

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD JOINT WATER SEWER SYSTEM
FEBRUARY 28, 2023**

Present: John McMeekin, Chairman; Doug Pauley, Vice Chairman; Jason Taylor, Treasurer; Laura Johnson, Kyle Crager, Robert Arndt, Commissioners.

Absent: Donald Prioleau

Others Present: C.D. Rhodes, Patti L. Davis, Scott Elliott, Tommy Morgan.

The Fairfield Joint Water Sewer Service met in regular session on February 28, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Midlands Technical College Fairfield Campus. In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (e), as amended, the following persons and/or organizations have been notified of the time, date and location of this meeting: The Independent Voice of Blythewood and Fairfield, The Country Chronicle and other individuals associated with distribution lists for the Town of Winnsboro, Fairfield County and the Town of Ridgeway.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman McMeekin stated the members of this Commission are all members of Fairfield County, and we work together. This Commission is comprised of two members from Winnsboro, two from Ridgeway, two from the County and an ordinary citizen. The ultimate goal is what will be beneficial for the County. No one will be pitted against another, and this Commission will go forward working together. Chairman McMeekin stated he informed the Town Council that as this process goes along, he will inform them of what is public information. He appreciates everyone being in attendance tonight, and he looks forward to working with each and every member. Chairman McMeekin then called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Vice Chair Pauley, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

3. SWEARING IN OF CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE

The secretary performed the swearing in of Kyle Crager. Mr. Crager then took his seat as a member of the Fairfield Joint Water Sewer System.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Vice Chair Pauley, seconded by Commissioner Crager, to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of January 31, 2023. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS (D&O) INSURANCE POLICY

Chairman McMeekin stated this item has been worked on for a while, and he will let Mr. Rhodes take the lead. Two policy options have been received, and as this project progresses, there may be a need to scale up on insurance coverage to protect the citizens of Fairfield County from any possible problems. Mr. Rhodes stated one of the options before the Commission is from Professional Governmental Underwriters, LLC. This policy is limited to public officials management employment liability and does not include any general liability. The premium is a little over \$3,100 per year. The second option is through the S.C. Municipal Association Insurance and Risk Financing Funds, and this policy, in addition to providing the D&O insurance, would also providing general liability coverage with similar limits. This organization will continue to develop and have real assets in the form of a 30, 40 or \$50M wastewater plant and lines. From his perspective, Mr. Rhodes stated being insured by someone like the Municipal Association, the State's Insurance Reserve Fund, is where this Commission ultimately would want to be. The premium here is a few hundred dollars more a year, but there is more coverage and we would be "under the tent". This is an insurance pool with the board making the decisions, and they do not have to cover everyone. So, this seems like an excellent opportunity to become a "member of the club", and this is insurance that can be scaled up over time as the assets and risks increase along with having employees and all the other changes that will come with this organization as it develops. Mr. Rhodes strongly recommends to go with the Municipal Association's fund even though it is slightly more expensive. Approving it here is a requirement, but it is not the end of the process. There is an approval process, and this process could take several weeks for the membership to be approved. As soon as this procedure is begun the sooner it can be completed on their end. Chairman McMeekin asked for Vice Chair Pauley's professional opinion with his background in insurance. Vice Chair Pauley stated he agrees with Mr. Rhodes' assessment. In looking at the two policies, the Municipal Association's proposal gives a broader range of coverage. In the long run, it will definitely be worth the coverage. Mr. Rhodes stated there is a form resolution that will need to be adopted. It is authorizing a request to participate in the pool, and it is also authorizing an individual to execute documents, which should be Chairman McMeekin and the Secretary. Motion made by Vice Chair Pauley, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to adopt the resolution of intent to participate in the S.C. Municipal Insurance and Risk Financing Fund. Chairman McMeekin stated he believes this is the right way to go, and the slightly increased amount is worth being under this umbrella.

The motion carried 6-0.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION: (The following statement is provided in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act: Subsequent to Executive Session, the Commission may take action on matters discussed in Executive Session.)


At 6:15 p.m., it was moved by Commissioner Crager, seconded by Vice Chair Pauley, to go into executive session for (A) Contractual/Legal Matter: Discussion Incident to the Negotiation of Contractual Arrangements Pursuant to S.C. Code §30-4-70(a)(2) Concerning the Sharing of Costs of the Joint System Between Fairfield County and the Town of Winnsboro. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

At 7:00 p.m., it was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Crager and Vice Chair Pauley, to come out of executive session and return to regular session. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

Motion made by Vice Chair Pauley, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to authorize the attorney to establish the financial policies and procedures for the Joint Water Sewer Authority and bring them back to the Commission for approval. ***The motion carried 6-0.*** All other discussions in executive session were taken as information only.

7. ADJOURN

At 7:01 p.m., it was moved by Commissioner Crager, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to adjourn. ***The motion carried unanimously 6-0.***



PATTI L. DAVIS
SECRETARY



JOHN MCMEEKIN
CHAIRMAN

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