dreyfuss-Wells for meeting the challenges of 2020.

President Brown thanked Ms. Dumas for her comments and added that it is one thing to have a good plan, but another to execute a good plan. President Brown echoed Ms. Dumas' sentiments of a job well done in placing the District in a positive financial position while being sensitive to financial impacts to ratepayers.

Open Session

There were no items.

VII. Public Session (any subject matter)

There were no items.

VIII. Executive Session

Mayor Bacci, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)6, moved and Mayor Alai seconded to enter executive session to discuss details related to District security arrangements and emergency response protocols, the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to jeopardize District security. By roll call vote, the Board voted unanimously and entered into executive session from 2:07 p.m. until 2:32 p.m., then returned to open session.

IX. Approval of Items from Executive Session

Resolution No. 67-21	Authorization to enter into a professional services agreement with Cerdant, Inc. for the SIEM System Implementation project in an amount not-to-exceed \$388,420.00.
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MOTION – Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded to adopt Resolution No. 67-21. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.

X. Adjournment

MOTION – President Brown stated business having been concluded, he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Mayor Bacci moved, and Ms. Dumas seconded the motion to adjourn at 2:33 p.m. Without objection, the motion carried unanimously.



Timothy J. DeGasper, Secretary
Board of Trustees
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District



Darnell Brown, President
Board of Trustees
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District