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RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LORDSTOWN VILLAGE
BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1455 Salt Springs Road, Lordstown, Ohio
May 14, 2025
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Christopher Peterson, President
Mr. Michael Sullivan, Vice President
Mr. Darren Biggs, Supt. of Utilities
Ms. Cinthia Slusarczyk, Clerk
ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Jackie Woodward, Mayor
Mr. Ernie Bowen, Village Council

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS taken before me, DEBORAH LAVELLE, RPR, a court reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio on this 14th of May, 2025.

MR. PETERSON: I'd like to call the special meeting of the Board of Public Affairs to order. Please stand for the Lord's Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

LORD'S PRAYER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

MR. PETERSON: Welcome everyone. Roll call please.
MS. SLUSARCZYK: Chris Peterson.
MR. PETERSON: Here.
MS. SLUSARCZYK: Michael Sullivan.
MR. SULLIVAN: Here.
MS. SLUSARCZYK: Stanley Czeck.
(No response.)
MS. SLUSARCZYK: Darren Biggs.
MR. BIGGS: Here.
MS. SLUSARCZYK: Cinthia Slusarczyk, present. Chris Kogelnik e-mailed saying he didn't feel it was appropriate.
MR. PETERSON: Yeah.
MS. SLUSARCZYK: And Matt, I believe, is excused.
MR. PETERSON: So I'll make a motion we excuse Chris Kogelnik, Stanley, and Matt. And Matt is available by phone if we need him.
MR. SULLIVAN: Okay. Second.
MR. PETERSON: All in favor?
(All respond aye.)
MR. PETERSON: Opposed?
(No response.)
MR. PETERSON: Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

MR. PETERSON: Correspondence. I'm sure you don't have any, right?
MS. SLUSARCZYK: No.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Booster Pump Station Relocation - Request for Qualifications Review

MR. PETERSON: Okay. Item number 1 on New Business and our only item, Booster Pump Station Relocation Request for Qualifications Review. So, as I said, there will be 1, 2, and 3.

MR. SULLIVAN: Could you give them to us in that order or --

MR. PETERSON: No, no. That's what we're here today is to decide 1,

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2, and 3. So I did get a chance to skim through them. All of them are qualified, you know what I mean. I didn't see anything that jumped out of me. Did anybody else see anything --

MAYOR WOODWARD: I did not see anything.

MR. PETERSON: -- that jumped out at you? Yeah.

MAYOR WOODWARD: Nothing important or alarming.

MR. SULLIVAN: Did you get these, Darren?

MR. BIGGS: I did not.

MR. PETERSON: Do you have a spare copy?

MS. SLUSARCZYK: I do. I offered him.

MR. BIGGS: I didn't bring my glasses. I didn't know I was part of this group. If you blow it up. I can see that better. Let me see what I can do.

MR. PETERSON: So, Darren, I'm going to ask you this question.

MR. BIGGS: Yeah.

MR. PETERSON: Obviously Verdantas, you have experience with them. Do you have experience with any of the other two?

MR. BIGGS: With the New River Engineers?

MR. PETERSON: Yeah.

MR. BIGGS: Thrasher?

MR. PETERSON: Yes.

MR. BIGGS: I don't belief so.

MR. PETERSON: I don't know if they've ever done work for the Village in the past.

MR. BIGGS: Not that I know of.

MAYOR WOODWARD: I did see a project for the New River Engineers -- a lot of these are in the State of West Virginia. And there's two. I'm on page 11 for them. Their project experience, you know, the first two are from Ohio; but it looks -- you can look, the rest of these are in West Virginia. So is this, you know, within --

MR. BOWEN: It's hillbilly country too, Sistersville and stuff. My wife's family is from down there. We have two projects down there. Tyler County, anything in Tyler County.

MAYOR WOODWARD: I do have family in Jackson County, West Virginia. I'm very familiar with southern West Virginia. I just think -- like looking at it right now I just realized that. I didn't really look too much into those projects until right now. Let's see what it -- those other ones, if they're more local. I just want to make sure that they're familiar with, you know, what goes on here locally in Ohio. That's kind of important too. Looks like --

MR. SULLIVAN: It looks like --

MAYOR WOODWARD: -- Thrasher --

MR. SULLIVAN: Thrasher is pretty much West Virginia.

MR. BOWEN: Canton.

MAYOR WOODWARD: Tuscarawas, Summit County, Jefferson County. I'm seeing more local projects with their experience, which I think might be something you want to consider. Summit County, Stark County.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah. And Verdantas does have experience here in Trumbull County too. They're familiar with Howland, Mineral Ridge, Lordstown. They worked on projects for Ultium and other items. Yeah. Well, let's go through the sheet that Cindy had for us. So, experience and qualifications, we factor in 30 percent of that. For all three what -- when I looked through them, I mean, everybody, I mean --

MR. SULLIVAN: Yeah.

