

**WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING
TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH
November 15, 2022
10:00 a.m.**

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Jody Kleckley, David Ballard, John David Griffin, Bill Reeside

Absent: Lou Rasmussen (excused)

Others Present: Town Administrator Iris Hill, Assistant Town Administrator Mark Aakhus, Utilities Director Patrick Zemp, Municipal Clerk Dee Stalvey

Call to Order

Chairman Kleckley called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Approval of Minutes from October 18, 2022

Mr. Griffin moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2022, meeting. Mr. Ballard seconded this motion, which was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Update on Moratorium

Town Administrator Hill noted we still are under a moratorium. The Notice to Proceed has been issued to the contractor to replace and upgrade pumps at Lift Station B. Work will begin in December/January and should be completed by March/April. Hopefully, we will hear word on the grant by March for Lift Station A, the force main, and pumps. If all goes well, we hope to be able to lift the moratorium after Lift Station B is repaired.

Update of Capital Improvements

Town Administrator Hill noted that construction on Lift Station B is to begin in December/January with completion scheduled for April. The permit for construction has been issued. The SCIIP grant application award timeframe is the first quarter of 2023, The Town applied for an additional Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) grant in the amount of \$500,000 to be applied toward the Town's match of the SCIIP grant. The capital improvements all depend on the SCIIP grant.

Development of Process for Sewer Tap Approvals

Town Administrator Hill noted we now have all the vacant lots in the Town on a spreadsheet, and Ms. Hill indicated the lots on a map she shared with Committee members. This, however, does not take into account those who have sewer certificates, and Ms. Hill will need to add those. She noted that one is on Docksite Road, and all sewer certificates are probably located there. These were designated by number of taps, not per property.

Ms. Hill noted those currently building homes cannot have a sewer tap, so they are putting in engineered septic systems.

When the time is right, we will schedule Town residents/businesses regarding tapping into the Town's system, and we will keep a list of these who have a need. The process will determine who has priority. The Committee will perhaps use the meeting date of April 18, 2023, for these discussions, since Lift Station B will be completed, and we should know about the grant money by then. These meetings with homeowners and business owners need to be advertised, and we should have some sort of application so we know what and where the issue is. Ms. Hill will work on the application. Mr. Aakhus will get Mr. Ballard's process into an electronic system, and the Committee can review this at January's meeting.

2022-06 Water and Wastewater RFP

Town Administrator Hill noted proposal presentations on Thursday from David & Floyd, Ardurra, and Alliance. The committee will then make their decision. American Engineering, Inc., will be contracted. The approval of this RFP award will be placed on the Town Council agenda in December.

2023 Meeting Dates

The 2023 meeting dates for the Water and Sewer Committee are as follows:

January 17
February 21
March 21
April 18
May 16
June 20
July 18
August 15
September 19
October 17
November 21
December 19

The Committee decided there was no need for the next meeting on December 20 unless a situation needing the Committee's attention arises.

New Business

Ms. Fran Dixon, 3612 Yacht Club Road: Ms. Dixon noted there is a very serious septic problem at her property. The septic has been overflowing because the ground water level is so high. A new septic system involves destroying the landscaping and tearing up the boardwalk. Ms. Dixon noted she never knew or was advised they could tap into the sewer, or they would have done it years ago. The cost of a \$20,000 new septic system is not guaranteed to last. Waiting to get on the Town system, which could take a while, is also worrisome as well. Ms. Dixon feels they should be grandfathered in since they already own a lot here.

Ms. Hill and committee members confirmed there is no way she can obtain a sewer tap now due to the moratorium. Ms. Dixon wanted the Committee to help her to decide what to do, but the Committee cannot do so. Perhaps the moratorium may be lifted next fall, but that is just a possibility. We need to wait until we hear back about the grants. There will be a process to look at

how taps will be issued once we have taps available because an unlimited amount of capacity still is not possible, even after the improvements. Both pumps must be upgraded for the moratorium to be lifted.

Chair Kleckley did advise Ms. Dixon to check her drain field and have the system pumped. He noted we can try to get her tapped in as quickly as possible once all the improvements, etc., are completed, but there are no guarantees.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Ballard moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Griffin seconded this motion which was approved unanimously.

APPROVED BY THE WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE



Dominica Stalvey, Municipal Clerk
January 17, 2023