



GreenvilleWater

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS
517 West Washington Street
Community Room
Greenville, South Carolina
January 12, 2021
8:15 a.m.**

Commissioners of Public Works in attendance:

Chairman Phillip A. Kilgore, Vice-Chairman James W. Bannister, Debra M. Sofield, Mayor Knox H. White, and Wil Brasington. A quorum was present.

Greenville Water Senior Staff in attendance:

Chief Executive Officer David H. Bereskin, Chief Financial Officer Phil Robey, Chief Operations Officer Jeff Boss, Director of Water Resources Jeff Phillips, Director of Strategic Initiatives Dr. Jane Arrington, Director of Engineering Mark Hattendorf, Director of Administration, Sustainability and Compliance Dr. Bob Schmidt, Director of Human Resources Richard Posey, Director of Business Services Gary VerDouw, Manager of Field Operations Wayne Benson, Manager of Facilities and Fleet Allen White, Public Relations Manager Emerald Clark and Attorney Adam Bach.

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

1. WELCOME

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were presented.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Kilgore listed the items of the Consent Agenda which were the meeting minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting December 8, 2020, the Water Resources Report, the Finance Update, and New Development. Commissioner Sofield moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Bannister, to approve the items of the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Legislative Liaison Bob Knight to provide a legislative update. Mr. Knight announced committee meetings in both the South Carolina House of Representatives and Senate were being held despite the possibility of protests taking place in Columbia. Representative Bannister will discuss Greenville Water's retirement bill with the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. The desire is to get the bill through the Ways and Means Committee and on to the Senate in case the session gets cut short again due to COVID concerns. Greenville area members of the Ways and Means Committee co-sponsored the bill. There are four members of the committee from Greenville County.

Title II of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES II Act) has been passed and includes \$648 million allocated to water and wastewater companies in America to help with utility relief. The bill clearly states the money will flow to water and wastewater companies, not to the State or people individually, but to the water and wastewater companies. The assumption is the money will be allocated based upon population, but more information should be coming soon.

Greenville Water is attempting to acquire COVID-19 vaccinations for key personnel, particularly water treatment plant operators. There have been a number of conversations with Prisma Health to have the operators included in the essential personnel category to obtain vaccinations.

5. PAYMODE X

Chairman Kilgore called on Chief Financial Officer Phil Robey to present on Paymode X. Mr. Robey explained Paymode X is an accounts payable management solution serviced at TD Bank. Under this program TD Bank would manage all disbursements to vendors. These are disbursements via paper check, ACH and payments via credit card. The bank actively helps to promote acceptance of electronic forms of payment by vendors. The electronic payments are less expensive than paper checks per transaction. The greatest advantage of the program is Greenville Water would earn rebates on spending.

The rebates would be a result of spending done via credit card and certain types of ACH. As the bank makes money off these forms of payment, the bank is willing to share a portion of the revenue with Greenville Water. A conservative estimate projects the net benefit to Greenville Water to be around \$220,000 in the first three years of participation in the program. In administering the disbursements on Greenville Water's behalf, the bank also administers and handles the information as it relates to the banking information of vendors. The banking information will be moved out of Greenville Water's system and into the bank's system which reduces exposure for any kind of data exfiltration or hacking. This will also reduce Greenville Water's exposure to fraud associated with account takeover and business email compromise.

Mr. Robey asked for questions and stated Greenville Water would be moving toward participating in TD Bank's Paymode X program.

6. 2021 INSURANCE RECAP

Chairman Kilgore invited Mr. Robey to present a recap of the insurance coverage changes made for 2021. This was a follow-up to a presentation in the December 2020 Commission meeting. Mr. Robey provided a recap of the December presentation.

Effective January 1, 2021 Greenville Water moved to the private market for insurance coverage. This allows for better coverage and premium savings. The primary difference between the State coverage and the private market is the umbrella coverage available in the private market. Mr. Robey explained the details of the umbrella program, stating this will be a very strong addition to Greenville Water's insurance coverage. This coverage change also

affords a significant overall cost savings in premiums. Commissioner Sofield asked if this will be a yearly renewal. Mr. Robey replied that it will be.

7. ADKINS RAW WATER PUMPING STATION ELECTRICAL FIRE

Chairman Kilgore recognized Chief Operations Officer Jeff Boss to provide information regarding an electrical fire at the Adkins Raw Water Pumping Station. On Friday, November 13, 2020 there was a near catastrophic event at the raw water pumping station. It has been classified as a significant fire. Mr. Boss provided before and after pictures of the equipment where the fire took place, as well as a vicinity map to show the distance from the water treatment plant to the intake/pumping station.

