

Commission of Public Works meeting, January 22, 2024
Regular monthly business.

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

Employees present: Danny Lowe, Ken Phillips and Christy Lowe

Visitors present: Mike Kellems with Aiken County Council, Deborah Peek and Lynn Hendricks with Oak Hill Water System, James Pate, Joan Pate and Carter Rhine

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.

James Pate inquired about the PRV Pit recently installed in Cedar Creek. Director Danny Lowe discussed with Mr. Pate and explained to him how it works.

Mr. Trey Stephens states that approving the Financial Report for December 2023 is on the agenda and asks for a motion and a second. After discussion, Commissioner Roy Shaw made a motion to accept the Financial Report; it was seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Jackie Keenan and carried.

Chairman Trey Stephens states that approving the minutes for December 22, 2023 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 Secretary-Treasurer Jackie Keenan and carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Director Danny Lowe reported the engineering work for the Darlington Well is complete and bids for the project will go out soon.

Mr. Lowe reported that he has signed the paperwork with SCDHEC for the permits for the Chime Bell Church Rd. project covered by the SCIIP Grant. Danny stated when DHEC approved the plans, it will be sent out for bids. The line replacement on Florida Ave. & Fern St. in New Ellenton and Club Dr. in Cedar Creek will be the next projects on the agenda.

Christy Lowe stated that there is a report included in the Commissioners notebooks showing the amount CPW has paid in match money towards engineering fees for the projects being funded by the SCIIP Grant.

Danny Lowe reported that the new Maintenance Shop on Boatner is 100% complete. Most of the inventory has been counted and priced out. Danny stated in the next few months we will have everything entered into the IWorq inventory system for tracking.

Danny Lowe reported the water loss was 7.2% for the month of December.

Ken Phillips, the Operations and Maintenance Supervisor, gave an update of field activities for December.

Christy Lowe gave an update on discussions with Ameris Bank and is getting the information needed in order to set up new accounts with them.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Trey Stephens asked Deborah Peek with Oak Hill Water Department to give an update on the status of their system. Ms. Peek stated there have been no significant changes in the last couple of months. She stated they had paid off the large bill owed for leak repair done when Comcast broke several lines. Deborah stated they were unable to recover any money from Comcast for the repairs Oak Hill incurred due to the line breaks while their insurance paid for another claim. Ms. Peek thanked Danny Lowe for the work he has been doing for Oak Hill at no charge. Trey Stephens stated there has been a lot of work, conversation and support going on between Danny, Aiken County Councilman Mike Kellems, Senator Tom Young, Representative Bill Taylor and SCDHEC concerning Oak Hill Water System. Director Danny Lowe reported attending a meeting with SCDHEC and a representative from the State Revolving Fund to discuss funding options and what is available to help New Ellenton CPW take on Oak Hill Water System customers and sustain water supply to them. Mr. Lowe stated he asked for all Trustees for Oak Hill Water System to attend this months meeting to make sure everyone is on the same page moving forward as there has been a lot of time and money spent already for engineering fees to make sure this merger is feasible for New Ellenton CPW. Deborah Peek from Oak Hill Water stated that she feels there is no other option for Oak Hill at this point due to their financial situation and there being no interest from anyone within the community to take over the position of Operator after David Bryant retired this

past summer and Ms. Peek's office position as she is set to retire soon and it's also coming up on election time for new Trustees. Aiken County Councilman Mike Kellems suggested Ms. Peek have her Annual Meeting at New Ellenton Community Center and send out letters to each customer in Oak Hill to notify them of the meeting to elect Trustees and to inform/discuss of the possible changes that may happen in the future with their water service provider. It was decided to have the meeting on February 12, 2024, at 7pm with location to be determined.

Christy Lowe reported that the FY 2022-2023 Audit is complete and copies have been provided to each Commissioner for review.

Danny Lowe stated they have been checking for fire hydrants that need to be fixed as this is a line item in the budget. There are 12 hydrants to be repaired and once these are completed, this will fix all the older fire hydrants in the system. Mr. Lowe stated that any newer hydrants, CPW field technicians can make repairs on them as needed.

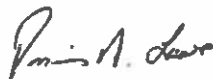
Danny Lowe informed the Commissioners the old shed behind the office building has been torn down as it was about to fall apart. Danny mentioned he is looking into purchasing a storage container to put back there to store smaller equipment.

Danny Lowe stated he would like to put concrete under the lean to at the new maintenance shop. He has a quote for about \$5,600 to do this which would come out of the building maintenance fund in the budget.

Chairman Trey Stephens asked about the lab that has been discussed in the past once the downstairs area has been cleaned out/inventory moved to new shop. Danny stated he has it all priced out but this will be done later down the road as there is a lot of renovations that would need to take place before we move forward with the lab.

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

Attested by,



Director
Danny Lowe




Trey Stephens
Chairman


Donnie Cooper



Jackie Keenan
Secretary-Treasurer



Gerald McMurray
Commissioner



Roy Shaw