MR. PETERSON: Unless I'm missing something somebody else saw. I mean, we can take into account that the one company doesn't have as much Ohio work as --

MAYOR WOODWARD: Yeah. I would probably rate them last, the New River Engineers that is, as far as experience in local Ohio counties. Are we each doing our own grade sheet and then you'll add them all up and divide, or are we just going to do one?

MR. PETERSON: I've always only done one as a group.

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MAYOR WOODWARD: As a group.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah, as a group.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: It kind of makes it simple with a small group and only three to consider. If you want like, I'll do it on my sheet for record purposes.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah. So I would say --

MS. SLUSARCZYK: How do you want to do it; 1 being the lowest score, 3 being the highest score?

MR. PETERSON: I will say.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: And at the end the highest points is the -- okay.

MAYOR WOODWARD: I said it backwards. So, I will give them a 1 then for not having local experience, right?

MS. SLUSARCZYK: Yes.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah. So New River Engineers would have a 1. Just so you know, there is a location factor here too. But I think the location of them, you know what I mean --

MAYOR WOODWARD: Proximity to the project, yes.

MR. PETERSON: I would say that's the case.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: So is that what you're scoring now is location?

MR. PETERSON: No. No. That was --

MAYOR WOODWARD: We'll stay on experience and qualifications first.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: Okay.

MR. BOWEN: One of the things I noticed that Thrasher does is, if you read the experience of all the people that they have working projects there's a lot of water, a lot of water line replacement, big projects with --

MR. PETERSON: Darren, feel free to chime in too if you --

MR. BIGGS: I will. Thank you.

MR. PETERSON: I just didn't want you to think --

MR. BIGGS: I'm listening as I'm looking. This is a lot. I wish I would have had this before; I could have actually spent some time with it. I guess one of the things that come to end month, you know, with moving this station is that, you know, EFI is going to be proved with it, you know, a lot with the, you know, setting it all back up. That's where we got the other ones from. Did anybody happen to see if there's anybody that's been working with EFI before, because pretty sure that's who's going to handle everything. I mean, it's their -- it's their station is what I'm getting at.

MR. PETERSON: That's the make of the station is what you're saying?

MR. BIGGS: Yeah, correct. And I'm looking for it, but I don't know if anybody --

MR. PETERSON: I didn't see it.

MR. BIGGS: If you happen to see it, let me know. I was just appointed.

MR. BOWEN: Hey Darren, what is EFI again?

MR. BIGGS: Engineered or Engineering Fluid Industries, something like that. That's the booster station, the two that we have, that's who -- they're 100 percent. They'll set up SCADA, calibrate, maintain, build, they do it all. That's where we purchased that from, and they have worked with Verdantas to get those two prior ones that we have.

MR. BOWEN: Gotcha.

MR. BIGGS: They're all the same. They make everything happen by themselves.

MAYOR WOODWARD: Is that like the dealer or is that the brand name of the --

MR. BIGGS: That's the company. Yes. Mayor, that's pretty much what they do. You know, if they need -- maybe they need, you know, an electrician because they can't get into this, they'll find somebody. But they've shipped it so they've loaded it up, they know where to put it, how everything needs to be put back together, again there's VFDs in there that they'll have to settle. They did it all, let's just put it that way, as far as the technical on there. So, I believe that they're going to be the ones doing that again. So, I didn't know

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if one of the other two have used them before would be a good point I would think.

MAYOR WOODWARD: Well, if you go to page 18 on them, I see something in here like -- what is a Quiet Dell system? Is that --

MR. BIGGS: Which 18 are you on?

MS. SLUSARCZYK: Thrasher.

MR. BIGGS: Thrasher, okay.

MAYOR WOODWARD: Page 18. I see something in here about a Quiet Dell system. Is that comparable? It's a Route 20 booster station which is why I'm asking. Maybe that was the equivalent of EFI, I don't know.

MR. PETERSON: Have you ever heard of a Quiet Dell system, Darren? I have not.

MAYOR WOODWARD: But that's self --

MR. BIGGS: By looking it up, does it say "inc." after it?

MS. SLUSARCZYK: What did you say?

MR. BIGGS: Inc.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: No.

MR. BIGGS: It does not. Okay.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: "This addition was an integral piece of the system -- it was built at the purchase point where Greater Harrison receives water from the Town of Nutter Fort. The pump station was installed as a way to increase overall pressure and increase storage for the Quiet Dell system."

