

Commission of Public Works meeting, May 28, 2024  
Regular monthly business.

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

Employees present:                        Danny Lowe and Ken Phillips

Visitors present:                         Deborah Peek, Judy Graham-Dowd, Carter Rhine and  
  Greg and Laurel Oates

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.

Carter Rhine stated he is on the Planning Committee with the City and reported there are 200 townhomes coming to the area and the development on Summitt Dr. has changed to 93 single family homes. There will be a re-zoning phase for both projects. Mr. Rhine stated he has told both of the developers they needed to get with the water department. Director Danny Lowe stated he has spoken with both of them.

Customer Greg and Laurel Oates discussed their recent high water bill and what they have done to try to figure out why the bill is high. CPW has already performed a Data Log on the meter and determined the dates of high usage. Danny Lowe stated they would come out first thing in the morning and do another Data Log but break it down to hourly so we can determine the time the water is being used and go from there.

Mr. Trey Stephens states that approving the Financial Report for April 2024 is on the agenda and asks for a motion and a second. Commissioner Roy Shaw made a motion to accept the Financial Report; it was seconded by Vice Chairman Donnie Copper and carried.

Chairman Trey Stephens states that approving the minutes for April 22, 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 Gerald McMurray and carried. (Jackie Keenan abstained due to absence from the April meeting.)

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

Chairman Trey Stephens stated that the Commissioners needed to go into Executive Session before moving forward. Donnie Cooper made a motion to go into Executive Session; Jackie Keenan seconded it and carried. Time in Executive Session: 7:20pm. Jackie Keenan made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:26pm; it was seconded by Roy Shaw and carried.

### OLD BUSINESS

Director Danny Lowe reported that the Dry Branch well has been pulled and camera-ed. Everything looks good, it just needs to be cleaned.

Danny reported on some other maintenance items that has been taken care of as well; new kitchen countertops have been installed and concrete pad poured at the Maintenance shop under the overhang, the electrical is done downstairs except for 2 outlets and the lab area has been framed up and 2 new outside doors were installed downstairs.

Danny Lowe reported the water loss was 8.81% for the month of April.

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

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

### NEW BUSINESS

Danny Lowe reported that CPW has officially been awarded the grant from RIA for the Oak Hill Water System merger and specifically earmarked for bringing the Dry Branch well back online. Mr. Lowe stated that we have also received the Provisional Priority List from SRF (State Revolving Fund) on who is being considered for the forgiveness loans and New Ellenton CPW is named as #1 on the list of priorities. This is not official as there is a 30 day comment period before they announce who will receive the SRF Funding. The SRF money is earmarked for a new water tower in Oak Hill. Chairman Stephens stated that since we know we are on the path to the merger with Oak Hill coming together, we need to look at starting the process of turning over all assets, property, etc which will involve an attorney and County Councilman Mike Kellems is going to inquire at his next meeting if there is anything we need to do with Aiken County to change the lines on the map to show that Oak Hill Water System is now New Ellenton CPW. Trey stated there are many things we still need to discuss and come up with a game plan to make this transition as soon as possible. Mr. Stephens stated we need to have a work session prior to the June meeting to discuss some things and the Rate Study as well. All Commissioners agreed to meet on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm for a Work Session.

Danny Lowe reported to the Commissioners that we had the bid meeting for the Chime Bell Church Rd. project with 6 bidders submitting bids. Blair Construction Inc. was the lowest bidder. Danny stated he has worked with Blair Construction on other projects and they are a reputable company. The next step is for the Commissioners to vote and sign off on the Grantee Debarment Certification Form and send it back to RIA. There should be minimal impact to our current customers other than traffic in the area of Chime Bell Church Rd. as the lines are being installed. Danny stated it should take approximately 1 month to complete, weather permitting. Vice Chairman Donnie Cooper made a motion to accept the bid from Blair

Construction Inc. for the Chime Bell Church Rd. project; it was seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Jackie Keenan and carried.

Danny Lowe stated that Florida Ave/Fern St. are right behind the Chime Bell project. Mr. Lowe stated we are waiting for the Construction Permit from SCDHEC. Danny also reported that we are the first company in the state of SC to go out for bid on a SCIIP project which speaks volumes for our engineer. They stepped up and got the ball rolling on these projects.

Danny is working on getting our Groundwater Permit for the Dry Branch well re-issued.

Danny Lowe stated that lead and copper sample bottles will be going out in June. Ken Phillips will be getting in touch with customers on the list to be sampled.

Trey Stephens stated the National Rural Water Association is having their conference close this year, it's in Savannah, so he would like for Ken and Danny to go and Mr. Stephens stated he would like to go as well since he has not attended any of the conferences. It is being held in Savannah, GA in September 2024.

Danny Lowe stated that the City of New Ellenton is selling one of their trucks and we are going to need another truck soon. Mr. Lowe said they are selling it at a good price at \$20,000, it only has 13,000 miles on it and Danny stated we still have money left over in the Budget for equipment. Jackie Keenan made a motion to purchase the truck from the City of New Ellenton; it was seconded by Gerald McMurray and carried.

Chairman Trey Stephens stated at next months meeting we will have a letter typed up to be reviewed by the Commissioners to be mailed out to current customers of the Oak Hill Water System explaining how they need to go about setting up an account with CPW.

Chairman Trey Stephens performed the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the proposed FY 2024-2025 Budget. Vice Chairman Donnie Cooper made a motion to accept the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the FY 2024-2025 Budget; it was seconded by Commissioner Roy Shaw and carried.

Jackie Keenan made a motion to adjourn; Roy Shaw seconds, all vote, so moved.

Attested by,



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Director  
Danny Lowe

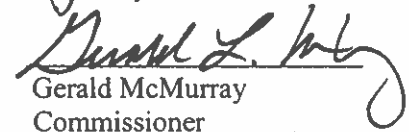


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Trey Stephens  
Chairman

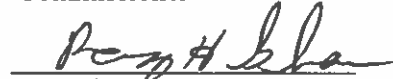
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Donnie Cooper  
Vice Chairman



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Jackie Keenan  
Secretary-Treasurer



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Gerald McMurray  
Commissioner



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Roy Shaw  
Commissioner