



GreenvilleWater

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS
407 West Broad Street
Commission Room, Level Two
Greenville, South Carolina
February 4, 2014
8:15 a.m.**

Commissioners of Public Works in attendance:

Chairman Debra M. Sofield, Vice-Chairman Phillip A. Kilgore, James W. Bannister, and J. David Sudduth Absent: Knox H. White. A quorum was present.

Greenville Water Staff in attendance:

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

The Regular Meeting of the Commissioners of Public Works was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by the Chairman, Commissioner Sofield.

1. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM BOB KNIGHT

Government Liaison Bob Knight reviewed the Legislative Agenda and Statement of Purpose as provided in the Commissioner's February Agenda packet. The next scheduled legislative event on the agenda is a legislative luncheon with the Greenville legislative delegation and Pickens County elected representatives in Columbia. Prior to the reception, Greenville Water will be recognized by Representative Phyllis Henderson for receiving AWWA's Partnership for Safe Water President's Award.

The Greenville County Road Projects Committee has started public hearings and the hope is to be able to intimately coordinate resurfacing projects with water main replacement projects for a more economic process for Greenville Water and Greenville County. Chief Executive Officer David Bereskin said Greenville Water would like to make a presentation to this Committee to talk about water main projects, but there will only be seven meetings in total, where only residents are allowed. At the last meeting there is a possibility for an opportunity to present for 2 minutes. Management will try very hard to make these things mesh, because it is a big issue.

Mr. Knight stated legislative priority number one is to maintain flexibility and availability of resources. Greenville Water will work with Legislators and other Stakeholders to protect its ability to access the quantities of raw water from its three water sources that long range planning has been built around for decades. Legislative priority number two is to oppose the imposition of a state sales tax on water service. We will remain vigilant and keep an eye on any venues where this tax could be proposed. Legislative priority number three is to maintain our governing independence, which is a catch all for all sorts of legislative initiatives to either change the governing structure of our board or change jurisdictional lines and authority. This includes rate differentials inside and outside Cities, etc. Legislative priority number four covers miscellaneous concerns. Mr. Knight asked for direction from the Commission to amend the Commission Clerk language (Code Section 5-31-24) allowing the City Clerk to designate someone to be clerk of

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Water Commission meetings. After brief discussion, Commissioners gave Mr. Knight permission to proceed with seeking the amendment.

Mr. Knight asked Commissioners to direct their attention to legislation of interest and briefly reviewed Bills H3128, H3175, H3408, H3945 and H4373.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Bannister moved, seconded by Commissioner Kilgore, to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing Contractual Matters. The motion carried unanimously.

(Executive Session)

Upon exiting Executive Session, Commissioner Sofield announced no action had been taken.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Kilgore moved, seconded by Commissioner Sudduth, to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 7, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were presented.

5. WATER RESOURCES UPDATE

Director of Water Resources K.C. Price presented highlights from the Water Resources report as provided in the Commissioner's Agenda packet. Mr. Price pointed out Greenville Water set new minimum lows in production for all of 2013 due to the record breaking rainfall.

Table Rock reservoir received 112 inches of rainfall in 2013 raising the 10 year average annual rainfall to 73 inches, which is three inches higher than before.

6. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Chief Financial Officer Phil Robey presented highlights from the December Financial Report. December is a low demand month and that coupled with the rainfall conditions that Mr. Price mentioned has revenues running a little behind. We have a rate adjustment that will be effective after March 1, 2014. The Finance Department will continue to monitor our water sale revenue in light of the wetter than normal conditions.

Our Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system has drastically reduced the Turn off/Turn on charges for non-payment by almost half compared to the first five months of the previous year. This is a savings for customers. Mr. Bereskin added Greenville Water is working with Advanced Utility Systems to be able to adjust the fixed payment date to be more flexible, to accommodate our customers.

Commissioner Kilgore asked if we are ahead of plan or on plan, in terms of revenues over expenses. Mr. Robey responded, given the wetter than average winter and our low demand period right now, revenues are at or near where they need to be. Revenues will continue to be reviewed closely.

7. ADOPTION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Ms. Kristen Austin, South Carolina Southern Blue Ridge Program Director at The Nature Conservancy presented Greenville Water's Watershed Management Plan to the Commission for adoption.

Ms. Austin, on behalf of The Nature Conservancy, thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve Greenville Water and pull this plan together. The Nature Conservancy hopes the plan will be looked at as a tool rather than a plan and see it as an active document that is a clearing house of data about the watershed properties that can help guide Greenville Water in stewarding these lands that provide great drinking water for the community. Implementing the recommendations will be a process and another layer will be needed for developing work plans for management.

The Nature Conservancy doesn't walk away when the plan is complete, the plan is a partnership. If any assistance is needed with implementation, help will be available.

Commissioner Sofield thanked Ms. Austin and The Nature Conservancy for the hard work and commented the plan is quite a document which the Commission is thankful for.

Commissioner Kilgore moved, seconded by Commissioner Bannister, to go adopt the Watershed Management Plan as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

8. DATES FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS

Mr. Bereskin presented a calendar of upcoming meetings and events as provided in the Commissioner's Agenda packet and informed Commissioners there would be requests for Strategic Planning and Rules and Regulations Review meetings coming soon.

9. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Mr. Bereskin informed the Commission the Greenville Water Campus Committee has reached a concurrence and recommendation on the type of brick and block to be chosen. There will be a mock up built by the end of the month in the fenced in area for viewing. The brick color is red in nature to match the existing building.

Regarding the Right of Way issue brought forward to the Commission, which passed last month, City Attorney Ron McKinney is going to meet with City Council to get concurrence in the policy and direction that we have asked them to proceed. Commissioner Sudduth stated City Council had discussed the issue at their meeting the previous evening and the only suggestion made was to have someone in Engineering at the City to review the requests as part of the process to ensure coordination between Greenville Water and the City of Greenville. Mr. Bereskin stated Mr. McKinney had recommended speaking with the recorder at Greenville County to create a form that could be transmitted from Greenville Water. A solution is close at hand.

Mr. Bereskin suggested combining two committees that are very similar in responsibility, the Finance Committee and the Compensation Committee, to form the Finance/Compensation Committee. Commissioners agreed to combine the committees. Mr. Bereskin stated a meeting will need to be scheduled with this Committee before the Compensation/Classification Consultant is brought before the Commission.

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Greenville Water earned awards from United Way for contributions in 2013. The awards were The Chairman's Award, The Campaign Award and The Campaign Award for Excellence.

Employees will be receiving notice of a reduction, albeit a small reduction, of their insurance premiums. Management was able to negotiate a percentage deduction through United Health Care and Mercer. The reduction will be reflected in February going forward.

11. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Section 5-31-240 of the South Carolina Code requires that the Commission organize by the election of one of their members as Chairman following any election of a Commissioner for a full term. Commissioner Sofield was elected for a full term in the November, 2013 general election. It is, therefore, appropriate for the Commission to nominate and elect its Chair and Vice Chair at this time for the 2014-2015 term.

Commissioner Sofield made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sudduth, to nominate Commissioner Kilgore for Chair and Commissioner Bannister for Vice-Chair. With no further nominations or objections, the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Kilgore thanked Commissioner Sofield for her many years as Chair and an excellent job providing superb leadership to the organization.

12. COMMISSION COMMENTS

No comments were presented.

13. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.


Phillip A. Kilgore, Chairman


Kimberly J. Haulter, Executive Assistant