MR. PETERSON: Is Quiet Dell a name of a town?

MAYOR WOODWARD: After she read that, that's where my mind went. So, okay. That could be -- this is referring to West Millford, West Virginia so I'm not familiar with the towns there. But I think that would be a comparable project.

MR. BIGGS: Yeah. It sounds like with the system in there that's exactly -- if you look under that picture, increase the overall pressure and increase storage for the Quiet Dell system. So, I think that Quiet Dell, that's their system that they -- the reason they put that in there.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: Yeah, I just did a Google search. Quiet Dell is an unincorporated community in Harrison, West Virginia.

MR. PETERSON: That makes sense.

MAYOR WOODWARD: So that's the name of their town. The only thing that I will see in Verdantas is Bishopville booster station, Morgan County, Ohio. So, it looks like they submitted one project that was comparable to ours.

MR. BIGGS: Mayor, they didn't even list ours. I mean, they were involved in both of ours.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: In their opening letter, their opening statement, they refer to how they could be a step ahead of the others. On the back of the cover sheet.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah, I see it.

MAYOR WOODWARD: But then in their actual like relevant project and references, Ultium, you have LEC, Mineral Ridge, Crooksville water system improvements, Phase 10 water system improvement, and then you have Bishopville booster station. That's the only booster station that they listed in their projects.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: I know that's what you say they listed, but I'm almost positive the existing booster station --

MR. PETERSON: They put a booster station in Macon County, Ohio. It's in the project you must look, 500 gallon per minute booster station. That can't be the only booster station they submitted. Yeah. Mineral Ridge one they had a booster station system also. It's just in the project; the project wasn't called booster station.

MAYOR WOODWARD: It encompassed more than just the booster system.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah.

MAYOR WOODWARD: Okay.

MR. PETERSON: And Ultium, they probably have it in Ultium's too.

MAYOR WOODWARD: Yes.

MR. BIGGS: Chris, Ultium is what they called that whole project.

MR. PETERSON: The booster station is in there. It just wasn't called booster station. You had to read the project.

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MR. BIGGS: That's what they called all five phases, the Ultium project. That was their name on it.

MAYOR WOODWARD: So based on that, then it looks like Verdantas probably would pull ahead of Thrasher as far as experience and qualifications with this type of project --

MR. PETERSON: I would say.

MAYOR WOODWARD: -- based on what was listed.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah. Ernie, do you agree?

MR. BOWEN: I'm sorry?

MR. PETERSON: Do you agree?

MAYOR WOODWARD: Are you in agreement with the --

MR. BOWEN: I didn't hear a word you said --

MR. PETERSON: That's fine.

MR. BOWEN: -- I was reading.

MR. PETERSON: That's okay.

MAYOR WOODWARD: I said that Verdantas looks like they would pull ahead of Thrasher as far as experience and qualifications.

MR. BOWEN: Yeah. I was just looking for more stuff in Thrasher's right now, that's what I was concentrating on.

MR. PETERSON: You're fine.

MR. BOWEN: No, I agree.

MAYOR WOODWARD: So, we're going to give Thrasher the 2 and Verdantas the 3?

MR. PETERSON: Yeah.

MAYOR WOODWARD: Mike?

MR. PETERSON: Mike.

MR. SULLIVAN: Yes.

MAYOR WOODWARD: Okay. Do you want to move on to technical approach and methodology, or do you want to skip down to location because that would be easier to determine? Save the hard stuff for last.

MR. SULLIVAN: Then we give 1, 2.

MR. PETERSON: New River Engineers got a 1 on that. You're up here. So, 1, 2, 3.

MAYOR WOODWARD: So, if we jump down to location, weight factor. That's just going to be their proximity to the project, their physical location.

MR. PETERSON: Verdantas is first because they're Youngstown. Probably --

MAYOR WOODWARD: Thrasher is Canton.

MR. BOWEN: Yes.

MAYOR WOODWARD: And then New River is --

MR. BOWEN: Athens.

MAYOR WOODWARD: So, it's going to go in that order; Verdantas is 1, Thrasher is 2 -- or I'm sorry, I'm doing it backwards.

MR. BOWEN: 3, 2, 1.

MAYOR WOODWARD: Verdantas is 3, Thrasher is 2, New River Engineers is 1. I was like number 1 is number 1.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: We want the highest points though.

MR. PETERSON: Okay. The technical approach and methodology. Darren, I mean they're probably going to lean on us because we're the only two that's going to know --

MR. BIGGS: I was looking at it. What did you say, Chris?

