

Commission of Public Works meeting, December 23, 2024  
Regular monthly business.

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

Employees present:                        Danny Lowe, Ken Phillips and Christy Lowe

Visitors present:                         Carter Rhine, James Pate & Joan 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 that he or she 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 November 2024 is on the agenda and asks for a motion and a second. Vice Chairman Donnie Cooper made a motion to accept the Financial Report; it was seconded by Commissioner Gerald McMurray and carried.

Chairman Trey Stephens states that approving the minutes for November 25, 2024 is on the agenda and asks for a motion and a second. Vice Chairman Donnie Cooper made a motion to accept the Minutes as written; it was seconded by Commissioner Roy Shaw and carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Director Danny Lowe stated that Tri-Star Contractors has been awarded the Florida Ave/Fern Dr/Club Dr. project as the lowest bidder at \$2.7 million and still being \$600,000 over estimated cost. Danny stated that we are also looking at getting an extension to Long Shadow Dr. approved through RIA, which would be about \$429,000 more. Danny stated the Chime Bell Church Rd. project should be done around January 22, 2025. Letters have been sent to customers who live on the side of Chime Bell where the line extension

has been added, in case they would like to purchase a tap into CPW water system. Danny also informed Commissioner Donnie Cooper that the fire hydrant he mentioned last month has been fixed.

Danny Lowe stated the Dry Branch Well will go out for bids on January 7, 2025. Mr. Lowe met with Bennett Bowers with Ameris Bank and he is looking at some figures. Mr. Bowers will be at our January meeting to present them to the Commissioners.

Danny Lowe reported the water loss was 4.2% for the month of November.

Ken Phillips gave an update of field activities for November.

Office Manager, Christy Lowe, reported that all Security Deposit Refund checks have been mailed out to Oak Hill Water System customers who had paid a deposit per the list provided by Deborah Peek.

Vice Chairman Donnie Cooper asked if we have heard from SCDOT on reimbursing CPW for engineering fees on the Eagle/Whiskey Rd. project. Danny stated he has sent several emails concerning this and they have told him we will not get a dime until there is grass growing there and the project is closed.

Chairman Trey Stephens asked about insurance claim due to Hurricane Helene. Danny stated he spoke to our insurance agent and he said they are still working on it and Danny informed him we need to know something soon so we can also file a claim with FEMA on anything our insurance did not cover.

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

#### NEW BUSINESS


Danny Lowe stated he met with the Board President for Cedar Creek and Hugh Ray concerning the upcoming project on Club Dr. There will be 19 properties that will be affected. Cedar Creek will coordinate and contact these customers to inform them of what will be taking place in the coming months. Danny stated the pre-construction date has not been set yet. Once we know the details, Hugh Ray with Cedar Creek will be notified. Any customer concerns with Cedar Creek will go through Hugh Ray and then be reported to CPW.


Trey Stephens stated that during the Special Meeting on December 10, 2024, the Commissioners discussed rate increases along with a loan needed to complete some of the capital improvements projects going on. Several Rate Studies were presented at the meeting for residential rate increases. Trey Stephens mentioned the fact that even though the Commissioners have looked extensively at different options for residential rate increases as it is the majority of CPW's revenue, they have not looked at increases for commercial accounts. Mr. Stephens stated that he doesn't feel the Board can make a decision without doing a Rate Study on commercial accounts rate increase options. Donnie Cooper agreed and made a motion that rate increases should be tabled until further information is gathered and presented to the Commissioners; it was seconded by Roy Shaw and carried.


Chairman Trey Stephens stated he appreciates all the work Danny and Christy put into the CPW Employee/ Commissioner Christmas Dinner. Everything was really good! Everyone have a Merry Christmas!!!

Donnie Cooper made a motion to adjourn; Gerald McMurray seconded, all vote, so moved.

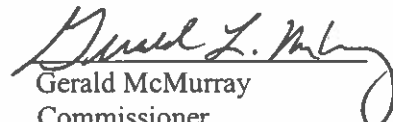
Attested by,

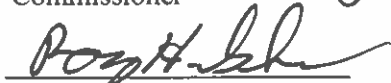
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director  
Danny Lowe

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Trey Stephens  
Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donnie Cooper  
Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jackie Keenan  
Secretary-Treasurer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald McMurray  
Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roy Shaw  
Commissioner