

Commission of Public Works meeting, January 27, 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, Carter Rhine, Judy Graham-Dowd, 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. (none)

Mr. Trey Stephens states that approving the Financial Report for December 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 December 23, 2024 is on the agenda and asks for a motion and a second. Commissioner Roy Shaw 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

Director Danny Lowe reported the Chime Bell Church Rd. project is about 99% complete. The pressure testing has been performed and chlorinated; the only thing left to do is take water samples. Mr. Lowe stated we are waiting for the Performance Bond from the contractor for the Florida/Fern/Club Dr. project.

Danny Lowe stated the Dry Branch Well will go out for bids on January 28, 2025 (rescheduled from January 7th). This bid will include cleaning the well, testing, putting pump and installing motor. The electrical panel is scheduled to be installed in the next few weeks. Danny stated the well has been re-permitted by SC DES and have received the permit.

Danny spoke with SCDOT concerning the reimbursement owed to CPW for engineering fees for the project at Eagle/Whiskey Rd. for over \$36,000.00. Danny re-sent him an email with all the invoices and totals and he assured Danny that he would get a check sent out to CPW.

Mr. Lowe stated that he spoke with Bennett Bowers with Ameris Bank today and has a meeting set up for February 11th along with Beau Shepard, also with Ameris Bank who is familiar with USDA. This meeting will be to discuss the rates and terms of the loan for the upcoming projects. As discussed and approved previously, it is okay for the lawyer to draw up paperwork.

Danny Lowe reported the water loss was 5.7% for the month of December.

Ken Phillips gave an update of field activities for December.

Chairman Trey Stephens asked about the insurance claim due to Hurricane Helene. Danny stated he spoke to our insurance representative again. They are still in the review process. Danny informed him that we were getting close to the deadline to apply for FEMA assistance. Christy Lowe stated she did go ahead and contact FEMA to inquire about them covering our overtime payroll expenses in the aftermath of the hurricane and they stated they would not cover those type of expenses.

James Pate, a resident of Cedar Creek, had a few questions concerning the upcoming project on Club Dr.

Vice Chairman Donnie Cooper asked about discussing the rate increase. Chairman Trey Stephens stated we need to set up a separate meeting to discuss before the Commissioners vote. Mr. Stephens feels like the Commissioners need to look into the other rate codes within the system (commercial, trailer parks, irrigation meters, etc.) before a final decision is made. Danny stated that our engineer also does rate studies and would be able to do an in depth study for around \$5,000 to \$6,000. After discussion, Vice Chairman Donnie Cooper made a motion to hire Hybrid Engineering to perform a rate study; it was seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Jackie Keenan and carried.

Christy Lowe presented the Commissioners with the Draft copy of the Annual Audit. Commissioners were satisfied with the audit.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Danny Lowe reported that he received an email with the signed copy of the Water Reservation Agreement from Cornerstone Aiken, LLC for Atomic City Apartments. They have requested a Willingness to Serve Letter. Mr. Lowe stated that in accordance with previous discussions with the Commissioners and the developer, they are responsible for paying to bore Hwy 19/Whiskey Rd. to tie into the line. Danny also

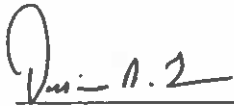
informed the developer that he would issue the Willingness to Serve to them once he received the original signed Water Reservation Agreement.

Danny Lowe reported that we replaced 140 ft. of pipe on Dry Branch Rd. where a leak occurred. Technicians also installed two valves.

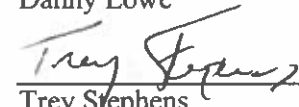
Trey Stephens asked Aiken County Councilman Mike Kellems when the rest of the storm debris would be picked up. Mr. Kellems stated that it would be the end of March as far as the county goes.

Jackie Keenan made a motion to adjourn; Roy Shaw 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