MR. PETERSON: I said technical approach and methodology they are going to lean on us more, we do this every day. I mean, looking over everything I didn't really see a difference in any of the three. Or did something stick out to you?

MR. BIGGS: Not that I'm seeing. The only thing that I'm not familiar with is the other two so they are not going to be familiar with us.

MR. PETERSON: I would say Verdantas would be up because they are compatible with your SCADA, they're used to that, they've worked with all them before.

MR. BIGGS: Absolutely.

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MAYOR WOODWARD: I mean, they -- I do see a plan of approach here. Do you want me to read it?

MR. PETERSON: Read it, go for it.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: What page is that, Jackie.

MAYOR WOODWARD: Page six for New River Engineers plan of approach. "New River Engineers, Inc. has been serving various communities for over 43 years. NREI believes in offering personal services as well as professional services. The following is a draft approach from project conception through project completion of the services NREI can provide." They believe "in a team approach for the development of projects. Therefore, our first task will be to meet with Village officials to review existing data, reports, etc., and to ascertain the need of the specific project. Following data gathering, we will then evaluate alternatives and develop a cost-effective proposal that meets existing and future needs of a specific project. Throughout the process, Village officials will be kept informed and involved in all important matters". They "will assist" in Village -- or "assist the Village in preparation and submission of any funding application needs. Once the funding has been secured, we will then begin to develop detailed engineering drawings and specifications for the project. As information is gathered, it will be reviewed with Village officials to allow comment and coordination as the project progresses. The project engineer will be involved during all phases of developing a project, obtaining funding, design, and construction to assure coordination with Village personnel, and regulatory and funding agencies," which seems pretty general.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah, that's pretty general. Verdantas has a two-page, Thrasher is page 5.

MAYOR WOODWARD: Theirs is a whole -- Thrasher's is a whole page.

MR. BOWEN: Well, actually the New River's kind of is too if you keep on going.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah, because it gives --

MR. BOWEN: There's an opening statement kind of thing, and then they go through their design, construction and --

MAYOR WOODWARD: So going back to New River then you have the preliminary engineering report, then the design phase, then the construction phase.

MR. SULLIVAN: And I take from that that they're saying the inspector would be the Village engineer or would we have to --

MR. PETERSON: No, what they're saying is --

MR. SULLIVAN: -- hire someone.

MR. PETERSON: They would provide an engineer if I'm understanding what I'm reading correctly.

MR. BOWEN: I think that's the way I read it too, which makes sense.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah. If we were to go with a different company other than, you know, Verdantas -- has it ever happened in the past, Darren?

MS. SLUSARCZYK: Yeah. JFE.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah.

MR. BOWEN: Who was that?

MS. SLUSARCZYK: When they installed the sanitary sewer system, they stepped away from CT Consultants for engineering services for inspection of the sewer lines and they hired the engineer's own private firm, which was JFE. That ended up in a lawsuit.

MAYOR WOODWARD: So, they sub-contracted that to somebody else?

MS. SLUSARCZYK: No, the Village hired JFE to --

MR. PETERSON: The Village chose not to go with --

MS. SLUSARCZYK: -- to inspect.

MAYOR WOODWARD: I see.

MR. SULLIVAN: But CT at that time -- what was his name, Farina?

MS. SLUSARCZYK: Farina.

MR. SULLIVAN: He was the Village engineer for CT for probably 10 years, then he left and went on his own. And when the sewer project came in, the vice-president of CT recommended that we hire Farina as the inspector.

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MR. BOWEN: Well, I think they're all three saying kind of the same thing but --

MR. PETERSON: It was good to say, yeah.

MR. BOWEN: But Verdantas and New River, to me, breaks it down in greater detail than Thrasher.

MR. PETERSON: Then Thrasher does, yeah.

MR. BOWEN: Because they move -- the project understanding and approach is like page -- really 4 and 5, and then it moves on.

MR. PETERSON: And not that New River couldn't get up to speed, but I think Verdantas has a better understanding of our system as a whole.

MR. BOWEN: Yeah.

MR. PETERSON: What does everybody think? You're thinking Verdantas 3 --

MR. BOWEN: I'm thinking 3, 1, 2.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: For technical approach 3, 1, 2?

MR. PETERSON: Mayor, do you agree?

MAYOR WOODWARD: Yes.

MR. PETERSON: Did you agree?

MR. SULLIVAN: We're going 3 on --

MR. PETERSON: Verdantas would get 3, Thrasher would get 1, and New River would get 2.

MAYOR WOODWARD: New river.

