

Commission of Public Works meeting, October 28, 2024  
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:                         Judy Graham-Dowd, Beatrice Davis, Willie Davis, James Pate  
  and 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.

COMMENTS ON HURRICANE HELENE

\*Trey Stephens stated that after last month's meeting we experienced the most catastrophic event in our community. Hurricane Helene hit on September 27, 2024. There was a lot to overcome at New Ellenton CPW specifically, but the employees stepped up and took it as a challenge. Trey stated there are several things that he learned from this and it's that the relationships CPW has were instrumental in helping us during that time. Mr. Stephens stated that we worked closely with Jason Morgan with the City of New Ellenton, our electrician was invaluable, Senator Tom Young was checking to make sure we had everything we needed and the Valley Public Water District assisted us with a generator. Trey stated one of the most important things to have during a crisis is good leadership and without Danny and Christy Lowe, he doesn't know where we would've been. Ken Phillips was right there beside them. All of them having to literally cut their way through trees to get to work with damage and no power at their houses, they found a way to get to work to make sure the community was taken care of and did whatever they needed to do to make sure everyone had water. Trey stated CPW's field technicians and maintenance employees also were out there fixing leaks as trees were causing lines to break and working around the clock. Even our Commissioner Donnie Cooper was helping to make repairs to leaks before anyone else could make their way in town and changing out filters on the wells. Danny thanked Donnie and Trey for being there as well.

Secretary Treasurer Jackie Keenan stated she has only heard good things about our employees and how they stepped up and made sure everyone had water.

Commissioner Gerald McMurray commended all the employees for everything they did. He stated that it was a short period of time there was no water considering what all happened and how chaotic it was in the beginning.

Vice Chairman Donnie Cooper stated that if you see Jason Morgan around you need to tell him thank you for his help during the aftermath of the storm and his assistance to CPW. He worked right there along with the CPW employees.

Commissioners Roy Shaw reiterated what the other Commissioners stated on how he was so impressed with how the management and staff of CPW stepped up. Mr. Shaw also stated that he would like to look into getting the CPW a good generator.

Mr. Trey Stephens opened the floor to guest comments and questions.

Judy Graham-Dowd asked for clarification on the usage dates of next months bill for new Oak Hill customers.

James Pate at Cedar Creek asked about any other roads that would be included or added to the line replacement with the upcoming project on Club Dr. Chairman Trey Stephens stated that the SCIIP Grant projects will be discussed later in the meeting.

Beatrice Davis stated she has an issue going on at 410 Valley Ave. due to high water usage. After discussion, Director Danny Lowe stated they would come out tomorrow and do an hour by hour Data Log and put a clip on the meter to make sure no one is getting into the meter box.

Mr. Trey Stephens states that approving the Financial Report for September 2024 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 September 23, 2024 is on the agenda and asks for a motion and a second. Secretary-Treasurer Jackie Keenan 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 stated the Lead & Copper Study has been submitted to DHEC for Oak Hill Water System, which is now under New Ellenton CPW management. CPW will be sending out Lead & Copper Notification Letters to customers in November who have either lead, galvanized requiring replacement or unknown water lines on the customer side of the meter.

Mr. Lowe reported that the Chime Bell Church Rd. SCIIP Project is about 60% complete. Blair Construction has submitted their first payment request. Danny stated there have been minimal complaints about the new line going in but did have someone from the Big Red Barn that had concerns about the oak trees by the road. Danny informed him that we are doing a directional bore for 3 trees along there in order to preserve them.

Danny stated that Club Dr/Florida/Fern Dr. SCIIP bid advertisement was on October 24<sup>th</sup> and bid opening will be on November 26<sup>th</sup> and then wait for RIA approval. Mr. Lowe stated that we had discussed borrowing extra funds to replace lines on Longshadow Dr and/or Glenview Dr. but will have to wait until we see what the actual bid comes in at before we know what direction to go in as far as borrowing money. If the project comes in under bid COG has stated that we should be able to use the left over funds to go towards this project as well, which would be less money we need to borrow.

Danny Lowe stated during the aftermath of the hurricane and having to get one of our motors to the pump repaired, we were informed that we had 2 spare motors that had been dropped off over 3 years ago and never picked up. Now we have 2 spare motors on hand.

