

Commission of Public Works meeting, March 24, 2025
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, Judy Graham-Dowd, Geri Carrieri and
 Pat Dugan

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)

Geri Carrieri asked how it works with painting the fire hydrants out at Cedar Creek. Operations & Maintenance Supervisor Ken Phillips stated that it is handled by Cedar Creek but CPW would be glad to supply the paint to them. Geri also asked about rate increases, Chairman Trey Stephens stated that was tabled until our rate study has been completed. Ms. Carrieri inquired about the previously discussed online bill payment system update. Office Manager, Christy Lowe, informed her that it was tabled for the time being as well.

Mr. Trey Stephens states that approving the Financial Report for February 2025 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 February 24, 2025 is on the agenda and asks for a motion and a second. Commissioner Gerald McMurray made a motion to accept the Minutes as written; it was seconded by Vice Chairman Donnie Cooper and carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Director Danny Lowe stated Chime Bell Church Rd. has been permitted and is online. The final payment for the contractor has been requested from RIA. Ken stated that 2 meters have been installed on the new section of Chime Bell. Danny reported that Florida Ave. is about 80% complete and they will soon be starting on Fern St. The Cedar Creek project on Club Dr. will start after the Masters. Mr. Lowe also stated the amendment has been signed to add Long Shadow Dr. to be included in the line replacement project and submitted to RIA for approval.

Danny Lowe stated that all permits have been applied for the new water tank in Oak Hill. Danny stated he signed the encroachment permits today. The Dry Branch Well that will support Oak Hill went out for bid on March 17th.

Danny Lowe presented the Commissioners with a copy of the Sanitary Survey, showing a Satisfactory rating from SCDES.

Mr. Lowe reported that we are getting quotes on insurance for property/vehicles with another company. This objective is to obtain more coverage and better pricing compared to what CPW currently has.

Danny Lowe reported that he spoke with his contact at SCDOT about the reimbursement check for engineering fees at Eagle/Whiskey Rd. and has assured Danny that the check has been written and is waiting for 2 more signatures and then it will finally be sent to CPW.

Danny stated that the water loss was 7%.

Ken Phillips gave an update of field activities for February.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Danny Lowe reported that in order for CPW to take out a loan with Ameris Bank there would need to be a parity agreement with USDA. Danny Lowe informed the Commissioners that if we take this loan with Ameris Bank now, it could potentially disqualify us for future loans with USDA as they would assume since we obtained a loan through a bank versus USDA, that we are financially stable. Mr. Lowe reported that there are only a handful of attorneys in SC that deal with this type of transaction. Theo DuBose, who is out of Columbia, handled CPW's previous legal work with the USDA bonds we currently have as it is his specialty. Danny is requesting that we use him for our current needs regarding the parity agreement with USDA and preparing the necessary legal documents & resolutions to move forward with the loan with Ameris. Mr. DuBose has presented CPW with a cost estimate to do this of around \$32,000. Vice Chairman Donnie Cooper made a motion to hire Theo DuBose to represent CPW; it was seconded by Commissioner Roy Shaw and carried.

Danny Lowe presented a proposal from a CPA firm to do our audit next FY. Mr. Lowe stated we must find an auditor who can perform a "single" audit which is required when there is use over a certain amount in federal grant funds. The quote presented was for Manley Garvin out of Greenwood, SC. After

discussion, Commissioners would like to see the pricing from another firm at the April meeting to compare.

Danny Lowe informed the Commissioners of a rate increase notice received from Master Meter software for the upcoming FY.

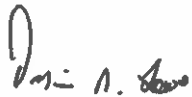
Christy Lowe informed Commissioners of customer compliments that was received for 2 CPW employees; one was for Sharee and the other was for Casey Rains. Great job!

Donnie Cooper made a motion to go into Executive Session; Roy Shaw seconded it and carried. Time in Executive Session: 7:49pm. Gerald McMurray made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:09pm; it was seconded by Roy Shaw and carried.

Donnie Cooper made a motion to amend the employee policy stating that administrative personnel be required to have a Driver's License to say that it is not required; it was seconded by Gerald McMurray and carried.

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

Attested by,



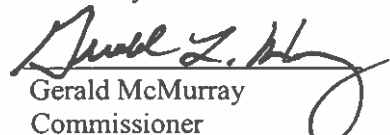
Director
Danny Lowe

Trey Stephens
Chairman




Donnie Cooper
Vice Chairman

Jackie Keenan
Secretary-Treasurer



Gerald McMurray
Commissioner



Roy Shaw
Commissioner