MR. PETERSON: Quality of work.

MR. BOWEN: That's kind of an interesting one to --

MAYOR WOODWARD: How do you grade that if you've never experienced a project with them?

MR. PETERSON: If you've never experienced a project with them that's kind of hard unless you call their qualifications.

MR. BOWEN: The prettiest pictures? I don't know.

MAYOR WOODWARD: We're not going to judge how you judge.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: Well, you can't -- got to watch because that's our station, I think, on -- maybe not. I know they were out here looking at it.

MR. PETERSON: And I did mention the three names to the -- Jon Vollnogle, and he was aware of all three and he didn't say anything bad against any of them.

MR. SULLIVAN: If we're going by the numbers, if we add them up right now --

MR. BOWEN: If you look at them I think it's the same, just different angle.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: He came out, I can say that Thrasher was out here.

MR. PETERSON: Darren, I'll ask you. You've worked with -- this is where Verdantas could kind of take a little bit of a hit maybe or shine. You dealt with several projects with them. Any issues, any --

MR. BIGGS: Good communication with them. I didn't have any -- any time I had a problem I picked up the phone; it was taken care of. I really haven't had any big issues. I stay on top of it, and they will correct it if I have --

MR. PETERSON: No feeling that you were carrying weight?

MR. BIGGS: This is the way it's going to be, I've never heard anything like that. It's been smooth.

MR. BOWEN: The quality has been --

MR. BIGGS: They make sure it follows through, and if I have any questions, they make sure I get an answer. There's no doubt about that. They don't hesitate with that.

MR. PETERSON: Cindy, I know you're not out with Darren but you deal with the financial side. Any issues you've ever had on your end or --

MS. SLUSARCZYK: No. I can honestly say when I pick up the phone, I don't get the secretary or a third party, I get the person and a response. I can't say anything about the others in any way because I don't have any work experience with them.

MR. PETERSON: Don't have work experience with them.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: I have zero complaints about my response or

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interactions with Verdantas or previously CT.

MR. PETERSON: Previously CT.

MR. SULLIVAN: So, I understand the thing right, so if we went with them and we felt they came in with a high price then we would try to negotiate that down --

MR. PETERSON: Yeah, then we have the ability to negotiate that down. So, I guess what we would do is whoever wins this, I guess I would reach out to them and say we need what Jon from Howells & Baird said we need. They submit that and we reconvene together over that, everybody looks over it. If we think it looks good, we're good, recommend to Council, we're good to go, keep the ball rolling. If we think it's a little high -- obviously nobody is going to say that's a little low.

MR. SULLIVAN: Do we have to get three prices?

MR. PETERSON: No. I don't know how that works because it's over --

MR. SULLIVAN: It's over \$30,000.

MR. PETERSON: I guess it's a little question. I guess I'll call him and ask him.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: It might be a grant question.

MR. PETERSON: Might be if you're following this process that exempts you from that.

MAYOR WOODWARD: I do notice on Thrasher's paperwork on page 9 they do have a QA/QC procedure. They have an "internal Quality Control Policy to ensure projects move forward efficiently and effectively. The objectives of this manual are to continually improve the quality of the design and technical deliverables that they provide to its internal and external clients. This manual illustrates the basic requirements for quality control in our projects. It describes the methods for checking and reviewing product elements and client deliverables and includes rigorous comprehensive written checklists for each stage of the design process, document production, and construction activities. The purpose of these QC methodologies is to reduce or eliminate the potential for errors, omissions, ambiguities, and inconsistencies. The policy outlines three main areas: General, Project Management Procedures, and Check and Final Review Procedures." So, they do have something in here specifically for quality of work. Does anybody see anything in New River Engineers about QA or QC procedures? I didn't see anything when I flipped through, but that doesn't mean I didn't miss it. So, at this point I would say that they would at least -- Thrasher would be the number 2 because they at least included a QA and QC procedure. So at least we know they have checks in place, you know, for the quality.

MR. BOWEN: All they really say is assist in -- one line, assist in final inspection of the work.

MAYOR WOODWARD: What page are you on?

MR. BOWEN: This is New River, page 10, item 13. That's the only thing I'm seeing.

MAYOR WOODWARD: I see. So that's under Field Services. Okay. It does say on page 8 "A qualified design professional will make periodic visits to the site to observe the progress and the quality of the executed work and determine in general if the work is proceeding in accordance with the contract documents. Efforts will be directed toward providing assurance to the Village that the completed project will conform to the requirements of the contract documents." I do see that.

MR. PETERSON: Does Verdantas say they are going to keep somebody on site during the entire project, or are they periodic too? Here we go. Construction Administration and Inspection Services.

