

Commission of Public Works meeting, August 25, 2025
Regular monthly business.

Commissioners present: Trey Stephens, Donnie Cooper, Jackie Keenan, Roy Shaw and
 Gerald McMurray

Employees present: Danny Lowe, Ken Phillips and Christy Lowe

Visitors present: Mike Kellems, Judy Graham-Dowd, Carter Rhine, Joan Pate and
 James Pate

Place: New Ellenton Commission of Public Works
 100 South Main Street
 New Ellenton, SC 29809

Time: 7:00 PM

Chairman Mr. Trey Stephens presiding.

Mr. Trey Stephens opens with the Pledge of Allegiance and Ken Phillips said the prayer.

Mr. Trey Stephens welcomes everyone and asks he or she to state their name for the record.

Mr. Trey Stephens opened the floor to guest comments and questions.

Mr. Trey Stephens states that approving the Financial Report for July 2025 is on the agenda and asks for a motion and a second. Office Manager, Christy Lowe, pointed out to the Commissioners the new Revenue Bond Account on their Statement of Accounts form in their notebooks. Mrs. Lowe also stated that a new account would be added soon for the Oak Hill grant projects. Vice Chairman Donnie Cooper made a motion to accept the Financial Report; it was seconded by Commissioner Roy Shaw and carried.

Chairman Trey Stephens states that approving the minutes for July 28, 2025 is on the agenda and asks for a motion and a second. Secretary-Treasurer Jackie Keenan made a motion to accept the Minutes as written; it was seconded by Commissioner Gerald McMurray and carried.

Mr. Trey Stephens asks for any questions or comments. (none)

OLD BUSINESS

Danny Lowe stated the Florida Ave. and Fern St. project (SCIIP) is about 95% complete. There is still some patching of the road to do, valve markers and capping some lines. Mr. Lowe reported the main line in Cedar Creek on Club Dr. is about 90% complete; there are still tie ins to be done. Danny stated there are 2 change orders submitted to move the water main at Glenview Dr. and waiting for the cost estimate on it. Danny reported the engineering work has been completed for the Long Shadow extension and the permit has been applied for with SCDES.

Danny Lowe reported that the bid opening for Oak Hill was held on August 12th and included the letter from the engineer concerning the bids and the cost breakdown in the Commissioners' notebooks. WRM Construction was awarded the contract and plans to start sometime in September. Danny reported the bid for the new water tank will go out in a few months.

Mr. Lowe stated the 24-hour test on the Dry Branch Well has been completed. In the next few weeks, a new pump will be installed and turned on. Danny said this may cause some line breaks if there are any weak spots on Dry Branch Rd. and in that area.

Danny Lowe reported the results for the UCMR5 test came back good.

Mr. Lowe stated the equipment for the certified laboratory has been ordered. The goal is to have the lab up and running by the end of the year after inspections have been completed and certified by SCDES.

Danny Lowe reported water loss for the month of July was 4.12%

Ken Phillips gave an update of field activities for July.

Mr. Trey Stephens asked if there is any more old business. (none)

NEW BUSINESS

Christy Lowe presented Commissioners with a new Hydrant Usage Policy & Procedure, taking into consideration the new rates that will have a second reading and voted on tonight. After discussion, Vice Chairman Donnie Cooper made a motion to approve the new Hydrant Usage Policy & Procedure to be effective with the rate increase; it was seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Jackie Keenan and carried.

Christy Lowe informed Commissioners of another increase in postage with Publiq. Christy included a copy of a bill from Publiq and an invoice we send to the City of New Ellenton to reimburse us their portion of the postage per the MOU, showing that the cost of postage is now more than what CPW is being reimbursed from the City. Trey Stephens stated it will be something the Commissioners need to address in the near future and meet with the City about it.

Danny Lowe stated a hydrant was recently located on a dirt road behind AmeriGas and where the old gas station used to be on the corner. Danny and Ken believe it is probably tied to a line in our system that is connected to Washington Dr. The area is grown over with trees and brush. Danny would like to hire a company to mulch this area so that it can be maintained going forward at a cost of \$1,400.00. All Commissioners agreed to have this work done.

Danny informed the Commissioners that we may need to look at getting another GPR machine soon. Mr. Lowe stated we have had our current GPR for about 4 years now and it is starting to show its age. It doesn't run well in the heat of the afternoon and there are some days we could use 2 GPR's going at the same time with the increase in 811 locate tickets.

Chairman Trey Stephens performed the 2nd reading of the Proposed Water Rate & Service Increase. Mr. Stephens stated no more irrigation accounts would be issued and the current irrigation customers being grandfathered in. The new rates will be effective on October 15th and be reflected on the December bill. Customers were given the opportunity to participate and ask questions concerning the proposed rate increase. After discussion, Vice Chairman Donnie Cooper made a motion to accept the second reading of the Proposed Rate & Service Rate Increase; it was seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Jackie Keenan (unanimous) and carried.

Commissioner Roy Shaw asked about the security of our office staff with all the crazy things going on in the world. Trey stated they are locked in and have safety measures in place in case of an emergency. Danny Lowe said there are a few customers who have been very disrespectful to the ladies in the office and it's uncalled for. Trey stated that if they have a problem, call the New Ellenton Police Dept. and issue a trespass warrant against the person.

Donnie Cooper made a motion to adjourn; Jackie Keenan seconded, all vote, so moved.

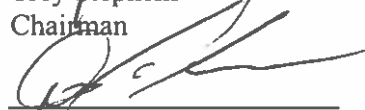
Attested by,



Director
Danny Lowe

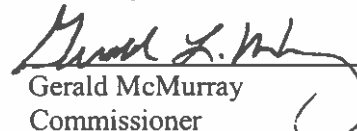


Trey Stephens
Chairman

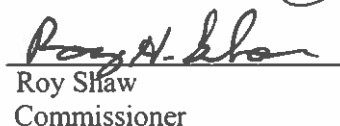


Donnie Cooper
Vice Chairman

Jackie Keenan
Secretary-Treasurer



Gerald McMurray
Commissioner



Roy Shaw
Commissioner