



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS
407 W. Broad Street, Level 2,
Greenville, South Carolina
August 2, 2022
8:15 a.m.**

GreenvilleWater

Commissioners of Public Works in attendance:

Chairman Phillip A. Kilgore, Debra M. Sofield, Mayor Knox H. White, and Wil Brasington.

Absent: Vice-Chairman James W. Bannister. 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, Chief Administrative Officer Dr. Bob Schmidt, Director of Strategic Initiatives Dr. Jane Arrington, Asset Management Program Manager Aneta Nessel, and Internal Auditor Jacob Polson.

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 asked for questions pertaining to the consent agenda items. There being none, he called for approval of the items of the Consent Agenda which were the meeting minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting June 7, 2022, the Water Resources Report, the Finance Update, New Development, and New Annexations. Commissioner Brasington moved, seconded by Commissioner Sofield, to approve the items of the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Chairman Kilgore announced Legislative Liaison Bob Knight was not able to attend the meeting to provide a legislative update. Chief Executive Officer David Bereskin stated he would provide any pertinent information during the Chief Executive Report.

5. 2022 ASSET MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES UPDATE

Chairman Kilgore welcomed Director of Strategic Initiatives Dr. Jane Arrington to provide an Asset Management initiatives update. Dr. Arrington explained that 2022 ushered in many positive developments for Greenville Water Asset Management. Hexagon AB, a global leader in digital reality solutions, acquired Infor's Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) business. Hexagon operations for EAM are based in Huntsville, Alabama; however, the development team is still based in Greenville, SC. The Vice-President for Development lives in Fountain Inn. He shared several exciting enhancements with Dr. Arrington that Hexagon

has on the roadmap to employ. A few of the enhancements have already been leveraged in Greenville Water's EAM software.

Dr. Arrington introduced Greenville Water's new Asset Management Program Manager Aneta Nessel. A new position for Greenville Water in 2022 is the Utility Systems Data Analyst. This position has been filled by Shane Doerre and will enable Greenville Water to move forward with a high level of maintenance and support and provide enhancements to existing processes. In addition, Ms. Nessel and Mr. Doerre bring with them the technical skillset and capability to implement Greenville Water's software in additional departments.

Dr. Arrington introduced Ms. Nessel to present the technical portion of the presentation. Ms. Nessel explained the first step completed when she arrived was to improve EAM Support through a ticketing system which was created in April 2022. This system provided a centralized tracking of issues and enhancements, immediate feedback to requestors and an excellent documentation source for managing EAM's growth. Over 300 tickets have been logged since implementation.

Companywide enhancements achieved in 2022 to date included:

- CIS (Customer Information System) integration to EAM go-live
- Work order Quality Control improvement
- Booking labor by crew to improve speed and accuracy
- Simplified mobile user interface for Field Technicians

Departmental enhancements achieved in 2022 to date included:

- Parts and tools usage recorded on work orders in the field
- Electronic Damage Report
- Criticality assessment for water treatment plant assets
- Improved departmental coordination on valve and fire hydrant maintenance

In addition to the enhancements, two projects will be done to bring two new divisions, Warehouse and Fleet, into EAM. The Warehouse implementation will manage inventory from the moment it is received until the inventory is put into the ground. Benefits to the Warehouse will include faster dispatch of field crews, real-time e-tracking of ownership, inventory levels, usage, and cost. This implementation will also prepare Greenville Water for the new financial information system implementation in 2023. Ms. Nessel reviewed details of current processes and future processes after implementation.

The Fleet implementation will move fleet management from FleetMate to EAM. EAM will track the following:

- Vehicles & equipment
- Fleet warehouse inventory
- PM schedules
- Mileage
- Vehicle safety operator checklists
- VMRS codes to track specific issues
- Warranties
- Labor and parts cost

Minutes – Commissioners of Public Works
August 2, 2022
Page 3

Benefits of this implementation will be the notification of preventive maintenance due on vehicles, electronic vehicle safety operator check lists, and odometer reading imports from the fuel system. This implementation will also remove one additional software component due to the Fleet inclusion in EAM.

Commissioner Brasington asked for the projected financial cost improvement because of all the efficiencies. Dr. Arrington arranged to share a previously prepared return on investment presentation with the Commissioners.

6. THE TOWN OF PELZER PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Chairman Kilgore invited Chief Financial Officer Phil Robey to tell the Commission about the Town of Pelzer purchase agreement. Mr. Robey started with a quick refresher on the Town of Pelzer water system and the two-step process of taking over operations and control of the system through transfer of ownership by way of a purchase agreement with the Town of Pelzer.