MAYOR WOODWARD: Page?

MR. PETERSON: Page 9. It's probably in here somewhere, I just haven't found it yet. I guess there's a note. If you see something I don't --

MS. SLUSARCZYK: In the second paragraph it says, "We complete industry standard daily inspection forms that include key information such as what was accomplished, how many workers," and equipment and materials. It's on page 9.

MR. PETERSON: Page 9.

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MS. SLUSARCZYK: Yeah, the third paragraph under expertise.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah. Okay.

MAYOR WOODWARD: It's just a little blip. I don't know.

MR. PETERSON: I guess the only thing I don't like is the word periodic in New River's. You want somebody here daily while the project is going on.

MR. BIGGS: Not necessarily, Chris.

MR. PETERSON: You've always required that.

MR. BIGGS: If they start restoration of a property and get it done, you show up. I don't see that. Depending on what specific phase is getting done, if it takes a week you're not going to stand there for a week, you know Chris.

MR. PETERSON: Correct, yeah.

MR. BIGGS: Answer questions in the beginning and definitely under the --

MR. PETERSON: Maybe I'm reading into periodic too much. Periodic could be once a month.

MR. BIGGS: In my experience, unless something is moving really fast they're not there the whole time unless requested. Or you know hey, this is a big step, they try to make it at that point. And my experience with any engineers that's just what I see. They're not standing there every second.

MR. PETERSON: And it's just an inspector, it's not -- you know.

MR. BIGGS: Correct.

MR. PETERSON: For Verdantas it wouldn't be Chris standing there, it would be somebody that works for the company. It's quality control.

MR. BIGGS: Correct. Correct. And I don't know if that's just, you know, what they're going to put in there. And if you say you want someone there, they may be able to do that. You know, for example, air releases. Yeah, they were there every day, but they moved fast so, you know.

MR. PETERSON: So they were here every day for that.

MR. BIGGS: Some other things, restoring something else, I'll check up when you're done.

MR. PETERSON: When they start preparing the report or anything I'm with you, they don't need to be standing there. But while they're putting the booster station in place and doing piping, that needs to be inspected.

MR. BIGGS: The critical times. I would think that all three of these would at least do that, but.

MR. PETERSON: Well, what's --

MAYOR WOODWARD: Do you want to weigh it based on what you know of the quality of work, or do you want to go based on what they've included?

MR. PETERSON: I think you should go based on what's included in here. I really do.

MR. BOWEN: Yeah.

MR. PETERSON: That way there's no question of --

MAYOR WOODWARD: Well then, if I was going to rate it like that, I would put Thrasher with a 3 because theirs was the most --

MR. BOWEN: Yeah. They call out the QA/QC portion of what they do.

MAYOR WOODWARD: And actually acknowledge that. That's important.

MR. PETERSON: Everybody is in agreement on that?

MR. SULLIVAN: Yeah.

MR. BOWEN: Yeah.

MAYOR WOODWARD: How do you feel about the other two?

MR. BOWEN: To me the other two, it's kind of a wash for me.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah, it's kind of --

MR. BOWEN: They just don't -- I don't see anything highly different. Well yeah, there you go. Somebody else will have to make that tie breaker and I'll go along with it.

MR. BIGGS: They both get 1 1/2.

MAYOR WOODWARD: To me, New River had provided something -- I mean, on page 8 under Field Services they actually have an A, letter A here about a qualified design professional will make visits, whether it's periodic or daily, it -- but they actually specifically say that they will have a qualified design professional make visits to the site to observe the progress and the quality. So,

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to me that's more than what Verdantas put in theirs.

MR. BOWEN: I agree.

MR. PETERSON: I'm not going to disagree with you. You're right. They went into huge detail.

MAYOR WOODWARD: More detail at least.

MR. PETERSON: More detail than Verdantas did, yeah.

MAYOR WOODWARD: So, do you want to give New River the 2?

MR. BOWEN: Yeah.

MR. PETERSON: Yep. Are you good with that, Mike?

MR. SULLIVAN: Yeah.

MAYOR WOODWARD: And we'll give Verdantas the 1.

MR. PETERSON: Demonstration of interest.

MAYOR WOODWARD: There is -- on page 1 of New River there's an entire page of expression of interest.

MR. BOWEN: You know Verdantas is interested because they're here. Thrasher --

MR. PETERSON: I mean, they have --

MR. BOWEN: And Thrasher sent somebody here if I'm understanding that correctly. So that's definitely --

MS. SLUSARCZYK: Absolutely. I don't want to misspeak so let me just -- he's in the --

MR. BOWEN: And if I can, I'll keep going while Cindy's looking at that. When I look at New River's, if you go to the back, I mean they kind of put a catalog, hey if we don't get this, future reference we do all this other stuff. I mean --

MR. PETERSON: I like that.

