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The Lowcountry Regional Water System Commission held its regular monthly meeting at 4:00 pm on Thursday, April 6, 2023 in the large conference room at the Hampton County Adminstrative Center in the Town of Hampton, 200 Jackson Avenue East, Hampton South Carolina. All meetings are open to the public (except for information, if any, to be discussed in Executive Sessions) and all interested parties are invited to attend.

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

Mayor Robert Brown, Hampton

Mayor Nat Shaffer, Varnville

Darrin Williams, Hampton County

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

Ms. Sara Craven, Secretary

Ms. Kari Foy, Engineer

Mr. Blake Hodge, Field Operations Manager

Mr. Alec Sterling, Treatment Operations Manager

**Visitors Present:** None

**Quorum Met:** Yes

1. **Call to Order**

Chairman Rocky Hudson called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

2. **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

The invocation was given by Robert Brown.

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 Robert Brown, seconded by Nat Shaffer to adopt the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Robert Brown, seconded by Nat Shaffer to approve the minutes for the February 28, 2023 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Reports:**

A. Financial Report- The financial report for February was presented by Brian Burgess. Kari noted that the expenses for February include an audit, SC DHEC quarterly drinking water, supplies, asphalt repairs, and engineering services.

B. General Managers Report- Brian noted that LRWS has some new employees. He also praised Blake and Alec for their great work. LRWS has some compliance issues that are currently being addressed.

(Staff Reports)

1. Deputy General Managers Report
2. Human Resource Managers Report
   1. Not in attendance.
3. Billing Managers Report
   1. Sara provided the billing numbers on the operations report for the month of February.
4. Engineers Report
   1. Bids documents are under review nu USDA for the Brunson WWTP Project.
   2. We received 3 more connection requests for the Gifford Waterline Extension. We are waiting for the contractor to complete the taps.
   3. Bids were received on March 21, 2023 for the Sewer Service Extension Project.
   4. We are waiting on electrical equipment to complete the Gifford Lift Station Rehab.
   5. Kari provided pictures of different tank designs for the Commissioners to vote on.
      1. The Commissioners agreed that the Jackson St tank would look best with the LRWS logo on one side and the school mascot on the other side.
5. Field Operations Managers Report
   1. Blake provided a handout of the work that the field crew had done since the last meeting. Blake stated that there have been some major repairs made since the last meeting. The crew is currently working on testing fire hydrants.
6. Treatment Operations Managers Report
   1. Alec noted several generators that are being repaired. A pump at the Yemassee Treatment Plant has been repaired. One of the effluent pumps has not been repaired yet. Coastal Chlorinators will be coming out Tuesday or Wednesday to check our Chlorine.

7. **System Member Commissioners Reports**

A. Town of Brunson- Nothing to report at this time.

B. Town of Gifford- Not in attendance.

C. Town of Hampton- Dollar General bought the old Chevrolet place. They also purchased the lot beside it. They have submitted plans to the building department. Dale Ulmer’s place has sold. The two buildings behind Dale Ulmer’s place are currently being renovated.

D. Town of Varnville- Nothing to report at this time.

E. Town of Yemassee- Not in attendance.

F. Hampton County- Mr. Williams asked about the wastewater treatment plants.

Brian then discussed the future plans of LRWS with Mr. Williams.

8**. Old Business**

9**. New Business**

* 1. Proclamation Drinking Water Week May 7-13 2023
     1. Moved by Nat Shaffer, seconded by Robert Brown to approve the Proclamation for Drinking Water Week May 7-13, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.
  2. LRWS 10th Anniversary
     1. Brian informed the Commissioners that LRWS will have a celebration on June 2nd from 11:00am to 3:00pm. Food and giveaways will be given to customers during this time to promote LRWS’s 10th anniversary. Brian also stated that he would like to get a misting tent for the Watermelon Festival and a custom pop-up tent for all the local events.
  3. Project Discussion Iron Line Metals and Pine Street Development in the Town of Yemassee
     1. A drawing was given to the Commissioners to show the layout of the houses. The company proposes to build 79 homes. Brian noted that we do not have any water impact fees and the sewer impact fees are lower than recommended. He proposed that LRWS look into changing these fees so that our residential customers are not paying for the impact that big companies put on the system. A consultant would be needed to provide numbers for these fees because there are state guidelines to follow. Brian also recommended that fire fees be addressed in the study. Rocky Hudson asked that the old study be given in the next meeting so the Commissioners can have more knowledge on the matter.
  4. Resolution 2023-02 Contract Award for Sewer Service Extension to Serve Alpha Genesis and Other Matters Related Thereto
     1. Moved by Nat Shaffer, seconded by Robert Brown to approve Resolution 2023-02 Contract Award for Sewer Service Extension to Serve Alpha Genesis and Other Matters Related Thereto. Motion carried unanimously.

10. **Executive Session**

* 1. Discussion of matters related to a proposed Verizon contract as allowed by Section 30-4-70 (a) (2) of the South Carolina Code of Laws “Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements”
     1. Moved by Nat Shaffer, seconded by Robert Brown to enter executive session. Motion carried unanimously.
     2. Moved by Nat Shaffer, seconded by Robert Brown to exit executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Nat Shaffer, seconded by Robert Brown to give Brian Burgess the authority to negotiate with Verizon. Motion carried unanimously.

**11. Public Comments**

**12. Adjournment**

Moved by Robert Brown, seconded by Nat Shaffer to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting then adjourned at 5:15 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Sara Craven.*