

**MINUTES  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
FAIRFIELD JOINT WATER SEWER SYSTEM  
OCTOBER 4, 2023**

**Present:** John McMeekin, Chairman; Jason Taylor, Laura Johnson, Kyle Crager, Commissioners.

**Others Present:** C.D. Rhodes, Patti L. Davis.

The Fairfield Joint Water Sewer System Finance Committee met on October 4, 2023, at 6:31 p.m. (immediately after the Technical Committee) at 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 Finance Committee to order at 6:31 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion made by Commissioner Crager, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried 4-0.***

**3. PROJECT MANAGER POSITION (RECOMMENDATIONS AS MAY BE NEEDED)**

Chairman McMeekin stated he is here to run the meeting, but he will turn this item over to others in the finance area. Commissioner Johnson stated this was discussed at the last meeting, and a recommendation for a change was made. Mr. Rhodes stated he recalls that one of the topics for discussion was the issue of salary and how to handle this, and this is the reason for the Finance Committee. At some point, there will need to be some conversation among the County and the Town with a consensus concerning the salary. Commissioner Taylor stated he believes a salary range needs to be discussed and then he and Commissioner Johnson can then take that back to their respective Councils to get it funded. Also, there is the question of whether the position will be based on qualifications or will an actual salary be advertised. Commissioner Johnson stated she has sent this job description to a company the County uses in order to get assistance with the salary. Commissioner Taylor stated that is a rational way to handle this. He also pulled up information online and feels the range will begin in the \$80,000 plus range. Commissioner Crager inquired if this is a full-time position. Commissioner

Johnson stated this is also an issue, and she feels it will not be a full-time position from the beginning, but it should lead into a full-time position as it progresses. This decision will have an impact on how many applicants are received. Chairman McMeekin stated it would probably be part-time to begin with, and the COG and Municipal Association or County Association could be utilized to see what is out there. Mr. Rhodes suggested opening it up to proposals from consultants, because he does not believe there will be many to apply for a part-time position with the kind of expertise that is needed. Commissioner Johnson stated for the amount a consultant would be paid, the full-time employee could be hired, and Commissioner Taylor agreed. He further stated the County and the Town could add other duties that would justify a full-time employee. With a consultant, the Joint System would be one of many. Mr. Rhodes stated there just needs to be a clear agreement between the Town and the County as to the other responsibilities. Commissioner Taylor stated both the County and the Town have the ongoing SCIIP projects along with other line projects. This employee would primarily work for the Joint System but also have duties to assist the County and the Town. Chairman McMeekin stated Commissioner Taylor, Commissioner Johnson, Mrs. Williams and Mr. Clauson would need to get together on this, because it would need to be toward the SCIIP grants only. The COG had some money allocated for administrative work, so this possibility exists. Commissioner Taylor stated it would be good to strengthen the relationship with the COG and wondered if the COG could help to fund this position. Chairman McMeekin stated this could be a possibility. The COG has to spend money to get money, so this would be worth looking into. Commissioner Crager stated, after this discussion, that the position be advertised as full-time, and everyone agreed this would be the way to proceed. He further stated the right candidate would be an investment, and they would have one thing only on their mind every day. Looking from an economic development perspective along with infrastructure and needs, Mr. Rhodes stated there may be a lot of things the right individual can do all ultimately tied to infrastructure, primarily sewer infrastructure, in some way. Commissioner Taylor stated there should be a planning aspect to this position. Mr. Rhodes further stated there has been mention that there is no central repository of all the County's resources, and Commissioner Taylor stated this area is very weak as far as having good maps of where utility coverage is in the County. This is desperately needed. It would be very helpful for a developer to be able to pull this information up on his computer and know exactly what is available. Chairman McMeekin will make contact with Mr. Sprouse, and Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Taylor will discuss the further job duties. Mr. Rhodes inquired of the Committee if everyone is generally on the same page that it is important to at least include a salary range in the job description. Mr. Crager respectfully disagrees and stated he understands the reasoning, but we may miss out on someone great. He feels it would breed more curiosity and interest that is not defined by a salary.

Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Taylor suggested at least putting a base salary subject to the individual's qualifications. Commissioner Crager also stated with being a special purpose district, this typically has different pay salary bands than the respective municipalities in which they operate. Mr. Rhodes stated this is an opportunity to attract someone who wants to do something in this nexus of infrastructure and economic development with attracting development. Chairman McMeekin stated this could be a big win and would certainly put us in a good light with the commercial community/industrial community as well as with RIA and the Commerce Department.

**4. ADJOURN**

At 6:48 p.m., it was moved by Commissioner Crager, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 4-0.***



PATTI L. DAVIS  
SECRETARY



JOHN MCMEEKIN  
CHAIRMAN