

Pickens County Public Service Commission
Board Meeting April 25, 2022 at 4:00 PM
151 Clearwater Drive
Liberty, South Carolina 29657

MINUTES

PSC Board Members Present: Connie Bowers, Cameron Farrish, Eric Rodgers,
Mark Osborn, Justin Brooks

PSC Board Members Absent: Rick Tate

PSC Staff & Others Present: Clint Dickey, Wendy Spann,

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

The meeting commenced at 4:02pm. April 25, 2022

Chairman Bowers called for approval of Minutes from February 28, 2022 meeting

Farrish motioned to approve minutes, Osborn seconded, Board voted unanimously to approve.

Chairman Bowers called for the Director's Report

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Director's report was given by Clint Dickey

Director introduced the newest member of the PSC board Justin Brooks from Six Mile. The Director gave a summary of the last meeting as it pertained to sewer capacity needs by the town of Central. He explained that Central would need to purchase around 60,000 gpd of capacity to meet their current needs.

Brooks asked how much capacity does Central use now? The Director explained that the IGA divided up the capacity and that Central has 600,000 gpd.

The Director explained that capacity could be bought for the buy in price as figured by the county attorney Lawrence Flynn or for a negotiated price between Central and the County. The buy in charge was set at \$6 per gallon. Pickens County sells capacity at \$2340 per 400 gallons. The director recapped the last meeting's recommendation to County Council to change the 400 gallon unit to a 300 gallon unit. The Director explained availability fee determination and that the fact that the towns do not charge an availability fee because they are interested in collection systems and not treatment. Phillip Mishoe asked that he sit down with Ken Roper to negotiate a price for capacity. The Grange may serve as an example of how capacity can be distributed.

Brooks said so this additional capacity will be transferred from the County's capacity to Central? The Director said correct.

The Director explained the County had around 500,000 gpd of capacity that is unused at the Middle WWTP

Bowers said the buy in charge would be a onetime charge then they would still pay the normal sewer rate on for 1000 gallons of treated waste? The Director said correct.

The Director said that Central could start charging an availability fee in the future.

Brooks said Central bills the customers then the County bills Central? The Director said Correct.

The Director explained that the recent paint job had taken 5 months and not 30 days like the contract stipulated which caused the County to have some ammonia violations in February and March due to an inability to waste into the digesters. The main reason that the paint job took so long was because the Painters were constantly waiting on paint to be delivered.

Osborn said So the issue was the supply chain? The Director said Correct.

The Director explained that Josh Trotter was hired as the new Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. The Director explained that Mathew Wallace has left the Public Service Commission. There have been a number of mistakes in the Pretreatment Office. A new Environmental Analyst will be hired. The response to DHEC for the Middle WWTP triggered a compliance order from DHEC for the Middle WWTP. The Director explained how the disk filter system will be replaced.

Osborn stated that they know that we are dealing with these issues right. The Director said yes and he hoped there would be no fines forthcoming.

The Director explained that there was an airline to the grit removal system that would be replaced by the county saving us money in June. The air diffusers would also need to be replaced at the Middle WWTP when land application was done and the tank was emptied instead of putting a boat out on the water.

Osborn said that seems a lot safer than putting the boat out there.

The Director explained that because of personnel changes and vacation, UV bulbs were not replaced in a timely manner which caused a Fecal Coliform violation at Catechee WWTP. The Director explained that the PSC tractor has been sent to Blanchard in Charlotte. The Director asked the board members to look at the final budget. The new rate will be \$5.83 per 1000 gallons. There had been no increase in 5 years. The Director asked the board to vote to recommend the budget.

Osborn said you said the new rate would \$5.83? The Director said yes. Bowers asked if that was the rate charged to the city's per 1000 gallons? The Director said yes. Bowers asked if the city's knew that the rate was going to increase? The Director said he had informed Central that there would be an increase but he had not met the new Administrator for Liberty but he had told the new mayor of Liberty about the increase.

Bowers asked for a motion to recommend the 2023-2024 budget to County council. Farrish motioned to recommend budget Rodgers seconded all voted to recommend budget to Council.

The director said that was all that he had for the meeting today.

Bowers asked if anyone had any questions about anything for the Director. There were no questions. Bowers asked for a motion to adjourn. Rodgers motioned to adjourn and Farrish seconded. All voted to adjourn.

Submitted:

Clinton L. Dickey

Date

PSC Chair

Date