

**MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
FAIRFIELD JOINT WATER SEWER SYSTEM
MARCH 23, 2023**

Present: John McMeekin, Chairman; Doug Pauley, Vice Chairman; Jason Taylor, Treasurer; Laura Johnson, Donald Prioleau, Robert Arndt, Kyle Crager (arrived at 7:15 p.m.), Commissioners.

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

The Fairfield Joint Water Sewer Service met in special called meeting on March 23, 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 called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Crager joined the meeting by phone.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman McMeekin stated Item 6 on the agenda will be deferred until after executive session. Motion made by Vice Chair Pauley, seconded by Commissioner Prioleau, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Vice Chair Pauley, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of February 28, 2023. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

4. UPDATE CONCERNING DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS (D&O) INSURANCE POLICY

Commissioner Taylor stated the policy is now in place. In the end, two providers were contacted with some follow up discussions. The Town has a relationship with the Municipal Association, and they are a very good organization. After discussions, the other provider did bow out. Commissioner Taylor stated he is very glad the insurance was secured with the Municipal Association.

5. REVIEW OF PARTIAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET

Commissioner Taylor stated he asked a couple of his staff members to assist in preparing this. A lot of work has gone into this with looking at a lot of different examples to come up with a realistic rational budget. Primarily right now, most of the line items will be zero. However, future figures are needed. It was looked at in the future what an operating budget would look like. Some transfer payments from the two entities, the Town and the County, who will be supporting this will be needed. The line items that will initially have expenses will be engineering and legal. Mr. Clauson and Mr. Wright then presented the budget. Mr. Clauson distributed the working budget documents to the Commission. Chairman McMeekin inquired if this will be set up on the same fiscal year as the County and the Town. Mr. Rhodes stated this will require a change to the Bylaws which will need to be worked into the process. When the Commission adopts the budget, it can vote for this change in the Bylaws. Mr. Taylor further stated that this body is a political body just as the Town and County are and required to have a budget. Chairman McMeekin inquired if this budget will be adopted tonight. Mr. Rhodes stated it will not be adopted tonight and is just preliminary. Commissioner Taylor stated this is a starting point and some additional numbers are needed to be able to plug into the legal and engineering. Chairman McMeekin stated this is a step in the right direction. Vice Chair Pauley stated he sees year 2026 and is there a scenario where this would happen before 2026. Commissioner Taylor stated he believes the presentation by Mr. Wright and Mr. Clauson will clear up a lot of these questions. They will explain the assumptions that had to be made in order to pull together these numbers.

Mr. Clauson stated the bulk of the information was obtained by Mr. Wright, and he overlaid it with the timelines that are in place. The outlook was investigated for both plants to start construction or be under construction. Those time lines can be consolidated as they are just assumptions that were made. One was done for an MBR and the other is for an oxidation ditch, the two plants that have been studied by engineering firms. The conservative estimates are given on when each plant could be constructed given the constraints involved. Mr. Wright introduced himself and stated he is the Director for Wastewater for the Town of Winnsboro. He has 28 years of experience and is the incoming Vice President for the State Association for South Carolina. He built the plant in Lugoff and in the Town of Chapin, so he has a lot of experience in this field. He came up with his numbers by talking with other entities, engineers and different contractors. He discussed operating budgets, construction costs between contractors and what other engineers are forecasting. A plant out of Georgia was used for the MBR plant, which is a 2.5 MG a day plant. They were gracious enough to share their operation budget. Chapin's numbers were used for the oxidation ditch, where Mr. Wright previously worked. This plant was built in 2017 and came into operation in 2019. The numbers were broken down with line items such as

O&M, wages, power, plant telemetry chemicals and anything else that would be associated costs to run a plant. Unknown items were put down as assumptions at the bottom of each sheet. Commissioner Johnson inquired of how many employees are included in the wages and salaries. Mr. Clauson stated that is in the assumptions category, and for the MBR an A operator is needed and a B operator is needed for the oxidation ditch. The going wages right now are about \$65,000 for an A and \$58,000 for a B, unless they have a lot of experience. Vice Chair Pauley inquired of the types of plants, and Mr. Wright stated the MBR is basically a top-of-the-line treatment process (membrane filter plant) with the oxidation ditch basically being a Carrousel plant and is shaped like a racetrack. Both are activated sludge plants, and the oxidation ditch is a little less treatment than the MBR. The MBR plant is higher quality and less susceptible to industrial upsets. Mr. Clauson then distributed an article comparing the MBR to the oxidation ditch with power consumption, treatment between the two, etc. One city actually has the two co-located plants, so they know all the variables with this being a unique situation. Vice Chair Pauley stated he appreciates the numbers and information and further questioned if the location would affect the numbers. Mr. Wright stated construction costs will change a good bit, and Commissioner Taylor stated this is solely an operating budget.

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 6:16 p.m., it was moved by Vice Chair Pauley, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, 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 Engineering Services. ***The motion carried 6-0.***

Commissioner Crager arrived at 7:15 p.m. and joined executive session.

At 7:34 p.m., it was moved by Vice Chair Pauley, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to come out of executive session and return to regular session. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

Motion made by Vice Chair Pauley, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, for the Joint Water Authority to direct American Engineering to do the wastewater plant alternatives analysis provided by Mr. Rhodes. Mr. Rhodes stated one addition would be to include in the outline provided the time to construct and make the plant operational. Motion to approve the amended motion made by

Vice Chair Pauley, seconded by Commissioner Taylor. ***The amended motion carried 7-0.***

Chairman McMeekin stated the next meeting is set for April 25, 2023.

7. ADJOURN

At 7:36 p.m., it was moved by Vice Chair Pauley, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 7-0.***



PATTI L. DAVIS
SECRETARY



JOHN MCMEEKIN
CHAIRMAN