Greenville Water assumed management and operational control of Pelzer's water system effective July 1, 2022 and has collaborated with Pelzer on the development and submission of an ARPA South Carolina Infrastructure Investment Program (SCIIP) Regionalization Grant for the town. A Utility Asset and Purchase Agreement has been drafted by Willoughby & Hoefer Attorneys at Law and forwarded to the Town of Pelzer for review. The agreement transfers or assigns the following from the Town of Pelzer to Greenville Water:

- all water infrastructure
- all easements and encroachments
- all rights to serve within the Town's service area
- all grants related to system
 - specifically, ARPA SCIIP grant

The ownership transfer is conditioned upon successful attainment of an ARAP SCIIP grant at the amount requested in the grant application. Greenville Water will have sole discretion to proceed if the amount is not met.

The Purchase Agreement returns to the Town its capacity buy-in payments, as a Wholesale Buy-in customer of Greenville Water, made to the date of the ownership transfer and terminates the Water Capacity and Supply Agreement that guaranteed the Town a 150,000 GPD capacity allocation. This also releases Greenville Water from any other claim(s) to capacity related to the wholesale relationship with the Town of Pelzer.

The ARPA SCII Regionalization Grant will be used to finance the costs of improving the system reliability and bringing it up to Greenville Water standards. Improvements will include fire hydrant replacements, galvanized line and outlet service replacements, main replacements, new mains across the river, loop feeds for the system and evaluation of the existing wells.

Mr. Robey explained the next steps included submitting the ARPA SCIIP Grant application, the Town of Pelzer finalizing review of the Purchase Agreement, execution of the agreement, and award of the ARPA SCIIP grant. The South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority is targeting the first quarter of 2023 for awarding of grants.

7. 2022 FIELD OPERATIONS STRATEGIC INCENTIVE BONUS PROGRAM UPDATE

Chairman Kilgore called on Chief Operations Officer Jeff Boss to provide an update on the Field Operations strategic incentive bonus program. Mr. Boss explained since approval was given by the Commission in January 2022 for the program, Field Operations has successfully worked three projects. Mr. Boss reviewed the process for projects and provided details of the specific project successes. All documentation for labor, materials, and equipment is continuously monitored by Greenville Water's Internal Auditor Jacob Polson. The incentive bonus program also includes five strategic plan goals where each goal counts towards 20% of the full bonus amount. The completion of these goals determines the bonus potential. This program encourages Field Operations members to work together as a team in all areas of field operations to reach a common goal.

Mr. Boss reviewed the current status of the strategic plan goals. Mr. Bereskin added the reason for the update in August was, with Commission approval, Management would like to start posting results in order to let the workforce know how they are doing and how the program is working for them. This bonus pool will hopefully assist retention on top of all of Greenville Water's other benefits. This program has the potential to solidify Greenville Water as a premiere employer for this type of work activity in the Upstate. Chairman Kilgore asserted this was exciting news and encouraged staff to get the program update out to the Field Operations team.

8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT

Mr. Bereskin shared Randy Lowell, Greenville Water's environmental attorney, changed law firms and is now with Burr & Forman, LLP. Willoughby and Hofer will continue to be Greenville Water's contractual arrangement attorney and Mr. Lowell will continue to be the environmental and water loss attorney.

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC) received a letter from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the State's Surface Water withdrawal program. The Southern Environmental Law Offices and Upstate Forever has sued the EPA regarding the Safe Drinking Water Withdrawal Act (SDWWA) promulgated back in 2011. The letter stated the SDWWA was in violation of several parts of the Federal clean water act. The goal of the lawsuit is to reopen the water withdrawal act and re-establish new permit limits. Updates will be provided as information becomes available.

Staff is preparing a grant application for the Adkins Parallel 60-inch main project. Chief Administrative Officer Robert Schmidt has put together a very thorough application that covers all types of alternatives. The entire package from the Adkins Water Treatment Plant to Cedar Rock has been divided into portions. Greenville Water is moving forward with portions 1-A and 1-B which are the highest-pressure portions of the lines which will be around \$65 million. The prepared application is for a \$10 million SCIIP grant to apply towards the

Minutes – Commissioners of Public Works
August 2, 2022
Page 5

total. Mr. Robey has secured a State Revolving Fund loan which will come back for adoption from the Commission once the SC Rural Infrastructure Authority has awarded grants. Greenville Water is working hard for its partner utilities, Powdersville Water and Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission, to not impact rates dramatically with the \$150 million total project cost. Chairman Kilgore added in short, the more money received in grants, the less the impact to rates for wholesale and retail customers.

Commissioner Brasington moved, seconded by Commissioner Sofield, to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing legal matters. The motion passed unanimously.

(Executive Session)

Mayor White moved, seconded by Commissioner Sofield, to go out of Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously. No action was taken.

9. COMMISSION COMMENTS

No comments presented at this time.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 9:20 a.m.



Phillip A. Kilgore, Chairman



Kimberly Haulter, Executive Assistant