The event timeline was as follows:

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| 12:56 AM | The pumps tripped out and were not sending water to the plant. The Operator responded to the Intake and noticed smoke coming out of building, then called 911 and the Water Treatment Plant Superintendent. |
| 1:32 AM | Keowee Springs and Six Mile Fire Departments arrived and ventilated the building. The fire appeared to self-extinguish. The building then had to be cleared before it was opened to staff. |
| 3:30 AM | Greenville Water staff and Power Solutions (electrical contractor) were allowed by the fire department to enter the intake. It was determined that the fire originated in the motor control center (MCC) for raw water pump #1. Extensive heat damage was detected in the controls for raw water pump #2 and the main electrical feed to the building. |
| 7:30 PM | Pumps 3, 4, and 5 were up and running. |

Mr. Boss presented a damage assessment and detailed the temporary repairs made to use the controls and MCC for pumps 3,4, and 5. The insurance adjuster surmised the fire started in the contactor and spread to the rest of the MCC. Quotes have been received to repair the existing electrical cabinets in-kind. Staff recommends a modification rather than an in-kind repair to protect from another similar event. CDM Smith, Inc. has been selected for engineering the restoration design.

Chairman Kilgore asked if the nature of the cause of the fire was clear, whether it was a design flaw, age of the equipment, an oversight on maintenance, or pure act of God. Mr. Boss answered Brown and Caldwell had been hired to complete a forensic investigation before anything was taken apart. The findings were inconclusive. The insurance adjuster suspected the fire started in the contactors and was a vacuum tube failure, but he would not state for certain this was the cause. Commissioner Sofield asked the age of the equipment. Mr. Boss stated the equipment was installed in 2011. Chairman Kilgore asked what the likelihood of this vacuum tube failure happening again would be. Mr. Boss stated every cabinet has been inspected in the raw water pumping station and at the Adkins Plant. There were some transformers with insulation issues that have been corrected. Going forward a solid-state type cabinet will be used, which would reduce the likelihood of this happening.

8. SUSTAINABILITY

Chairman Kilgore recognized Dr. Bob Schmidt as a newcomer to Greenville Water and asked Mr. Bereskin to make an introduction. Mr. Bereskin explained that Dr. Schmidt is the new Director of Administration, Sustainability and Compliance and will be helping with watershed matters and building a rapport with non-governmental and governmental agencies dealing with water resources. Dr. Schmidt will also be assisting with insurance claims.

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Dr. Schmidt to present Greenville Water's sustainability plan for 2021. Dr. Schmidt explained he would be presenting on sustainability and direction of sustainability, not what has been accomplished. This plan has been developed in response to changes either at the political level and at both Federal and State levels. The four areas presented were as follows:

Watershed Preservation and Restoration

- Develop a Preservation, Restoration & Maintenance Plan for each watershed.
- Develop a watershed land acquisition plan
- Evaluate external stakeholders plans and positions
- Identify internal projects and opportunities for collaborative efforts with external stakeholders.

Alternative Fuel Vehicles

- Lower operating costs
- Reduce emissions
- Improve performance

Facilities Energy Consumption

- Assessment of current energy patterns by location
- Establish energy consumption baselines
- Identify potential opportunities for improvements
- Select and implement process/technology improvements

Community Development

- Conduct community outreach
- Complete community assessment for special needs neighborhoods
- Collaborate with community stakeholders to obtain financing for targeted opportunities
- Collaborate and implement targeted improvements

Mr. Bereskin added Dr. Schmidt hopes to be able to work with The City of Greenville's Sustainability Coordinator Michael Frixen to maximize Federal money coming into the area for line replacements, as well as upfits for neighborhoods. Greenville Water Staff will bring cost effective proposals to the Commission before any changes are implemented.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Sofield moved, seconded by Vice-Chairman Bannister, to enter Executive Session for the purposes of considering legal action. The motion passed unanimously.

(Executive Session)

Vice-Chairman Bannister moved, seconded by Commissioner Sofield, to go out of Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously. No action was taken.

10. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

The meeting adjourned after Executive Session.

11. COMMISSION COMMENTS

No comments were presented at this time.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 9:45 a.m.



Phillip A. Kilgore, Chairman

Kimberly Haulter, Executive Assistant