MR. BOWEN: I do too. But I'm just -- it just strikes me as --

MR. PETERSON: Well --

MR. BOWEN: And they're in West Virginia.

MR. PETERSON: I'm thinking that they did that because this gets their name out there, yeah.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: I will say that it was Jim Nordquist that phoned twice, came out to the office, and then toured the locations, and then he did a follow-up phone call.

MR. PETERSON: That was from Thrasher?

MS. SLUSARCZYK: Thrasher.

MR. PETERSON: And Verdantas, I mean, they have chased the funding, you know what I mean. So, it's kind of hard to say they're not interested.

MR. BOWEN: Oh, they're interested.

MR. PETERSON: I don't want to hold it against them that they did a lot of back-end work. I mean, I know that we have them on retainer, and I understand that's --

MR. BOWEN: No, I mean, I agree they're here, they're interested, there's no doubt about that.

MR. SULLIVAN: But I think it's hard to say that any one of them is not interested.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah, I mean --

MAYOR WOODWARD: Verdantas assigns a staff to the Lordstown projects, right? Like they have a dedicated staff just for Lordstown. So, there's continuity in the staff and learning and building and expanding as they go for Lordstown.

MR. BOWEN: I look at this as a 3, 2, 1 kind of thing. That's where I'm going with it. I mean, you know Verdantas wants it. I think Thrasher wants it. These guys probably, I mean, most likely want it too, but Thrasher sent somebody up to take a look.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah, that means something to me.

MR. BOWEN: Absolutely.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah. Mike?

MR. BOWEN: It also makes a difference that they're in Canton.

MR. SULLIVAN: I think that should be 3.

MR. PETERSON: They were thinking 3, 2, 1.

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MR. SULLIVAN: Oh yeah, I'm good with that.

MR. PETERSON: Okay.

MAYOR WOODWARD: So Verdantas is the 3?

MR. PETERSON: Thrasher would be the 2. New River would be the 1.

MAYOR WOODWARD: Okay. Now you need to weigh those.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah, they're based on percentages.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: So, 3 being in the 30 percent. Thirty percent?

MAYOR WOODWARD: Yes.

MR. PETERSON: Yes.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: So, it's going to be what, like 7, 6.7?

MR. PETERSON: 6.66. We'll just call it 6.7.

MR. SULLIVAN: Somebody wins by a field goal.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: If we scored the 10 percent, the highest score being 10 percent, second place being 5 percent, then first would be zero or 1. Regardless, at this point Verdantas is 96.66 percent, and Thrasher is 60, and then third would be New River at 43.

MR. PETERSON: I was just dividing 20 percent, I just divided it up by three and gave them --

MAYOR WOODWARD: Well, you would need to take 20 percent and divide it by five -- or I'm sorry, by six because you have 1, 3, plus 2. So, take the 20 percent, divide by plus -- and multiply it by the number.

MR. PETERSON: I see what you're saying.

MAYOR WOODWARD: So, each percentage would need to be divided by six because that's how many points you have total, and then multiply it by 1 or multiple by it by 3, and multiple it by 2 to get your -- is that working better? No?

MR. SULLIVAN: Darren, is there a way we can get a generic price?

MAYOR WOODWARD: You have 20 percent.

MR. SULLIVAN: They're way high above that generic we would know.

MAYOR WOODWARD: 20 divided by six is 3.33, times two is 6.67.

MR. BIGGS: Mike, I'm trying to think if we already had an idea from Kogelnik, and why am I thinking that we did?

MAYOR WOODWARD: So go down to -- like that one's 10 percent. So ten divided by six is 1.66 times three for Verdantas gives you 5. Ten divided by six times two is 3.33 for Thrasher, and then 10 percent divided by six times one is 1.67 for New River Engineers. Do you get my process?

MS. SLUSARCZYK: Yes.

MAYOR WOODWARD: That's how you would weigh it. That gives you the percentage of the ten percent that it's worth.

MR. SULLIVAN: Do you remember that?

MR. PETERSON: What's that?

MR. SULLIVAN: The question came up what would be the cost of the unit going in. And I thought it was like 76. And then somebody said well, what would a new one cost.

MR. PETERSON: New what? Catch me up.

MR. SULLIVAN: Substation.

MR. BIGGS: He was asking if there's any way we can get an estimate so that when we do get the bids we have something to go off of. And I said I think Kogelnik already gave us an estimate and what it would cost to move that.