Danny Lowe reported that we have submitted a claim with our insurance company for damages and expenses the CPW incurred during Hurricane Helene. Danny had a meeting with the adjuster today for him to do an inspection. Anything our insurance company doesn't cover; we will apply for assistance from FEMA.

Danny provided copies of emails to the Commissioners where he has reached out to SCDOT concerning the reimbursement owed to CPW from engineering fees paid for the DOT project at Eagle Rd/Whiskey Rd. Robert with DOT is looking into when we will receive our reimbursement.

Ken Phillips reported a new 2024 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 was purchased as discussed and approved by Commissioners at last month's meeting.

Danny Lowe reported the water loss was 4.9% for the month of September.

Ken Phillips gave an update of field activities for September.

CPW will be participating in the Trunk or Treat being sponsored by the City & New Ellenton Fire Dept. It will be on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6pm to 8pm at Evans Park behind City Hall.

Christy Lowe reported that Intellisystems will be coming on November 7<sup>th</sup> to replace 5 computers that are due for upgrades.

Christy Lowe informed the Commissioners of a price increase from the auditor. Christy also reported the auditor that due to us receiving federal grant funds in excess of \$700,000 they would not be able to perform next year's audit but would refer us to a reputable auditor at that time.

Christy Lowe presented a draft copy of a New Ellenton CPW newsletter. It is a work in progress and will be added to and completed by the end of the year.

Commissioner Roy Shaw inquired whether we needed to discuss purchasing a generator after what happened with the recent hurricane. Danny Lowe completely agreed that a generator is needed but he stated that before we do that, a quick connect should be installed so we are able to plug it up and go instead of having to call an electrician out to hook it up in an emergency situation. Danny also suggested speaking with a rental company and placing a 150K generator on retainer that would give us access to a generator as needed.

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

#### NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Trey Stephens stated that after a discussion with Danny, it was decided that CPW would not be performing disconnections for non-payment in October while customers were recovering from Hurricane Helene and a lot still without power or internet. Both felt that it was not the time to shut off the customer's water. Also discussed was, if a customer has a leak related to the storm, CPW would obviously give the customer a leak adjustment per the policy, but it would not be counted towards their one leak adjustment allowed every 2 years. All Commissioners agreed. Disconnections will resume in November.

Christy Lowe presented quotes for 2 different companies for an updated payment system. Mrs. Lowe stated the main reason for looking at other payment options is due to the high volume of "online bill payment" checks that CPW receives from customers via USPS. There have been many issues over the last several years with the postal service and getting these checks on time before the due date. Christy explained that even though the customer is paying this bill online through their bank, a paper check still has to be mailed to CPW. Either one of the companies proposed would be able to receive an electronic file from the customer's bank so the payment would be received no later than the following day and posted to the customers' account. After discussion, Commissioners requested to table this item until more information is gathered.

Danny Lowe stated that he and Ken met with our new Consolidated Pipe & Supply meter representative and he is going to replace 40 meters due to issues with registers on some of the ones recently installed.

Danny Lowe reported that the developer for the property across from KJ's has not turned in their Water Reservation Agreement therefore they do not have a Willingness to Serve.

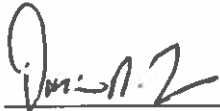
Trey Stephens announced that the New Ellenton CPW Christmas dinner will be on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm and is being held at the Maintenance shop. It will be a catered hibachi style dinner for all employees and Commissioners with one guest.

Trey Stephens reminded Commissioner's of the Decision Makers Conference coming up on February 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> as it is a good one for management and Commissioner's to attend. If anyone would like to go, please let Christy know by next month's meeting.

Danny Lowe reported that we had 2 employees who passed their license exams, Kyle Johnson and Luke Cooper.

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

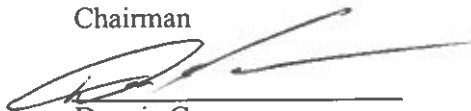
Attested by,



Director  
Danny Lowe



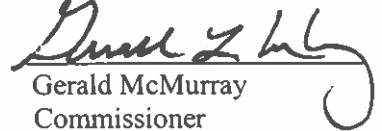
Trey Stephens  
Chairman



Donnie Cooper  
Vice Chairman



Jackie Keenan  
Secretary-Treasurer



Gerald McMurray  
Commissioner



Roy Shaw  
Commissioner