



GreenvilleWater

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS  
407 West Broad Street  
Commission Room, Level Two  
Greenville, South Carolina  
September 10, 2013  
8:00 a.m.**

**Commissioners of Public Works:**

Chairman Debra M. Sofield, James W. Bannister, Phillip A. Kilgore, and J. David Sudduth;

Absent: Knox H. White

**Greenville Water Staff:**

Chief Executive Officer David H. Bereskin, Chief Operations Officer Murray Dodd, Chief Financial Officer Phil Robey, Director of Business Services David Hughey, Director of Engineering Mike Sharpless, Director of Water Resources K.C. Price, Director of Information Technology Joe Beineke, Controller Jondia Berry and Commission Attorney David Ward

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The Regular Meeting of the Commissioners of Public Works was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by the Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Kilgore.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Sudduth moved, seconded by Commissioner Bannister, to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 6, 2013. The motion carried unanimously.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dave Langenhan, 30 Ruskin Square, Greenville, shared feedback he has received from the public requesting more comprehensive information on their water bill.

**3. LAURENS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONS**

Chief Executive Officer David H. Bereskin advised Greenville Water has been working with Laurens County Water and Sewer Commissions (LCWSC) to develop and consummate an agreement to ensure LCWSC has adequate water resources for the next 100 years. Mr. Bereskin stated the proposed terms are for 40 years, 30 years, and 30 years.

Commissioner Sudduth asked about the long term financial impact of the agreement on Greenville Water. Mr. Robey stated the agreement is fair to both parties and does not put Greenville Water in an adverse position. Mr. Robey also stated the agreement changes the way Greenville Water bills wholesale customers and makes the billing process easier to understand. Mr. Robey suggested the agreement serve as a template for future wholesale arrangements.

Commissioner Sudduth moved, seconded by Commissioner Bannister, to enter into the agreement with LCWSC. The motion carried unanimously.

LCWSC Executive Director Jeff Field thanked Greenville Water staff for their work through the long process and advised the LCWSC Board has already approved the agreement pending Greenville Water's approval. Mr. Field commented on LCWSC's partnership with Greenville Water over the past 30 years and stated he looks forward to the continued relationship.

#### **4. WATER RESOURCES UPDATE AND WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Director of Water Resources K.C. Price presented highlights from the Water Resources Report as provided in the Commissioners' Agenda packet. Mr. Price stated Table Rock and North Saluda are both full and water production is currently at less than 53 million gallons per day. Mr. Price also stated Table Rock set a new high calendar rain fall record at 87.80 inches.

Regarding the Natural Resource Management Plan, Mr. Price advised The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has developed a draft plan including 77 management recommendations for active management, monitoring, research, patrol, and outreach and partnership. Mr. Price requested input regarding three of the recommendations as provided in the Commissioners' Agenda Packet. Mr. Price stated Greenville Water concurs in general with the other recommendations.

Regarding Recommendation 11, Mr. Price recommended continuing the process currently in place and eliminating the component leaving trees along the shoreline. Mr. Price advised TNC's reason for leaving the trees is related to the fishery component. Commissioner Sudduth asked how Greenville Water has previously determined where and when to remove trees from the water. Mr. Bereskin responded staff attempts to remove the trees as quickly as possible. Commissioner Kilgore questioned if more trees have fallen into the lake due to the rain received this year, and Mr. Price responded he could not tell. Mr. Price commented on the process of using the barge to clear trees and cleaning the equipment when moving it from one lake to another.

Regarding Recommendation 28, Mr. Price recommended using the word "consider" and not "implement" in using a prescribed fire as a forest management tool. Regarding Recommendation 31, Mr. Price recommended documenting cultural artifacts on the property and leaving them in place rather than moving them. Commissioner Kilgore agreed with the recommendation. Mr. Price stated there are some minor language adjustments to address and that he anticipates coming back to the Commission within a year with answers to the recommended changes.

Commissioner Sudduth moved, seconded by Commissioner Bannister, to accept staff's recommendations to modify TNC's recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Sofield joined the meeting.

Mr. Bereskin asked if the Commission wanted to discuss any issues regarding the Natural Resource Management Plan in general. Commissioner Sofield recommended scheduling another time to discuss questions from the Commission.

#### **5. FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Chief Financial Officer Phil Robey presented an updated report on the unaudited year end results. Mr. Robey advised the auditors would present comprehensive information on the audit in November and he anticipates receiving a clean audit opinion. Mr. Robey commended the organization's ability to meet financial goals during a year with heavier than normal rainfall.

Mr. Robey commented on Greenville Water receiving an AAA rating and explained the significance of having an AAA rating. Mr. Robey referred to only 14 other water utilities having an AAA rating from all three rating agencies. Mr. Robey discussed the benefit and timing of refinancing the 2005 bonds and the money saved in doing so.