MR. PETERSON: Yeah, I think we do have an estimate somewhere.

MR. BIGGS: Correct. I think we already have something to go by. I don't remember the exact numbers. That's what he's asking, so that when you do get that in you have a number to go by and know if it's negotiating or whatever. That was his question.

MR. SULLIVAN: If you felt it was really inflated and we couldn't get it down.

MR. PETERSON: I thought there was an estimate, but it might have been before I was on the Board.

MR. SULLIVAN: Was there, Cindy?

MS. SLUSARCZYK: I'm sorry, I was not paying attention --

MR. SULLIVAN: Was there an estimate ever given of the cost of the substation.

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MS. SLUSARCZYK: (Nodding head.)

MAYOR WOODWARD: You would take the 30, divide it by the six, that gives you five for each. So, three times five is fifteen, times two is ten, times one is five.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: Okay.

MAYOR WOODWARD: See where I went with that? So, fifteen plus -- fifteen plus five is the 30 percent. These add up to 20 percent; these add up to 10 and --

MS. SLUSARCZYK: So, all together you're coming up with 100 percent here?

MAYOR WOODWARD: Yes. There's your percent. Let me check myself. I'm off .01, so rounding. But if you want that --

MS. SLUSARCZYK: Okay, yeah, perfect. So that scoring gave Verdantas 43.3 percent, Thrasher 36.65 percent, and New River Engineers 20.01 percent. So, with that being said, what's the process from here? Do we formally put a letter together, or do we just reach out to the firm?

MAYOR WOODWARD: Formal acceptance.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: Formal request.

MR. PETERSON: Formal request for engineering service proposal. I'll send this to you Cindy, that way you have the language. I would say that it should be in letter form too.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: Okay. What I'll do is draft a simple letter and we'll mark it up however you like. And then I can mail it after that.

MR. PETERSON: Yep.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: That is correct, right? Or do you want to take it to the committee first or no?

MAYOR WOODWARD: Which committee? The utility?

MS. SLUSARCZYK: This is done, right?

MAYOR WOODWARD: RFQ.

MR. PETERSON: RFQ would start up that committee.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: There's three, so you are still the majority of the committee.

MR. PETERSON: Majority.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: They -- so they didn't participate in the --

MAYOR WOODWARD: You've got the BPA agreeing, and you have RFQ agreeing. I would say that will be enough.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: I'll send the letter to you, mark it up, revise it however you would like. And after that I get your comments or they're good to go, I'll mail it out.

MR. SULLIVAN: We don't need a motion from the BPA to move forward?

MR. PETERSON: I don't think so. The only reason I actually did a BPA meeting is because Stanley said he wanted to come, and that put two of us in the same room. That was the biggest reason why I made this a meeting, just to cover our butts.

MS. SLUSARCZYK: Rightfully so.

MR. PETERSON: And you see who's not here.

MAYOR WOODWARD: And that's on the record, Stanley. If you guys want to go ahead and just make the motion just so that you're covered it wouldn't hurt.

MR. SULLIVAN: I think that would be a good idea.

MR. PETERSON: Do you want to do it?

MR. SULLIVAN: Motion to move forward.

MR. PETERSON: Move forward getting the engineering service proposal.

MR. SULLIVAN: Correct.

MR. PETERSON: From Verdantas. I'll second that. All in favor?

(All respond aye.)

MR. PETERSON: Opposed?

(No response.)

MR. PETERSON: Motion passed.

MAYOR WOODWARD: That way you're covered just in case.

MR. SULLIVAN: Motion to adjourn.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS:

MR. PETERSON: No Public Comments?

MEMBER COMMENTS:

MR. PETERSON: Member Comments?

ADJOURNMENT:

MR. PETERSON: Motion to adjourn by Mike. I'll second that. All in favor?

(All respond aye.)

MR. PETERSON: Opposed?

(No response.)

MR. PETERSON: Passed.

(Meeting adjourns at 6:00 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF OHIO)
TRUMBULL COUNTY) SS.

I, Deborah I. Lavelle, a Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the foregoing meeting before the Board of Public Affairs was written by me in the presence of the Members and transcribed by me using computer-aided transcription according to the stenotype notes taken at the time the said meeting took place.

I do further certify that I am not a relative, counsel or attorney of any Member, or otherwise interested in the event of this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Niles, Ohio on this 18th day of May, 2025.

DEBORAH I. LAVELLE, Notary Public
My Commission expires 4/15/2027

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Cinthia Slusarczyk, Clerk

Christopher Peterson, President