



Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission

Board of Commissioners Meeting

January 24, 2023

Minutes

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Dime Hollingsworth (I), Philip O'Dell (II), Jurell Byrd, Secretary (III), Bill Teague, Vice Chairman (IV), Susan Curry, Treasurer (V), Ted Davenport, Chairman (VII), and Jimmy Young (Municipal)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: John McMurray (VI),

STAFF: Jeff Field, Executive Director
Paula Bullard, Executive Assistant
Steve Griffin, Construction Manager
Damas Mattison, Regulatory Compliance and Operations Manager
Angie Nelson, Director of Administration and Customer Service
KC Price, Engineering Manager

ATTORNEY: Allen Wham

PRESS: Clinton Chronicle

GUESTS:

Call to Order

Invocation

Approval of December 13, 2022, Minutes

Chairman Remarks

Executive Director Remarks

LCWSC Monthly Financial Summary

LCWSC Monthly Operations Summary

New Business

1. December 2022 Extreme Cold Weather Event

Old Business

1. Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility Update

Executive Session

Upon returning to open session, the Commission may take any action deemed appropriate on matters discussed in executive session.

1. Contractual Matter related to Laurens CPW

Other Business

Adjourn

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Davenport called the meeting to order at 8:23 am in the Training Rooms of the Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission.

INVOCATION

Delivered by Commissioner Curry.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Davenport asked if there were any additions or corrections to the December 13, 2022, minutes, as submitted to the Commissioners. None being submitted.

Commissioner Byrd MOVED *that the minutes be approved as submitted*. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Young. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0

CHAIRMAN REMARKS

Chairman Davenport thanked everyone for their herculean efforts during the recent extreme cold over the Christmas holidays. He requested that all Directors and Managers express to the staff the gratitude of the Board of Commissioners for their tireless commitment to resolving the issues that occurred during the latest extreme cold weather event. He also, recognized Ms. Bullard, Executive Assistant for her professional contributions to the team. Chairman Davenport thanked Mr. MacDonald of the Clinton Chronicle for his attendance at the meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REMARKS

Mr. Field thanked everyone for their attendance and thanked Ms. Medlock, Director of Finance for overseeing the December 2022 meeting in his absence. He also, noted that Ms. Medlock was not in attendance today due to the passing of her father-in-law.

LCWSC MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The monthly financial summary was presented to the Commissioners. A copy of the summary can be found in the Commissioner Board Packet.

As of December 31, 2022, LCWSC had a total of \$9,182,300 in cash for operating and reserve funds as compared to \$8,462,185, at this time in FY22. As of December 31, 2022, LCWSC is awaiting a Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) reimbursement of \$99,221 from Laurens County. Including the reimbursement due, LCWSC would have a total cash balance of \$9,281,521.

Mr. Field discussed the highlights for Water Distribution, Wastewater, Lake Rabon, and the Town of Gray Court. He also supplied the percentage breakdown for operating revenue, operating expenses, capital revenue, and capital expenses by department as well as the overall combined percentage for each.

Mr. Field noted that LCWSC has received \$2,944,129 in contributed capital grants thus far for FY23.

Year to date paid line extensions for FY23 total \$26,488, from customers, developers or industrial projects that are not grant funded. The year-to-date line extensions include Emerald Circle, Forrester Road, Catalan Court/ Pennington Farms, Twin Branch, Ritchie Road, and Wasson Gin Road.

Mr. Griffin gave an update for the line extension projects. He stated that Emerald Circle and Wasson Gin Road are complete. Twin Branch Road and Forrester Road are in progress. Upcoming extensions are Ritchie Road, South Frontage Road, and Hwy 39.

LCWSC MONTHLY OPERATIONS SUMMARY

The monthly operations summary was presented to the Commissioners. A copy of the summary can be found in the Commissioner Board Packet.

Mr. Field noted that the average gallons per day per active residential tap for the month of December FY23 was 113. On average, each customer uses 134 gallons per day over a 12-month period. Mr. Field shared the precipitation graph noting that December FY23 precipitation was 4.59 inches which is 0.87 inches above that of December FY22. The precipitation data is a county average derived from rain gauges at Lake Rabon, Bush River Wastewater Treatment Plant, Bethany Tank, and the Clinton Pump Station.

Mr. Field reviewed the work order summary for the current month reporting that thirty-three water taps, and thirteen sewer taps were installed in the month of December 2022. A total of 240 new water taps and sixty-three sewer taps have currently been installed during FY23. Mr. Field presented a map indicating the distribution of all new taps installed throughout the county in FY23.

