

Commission of Public Works meeting, October 23, 2023
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: Deborah Peek (Oak Hill Water), Lynne Hendrix (Oak Hill Water), Carl Culpepper, Brad Martin (DHEC) Mike Kellems (Aiken County Council) and Larry Halicki

Place: New Ellenton Community Center
212 Pine Hill Ave.
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.

Mike Kellems with Aiken County Council representing District #2 stated he is here tonight in support of helping New Ellenton CPW and Oak Hill Water District find a solution that is best for both communities in any way he can. Mr. Kellems also stated that although Senator Tom Young and Representative Bill Taylor were unable to attend tonight's meeting due to prior commitments, they are actively looking for options to assist New Ellenton CPW take on Oak Hill Water Departments customers.

Larry Halicki reported that at their last community meeting for Cedar Creek, representatives with Comcast were there to discuss the recent problems that have occurred while they are installing telecommunication lines in the area. Larry stated that Comcast informed the Cedar Creek community that they would be responsible for the cost of replacing and repairing any damage and they would guarantee their work for a year. The contact name with Comcast is Josh Diggs.

Mr. Trey Stephens states that approving the Financial Report for September 2023 is on the agenda and asks for a motion and a second. After discussion, Vice Chairman Donnie Cooper made a motion to accept the Financial Report; it was seconded by Commissioner Roy Shaw and carried.

Chairman Trey Stephens states that approving the minutes for September 25, 2023 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

Trey Stephens stated there is a revised lease agreement that needs to be signed and then have the City to resign as well. The only change made is using the work landlord instead on agency when referring to CPW.

Danny Lowe stated he met with our engineer concerning SCIIP Grant projects. They have completed the survey on Chime Bell Church Rd. and they are working in the Cedar Creek and Florida Ave. area to get those survey's completed. Mr. Lowe informed the engineer he would like to get the Chime Bell Church Rd. project expedited.

Mr. Lowe spoke with Will Buchannan (the engineer working on the Darlington Well project also covered under the SCIIP Grant) and he stated he will have the bid packages ready in October to be sent to RIA for review. It should be ready to go out for bid first of the year.

Danny reported that the maintenance shop on Boatner is almost completed. They are working on installing the electrical and a few other things, then they'll be moving over the inventory from the office on Main St. Danny stated everyone has pitched in and helped get the shop ready.

Danny Lowe stated he spoke with our engineer and we are almost complete with the bidding process for the Darlington project to be funded by the SCIIP grant.

Danny Lowe reported the water loss was 9.4% for the month of August.

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

Trey Stephens asked Office Manager, Christy Lowe, how it was going with the new bank account for the Grant money. Christy reported the account has been set up but is not available online yet. The bank is working on getting that part set up very soon.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Christy Lowe presented a new policy for First Amendment Auditors. After discussion, Vice Chairman Donnie Cooper made a motion to approve the new policy; it was seconded by Commissioner Gerald McMurray and carried.

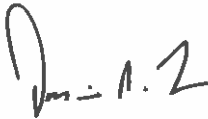
Danny Lowe reported that DHEC performed the annual Sanitary Survey for CPW and everything went well.

Trey Stephens stated that after the meeting with Oak Hill Water trustee, Deborah Peek and representatives from SCDHEC in September, CPW called a Special Meeting to bring all the Commissioners up to date on what was discussed with Oak Hill and DHEC as it was not a scheduled meeting (no quorum). The Commissioners all agreed that we would hold 95 taps for Oak Hill Water Dept for 180 days contingent upon Oak Hill Water Dept with the help of DHEC and state/county representatives to seek and obtain


funding to offset the cost of tying them into CPW's system. Chairman Trey Stephens also stated that Director, Danny Lowe, has agreed to sign off as the Operator of the system during this 180 day time period free of charge in order to help save Oak Hill Water Dept money on paying another company/individual to do it. Mr. Lowe stated he will not be fixing leaks or anything else, he will just be checking the wells and signing the books. Danny stated he will be scheduling a voluntary Sanitary Survey inspection with DHEC prior to him signing the books for Oak Hill. Trey Stephens stated part of the agreement would be that CPW's employees would assist with any leaks/repairs as time permits after CPW business hours and Oak Hill Water Department would reimburse CPW for the employees' time. Brad Martin with DHEC stated that they are already in the process of looking for funding. They have found some federal funding that could be used for planning purposes only. Danny Lowe provided the specifics of CPW's current water capacity and tap availability: currently have 3,100 taps, with the Willingness to Serve Letters we have given the number of taps we have committed to service is 3,735 (not including the 95 customers in Oak Hill Water). The average number of gallons a day used by a customer is 300 gallons and per DHEC regulation, the water storage capacity has to be able to provide 2 hours of fire flow plus peak hour of domestic usage or equal to 1 ½ of the daily consumption. Mr. Lowe stated when we get to the 3,735 tap capacity, we will be at 1.12 million gallons a day storage capacity. Half of that storage capacity which is 560,250 gallons, has to be in the air and right now our tanks hold 600,000 gallons. Therefore, that will leave us with approximately 40,000 gallons of excess water, which is about 24 taps (after Willingness to Serve customers have been fulfilled). Danny Lowe stated that based on these figures, unless we get another water tank with storage in the air, we do not have the water supply another 95 customers. In saying that, Danny reported that the taps that have been committed to serve water will take 2 to 3 years before they will be in use, but Danny would like the Board to be aware that it is imperative for CPW to have a new tank before these commitments can be filled and be able to supply Oak Hill Water Dept. customers from our system. After further discussion with Deborah Peek at Oak Hill Water Department, an agreement was signed with Oak Hill on a 180 day time limit (with a couple Oak Hill Trustees signatures needed to make it official).

Donnie Cooper made a motion to adjourn; Roy Shaw seconds, 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