

Pickens County Public Service Commission
Board Meeting April 12, 2021 at 4:00 PM
151 Clearwater Drive
Liberty, South Carolina 29657

MINUTES

PSC Board Members Present: Connie Bowers, Cameron Farrish, Eric Rodgers,
Jim Ratner

PSC Board Members Absent: Tom Hunter

PSC Staff & Others Present: Clint Dickey, Mack Kelly

(The minutes have been condensed and paraphrased during times of discussion and presentations)

The meeting commenced at 4:15pm. April 12, 2021

Election of Officers was the first order of business.

Cameron Farrish moved to nominate Connie Bowers as Chairman. Jim Ratner seconded the nomination. All voted in favor.

Cameron Farrish nominated Eric Rodgers as Vice Chairman. Connie Bowers seconded the nomination. All voted in favor.

The Director gave a brief summary of the history of the Public Service Commission.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's report was given by Clint Dickey

Summary of Construction Activity: The Director talked about the town of Central's new sewer line from Southern Wesleyan University being completed. The Director explained what the flow inventory is and then summarized the fact that some of the inventory numbers were found to be wrong and that the director and the environmental analyst would be meeting with SCDHEC to correct the numbers.

Mr. Ratner asked is the only time you need extra flow when you have development or an additional home or an additional business. The Director answered yes or mainly for industrial development. The Director explained that historically County Council just wanted to offer sewer capacity to industries and not to individual residences in order to attract jobs and create tax revenue for the County. The Director explained that there has been an increase in interest for housing in Pickens County which has put pressure on the PSC to accept sewer from homes and neighborhoods.

The Director then summarized the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Pickens County, Liberty, and Central. The Director then explained the term I&I or inflow and infiltration. The Director then briefly spoke about the I&I problems with the City of Liberty's collection system. The Director explained that the County wants to help with repairs to the collection system but did not want to incur any extra costs to County tax payers. The Director gave a brief summary of the plan to drain the old lagoon system at the Liberty Denim sight. The Director explained how the Crayton Creek system was developed with Tobacco money and then was sold to Easley Combined Utilities.

Operations: The Director explained how the septage receiving station worked. The Director explained how the non-potable water pumps needed to be replaced at the Upper plant. The Director explained that Tank#1 needed to be painted this summer and he summarized how the tank must be cleaned out first.

Mr. Ratner asked who decides to buy a new pump, is it this Commission or is it County Council. The Director explained that the PSC was one of the few revenue generating County Departments and so Operations and Maintenance would be passed on to customers by way of the rate we charge for sewage treatment or if it is Capitol items over \$5,000 dollars then it would be paid by the members of the IGA. County Council ultimately decides whether to OK the budget or not as it is or whether to add or subtract items. The Director asked Mack Kelly when the Council would see the budget and he replied tomorrow night. Mr. Ratner said so if it's in the budget you can spend the money? The Director said yes.

The Director summarized the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit.

WWTP Performance:

Plant performance has been good with no NPDES violations. Warming temperatures should improve plant performance.

R/O/W Mowing

The Director explained that the tractor was still at Vehicle Maintenance for repairs. Most chainsaw work has been done by the Director and the Environmental analyst.

BUDGETS: 2021-2022

The Director explained that the Operations Manager retired and that only one acceptable application had been submitted. The job was offered to this applicant but he turned it down so the Director has submitted a proposal to reorganize the PSC which was now under consideration by administration.

This concluded the Director's Report.

The Director explained that County Council was possibly interested in some changes in the County Sewer Use Ordinance (SUO) and that the next meeting would be the opportunity to discuss this and that there would be a presentation to ask for changes to the SUO. The Director said he would email portions of the SUO to Commissioners so they could see it before the next meeting.

Mack Kelly said I will throw in what my role in this will be. I'm the county Engineer as well so I have a background in Wastewater Collection not so much in the treatment part of it but in the collection side and also in construction aspects of it so I will be glad to assist Clint in those aspects of it and if you have technical questions I will be glad to research those things and get that information back to the Commission so I'm a resource so just use me however you need me. The Director said questions about how much things cost and how time consuming things are or any other technical questions Mack can answer those things or find that information out for us.

The Director asked if there were any questions today? Mr. Ratner said that he thought it was very impressive that we were able to operate over the last 5 years without raising the sewer rates.

The Director mentioned the Grange development on Hwy 123, Mr. Bowers said he has seen it but was not sure what it was. The Director said they want us to take over the collection system. Mr. Ratner said so they will be putting in all the sewer lines. The Director said yes they are going to build it then they want us to run it. The way the SUO is written, a maintenance company has to run it then there would be an additional fund called the Reimbursement and Depreciation fund that they would have to put money in on a yearly basis so that if the County ever has to take it over we would have some funding.

Mack Kelly said I will also throw this in keep in mind that their attorney is representing his client so the information he provides for you will be biased but you are welcome to ask questions and if you so choose we can bring in our own County attorney to answer questions in a legal manner and I can provide some technical back ground also.

Mr. Bowers asked for a motion to adjourn, Mr. Farrish motioned to adjourn, Mr. Rodgers seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.

Submitted:

Clinton L. Dickey

Date

PSC Chair

Date