Mr. Mattison shared the water audit report. The water audit compares the water purchased to the water sold, water audited, and water unaccounted. The formula used is a rolling 12-month average for unaccounted water; the current month data is added as the one-year-old data is removed. For the month of December 2022, the unaccounted total is 14,514,044 gallons. The monthly goal for unaccounted water is *less than* 19,500,000 gallons.

In December, there were seventeen main line leak work orders closed, fourteen were repaired within two weeks, two repaired within two to four weeks, and one was repaired later than four weeks. There were four lateral line leak work orders in December all were closed within two weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

1. December 2022 Extreme Cold Weather Event

During the last three weeks of December 2022, the Leadership Team of LCWSC monitored the weather forecast closely to plan for any potential problems that may arise from the predicted very low temperatures that were expected in Laurens County. As anticipated the temperatures did drop as low as seven degrees during the week of Christmas. The severe weather posed several challenges for LCWSC. Below is a list of preemptive actions taken, work performed during the event, and valuable lessons learned.

Mr. Field stated that production at the Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility was ramped up to the highest level yet, slightly over 4.0 million gallons per day. The LCWSC team did a tremendous job managing this high demand, ensuring the distribution system-maintained water pressure. Without the Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility this would not have been possible. The Lake Greenwood facility performed extremely well through the cold weather event, especially so, considering it was in its first year of operation.

Mr. Field added that LCWSC will learn and grow from this experience.

Preemptive Actions:

- Notification to customers of How to Prevent Frozen Pipes and other possible plumbing issues via LCWSC website, Facebook and Instagram reaching 6,500 viewers through the social media sites.
- Review of equipment and water and sewer facilities for emergency readiness. Verifying generators are functional and with adequate fuel levels.
- Personnel scheduling was reviewed, and on-call personnel were informed of possible issues to be aware of and notified additional employees that their service may be needed in case of an emergency.

Work Performed -Water:

- Meter Change Out due to freezing.
- Visually check for leaks
- Service Checks
- Main Line Repairs
- Flushing of Main Lines
- Hydrant repairs
- Service repairs
- Damage Assessment

- Water Treatment Facility Repairs and Maintenance

Work Performed- Sewer:

- Damage Assessment
- Repairs (Frozen Augers on Grit Removal and Static Screens)
- Mission Alarms (Floats, Frozen Lines, Power at Water Treatment Facility)
- Valves (Frozen Bypass Valves)
- Pump Backwash (ISO Parkway)
- Locate

Lessons Learned:

- Installation of additional heat trace on critical piping
- Tank operation range adjustments to keep tanks full prior to event
- Mission Alarm Settings
- Verify that wash down hoses and fill lines are drained
- Settings of surge relief valves at pump station
- Increase standby staff numbers.
- Update Emergency Response Plan
- Evaluate pre inclement weather checks.
- Improve overnight housing for operators during weather emergencies.
- Ensure chemical feed tanks are full to keep up with increase production.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility Update

Mr. Price provided an update on the Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility.

The filter modifications are ongoing with the next filter being addressed at the end of January. The goal is that all filters will have modifications complete and back in full service by the end of March 2023. Suez is confident in the design and the build; the anticipation is that the progress will go quicker than originally expected.

There is currently one full tank plus a few feet in the second tank of chlorine. Prices remain stable; suppliers state that hypochlorite shipping is slower; however, there is not a shortage.

Executive Session

Upon returning to open session, the Commission may take whatever action deemed appropriate on matters discussed in executive session.

1. Contractual Matter related to Laurens Commission of Public Works

Commissioner O'Dell MOVED that the Board of Commissioners *enter into Executive Session at 10:26 am*. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Young. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0

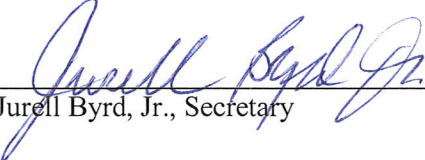
Commissioner Curry MOVED that the Board of Commissioners *return to Regular Session at 11:02am*. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Young. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 6; NAYS,

ADJOURN

Commissioner Byrd MOVED that the *Board of Commissioners meeting adjourn*. MOTION SECONDED by Commissioner Hollingsworth. MOTION CARRIED. AYES, 6; NAYS, 0

There being no further business the Commission adjourned at 11:20 am.

I certify that the above Minutes accurately reflect the business conducted at the Commission meeting on January 24, 2023, also that the minutes were approved at the meeting held on February 28, 2023.



Jurell Byrd, Jr., Secretary