

The Lowcountry Regional Water System Commission (herein referred to as “LRWS” of the “Commission”) held its regular meeting on at 4:00 pm on Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 513 Elm St West, Hampton South Carolina. The Commission conducted this meeting in electronic form. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

**Commission Present:** Mr. Rocky Hudson, Brunson

Mayor Jimmy Bilka, Hampton

Ms. Peggy O’Banner, Yemassee

Mayor Horney Mitchell, Gifford

**Officers Present:** Mr. Brian Burgess, General Manager

Ms. Sara Craven, Secretary

Ms. Marlene Marchyshyn, Treasurer

Ms. Kari Foy, Engineer

**Visitors Present:** Lyman Wray- Stephens Inc.

C.D. Rhodes- Pope Flynn Group

John Fleming- South Carolina Alliance

**Quorum Met:** Yes

1. **Call to Order**

Chairman Rocky Hudson called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

2. **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation was given by Jimmy Bilka.

Pledge of Allegiance - Conducted by all.

3. **FOIA Compliance Report**

As required by Code of Laws of South Carolina, notice of this LRWS Commission meeting was posted prominently in the offices of the Commission at least twenty-four hours in advance. In addition, the local news media and all persons requesting notifications of meetings of the LRWS Commission were notified of the time, date, and place of such meeting, and were provided with a copy of the agenda at least twenty-four hours prior to this meeting.

4. **Adoption of the Agenda**

Moved by Horney Mitchell, seconded by Peggy O’Banner to adopt the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting August 6, 2020**

Moved by Jimmy Bilka, seconded by Horney Mitchell to approve the minutes of the regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Reports**

1. **Financial Report**

The financial report for the month of July was presented by Marlene Marchyshyn and is summarized below.

Total monthly revenue: $276,942.65

Total monthly expenditures: $170,794.60

Cash Account Balances

General Revenue: $198,389.37

Designated Purpose Funds: $113,955.20

Capital Improvement Funds: $119,314.10

Ancillary Town Charges: $62,182.37

Bond Funds & Reserves: $355,817.26

Deprececiation/Contingency Funds: $779,097.81

Unrestricted: $198,389.37

Restricted: $1,368,184.37

1. **Operations Report**

The Operations Report for July was presented by Brian Burgess and is summarized below:

The water system total gallons produced for the month was 21,730,938 with total gallons sold at 17,455,651. Total water unaccounted for was 4,275,287 with percentage inefficiency at 20%.

The wastewater system total gallons received was 47,303,320 with a total gallons treated at 15,394,619. Total percentage inefficiency was 67%.

Total active water services was 3,123 with total active sewer services at 2,808.

Service orders issued was 155 with 145 completed.

Total work hours were 2,284.5 with 0 hours overtime in administration, 22 hours overtime in Distribution and Collection and 0 hours overtime in Treatment.

There were no Workers Comp incidents and no loss time reported.

1. **Manager’s Report**

We just purchased a new lawn mower.

The lawsuit Gadson vs LRWS/Town of Hampton was settled.

Brian informed the Board that he was asked to join the SC Rural Infrustrature Advisory Committee.

There have been some issues at 344 Gooding St with the sewer grinder pump. There is sewage in the yard and the ditch. We are working to resolve this issue.

Brian asked the Board if they would like for LRWS to give money to the fund for those who lost their homes from the tornadoes that happened months ago. Some of the people did not have insurance.

1. **Engineer’s Report-**

* The contractor is still in Yemassee. This project is projected to come in under budget and be complete in 2-3 weeks.
* The bid date is set for 09/01/2020 for the Brunson WWTP Project.
* The contractor for the Tank Renovation Project is on site. The tank was drained and we were pleased with how well the inside of the tank looked. This tank will probably be offline for 6 weeks.
* We just received our new sewer inspection camera which we are excited to use.
* We have relocated the water and sewer connections at Brunson Laundry.

7. **System Member Commissioners Report**

(A) **Town of Brunson**- The town will be honoring their past Mayor Terry Wright on Saturday by declaring this day Terry Wright Day. They will be having a drive by parade. The lineup will start at 10:45am and the parade will begin at 11:00am.

(B) **Town of Gifford-** On September 11th DOT will be inspecting the sidewalks. The town held a bid opening for the School Project but only received 1 bid. Because of this, the project will be rebid on September 24th.

(C) **Town of Hampton-** The town passed a mask ordinance. One of the police officers tested positive for COVID-19. A long time employee suffered multiple strokes and will not be returning. There are are currently 2 job openings for the town.

(D) **Town of Varnville**- N/A

(E) **Town of Yemassee-** The Shrimp Festival has been cancelled. The town had a drive through COVID- 19 testing center which performed 45 tests. All of these tests came back as negative. The town will be giving out food on September 10th and 24th.

(F) **County of Hampton-** N/A

8. **Old Business**

None

9. **New Business**

A) Consideration of Acceptance of USDA/RD Amended Letter of Conditions for the Brunson WWTP Improvement and Sewer Rehab Project Including a Resolution from USDA/RD for the Refunding of the Carter Bank Loan and other Matters Related Thereto.

-Lyman Wray and CD Rhodes provided information concerning the amended letter of conditions for the Brunson WWTP Improvement and Sewer Rehab Project and Resolution from USDA/RD for refunding of the Cater Bank loan.

Moved by Jimmy Bilka, seconded by Horney Mitchell to Accept the USDA/RD Amended Letter of Conditions for the Brunson WWTP Improvement and Sewer Rehab Project Including a Resolution from USDA/RD for the Refunding of the Carter Bank Loan and other Matters Related Thereto. Motion carried unanimously.

B) Consideration of 2020 Series Resolution Providing for the Issuance and Sale of a Waterworks and Sewer System Improvement and Refunding Revenue Bond in the Principal Amount of Not Exceeding $4,850,000 of the Lowcountry Regional Water System, South Carolina; and Other Matters Relating Thereto.

Moved by Peggy O’Banner, seconded by Horney Mitchell to approve the 2020 Series Resolution Providing for the Issuance and Sale of a Waterworks and Sewer System Improvement and Refunding Revenue Bond in the Principal Amount of Not Exceeding $4,850,000 of the Lowcountry Regional Water System, South Carolina; and Other Matters Relating Thereto. Motion carried unanimously.

10. **Executive Session**

Moved by Jimmy Bilka, seconded by Horney Mitchell to enter into executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

A) Discussion of matters related to Economic Development Projects “Sewer Service Extension Project” and Project“J” as allowed by Section 30-4-70 (a) (5) discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.

B) Discussion of Matters related to the General Manager’s compensation as allowed by SC Code of Laws as Amended, Section 30-4-70 (a) (1) discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body**;**

Moved by Jimmy Bilka, seconded by Horney Mitchell to exit executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

11. **Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session**

Moved by Peggy O’Banner, seconded by Horney Mitchell to withdraw RA Grant R20-3033 in the amount of $250,000. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed matters related to the compensation proposed by the general manger. Chairman Hudson stated that the Board spoke with a Labor Law Attorney after last month’s meeting and request from Brian Burgess to be compensated for his overtime. Chairman Hudson stated that the Board appreciated everything that Brian does for LRWS, however they would not be approving his request for compensation.

12. **Adjournment**

Moved by Jimmy Bilka, seconded by Horney Mitchell to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting then adjourned at 6:05.

Respectfully submitted by Sara Craven.