Commissioner Sudduth asked how Greenville Water is managing delinquent charges. Director of Business Services David Hughey discussed efforts in contacting delinquent customers and referred to some comments received involving fixed incomes and bad payment histories. Mr. Hughey also referred to some customers who are still being educated on the monthly billing process. Mr. Hughey stated staff is still contacting delinquent customers and notes have been made to accounts for customers sharing concerns about fixed incomes. Mr. Bereskin commented on the change to monthly billing meeting the goal for turn offs and turn ons reducing the fee approximately \$500,000.

Commissioner Sudduth asked if there is any flexibility in realigning billing and payment dates. Mr. Hughey responded the system will not allow for flexibility at this time. Mr. Bereskin stated there may be an opportunity to implement date alignment when the software system is updated.

#### **6. APPROVE NEW IRRIGATION METER POLICY**

Chief Operations Officer Murray Dodd presented information focusing on the “Sustainable Future” component of irrigation metering. Mr. Dodd stated the current costs for an irrigation meter ranges from \$2,170 to \$2,670 and removing the capacity fee would reduce the cost to approximately \$500. Mr. Dodd recommended under the proposed policy removing the capacity fee and changing the installation method, including Greenville Water installing the meter, which would reduce the cost to approximately \$500. Mr. Dodd also recommended requiring the customer to have EPA water sense approved weather-based controller and have a rain sensor, and have the ability to turn off the irrigation meter during extreme drought. Mr. Dodd stated the customer would be responsible for installing the cut-off for the irrigation meter.

Commissioner Kilgore asked if new customers would continue to pay a capacity fee for their home meter, but would no longer pay a capacity fee on an irrigation meter. Mr. Bereskin responded yes. Commissioner Kilgore stated the policy would benefit the customer by removing the capacity fee and reducing sewer service charges.

Commissioner Sudduth asked how Greenville Water would educate the public on the irrigation meter. Mr. Dodd referred to John Zwolinski’s presentation at the last Commission meeting and the proposed educational components and social media opportunities. Commissioner Sofield asked for the promotional plan to be presented to the Commission prior to distribution.

Commissioner Sudduth moved, seconded by Commissioner Kilgore, to approve the irrigation meter policy. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **7. FALL FOR GREENVILLE - GREENVILLE WATER BOOTH**

Mr. Hughey presented information regarding the Fall For Greenville booth for Greenville Water and advised the booth would be used to educate the public on electronic billing, meter readings, bill explanation, backflow prevention devices, and the new irrigation policy. Mr. Hughey advised the hand wash station would be at the event as well. Commissioner Kilgore recommended providing some type of coupon for customers who sign up for irrigation meters. Mr. Bereskin offered to obtain gift certificates to provide to those customers. Mr. Bereskin stated Greenville Water staff would be passing out water bottles to the public.

#### **8. PURCHASE OF PROPERTY ON MAYFIELD STREET/OSCAR STREET**

Mr. Bereskin referred to four properties located at Mayfield Street and Oscar Street consisting of approximately one-half acre collectively and recommended purchasing the parcels to allow for

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moving the underground stormwater system to an open stormwater retention facility saving \$600,000 or more. Mr. Bereskin advised Greenville Water has pending approval from the property owner for three of the four parcels at \$45,000, contingent upon purchase of the fourth parcel. Mr. Bereskin stated the fourth parcel is being negotiated.

Commissioner Kilgore moved, seconded by Commissioner Sudduth, to approve the purchase of the three parcels contingent upon purchase of the fourth parcel. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **9. CONSIDERATION TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Kilgore moved, seconded by Commissioner Sudduth, to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. The motion carried unanimously.

(Executive Session)

There being no further discussions, Commissioner Kilgore moved, seconded by Commissioner Sudduth, to go out of Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously. No action was taken.

#### **10. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT**

Mr. Bereskin stated Duke Energy is working to obtain signatures for the Relicensing Agreement. Mr. Bereskin advised Greenville Water presented comments which are being reviewed and is staying engaged in the discussions. Commissioner Sofield asked for updates to be provided to the Commission.

Mr. Bereskin referred to a meeting between Greenville Water and the Conservation Funds for both North Carolina and South Carolina on property matters involving the state boundary line. Mr. Bereskin stated the Conservation Fund has asked Greenville Water to adjust its boundaries to meet the new survey agreed upon by both states. Commissioner Kilgore asked if The Nature Conservancy has to approve the property swap, and Mr. Bereskin responded he would have to ask. Commissioner Kilgore questioned if Mr. Bereskin is asking the Commission to agree to a land swap for equal parcels of approximately the same property value, and Mr. Bereskin said yes. Commissioner Kilgore stated he would like to make sure TNC is consulted and is in full agreement. Mr. Bereskin stated he would contact TNC and begin discussions with them.

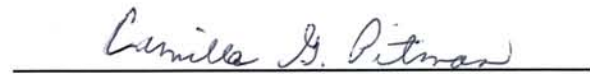
#### **11. COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Commissioner Sofield thanked staff for their work on the Fall For Greenville booth and for quickly informing Commissioners of issues involving leaks.

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

  
 Phillip A. Kilgore, Vice-Chairman

  
 Camilla G. Pitman, MMC, Certified PLS  
 City Clerk