

## MINUTES

WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE MEETING  
TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH  
February 20, 2024  
10:00 a.m.

### Present

Chair Jody Kleckley and John David Griffith (via phone) David Ballard, Lou Rasmussen, and John Drolet, Committee Members. *Quorum of Members Present.*

### Others Present

Town Administrator Mark Aakhus, Utilities Director Patrick Zemp, and Municipal Clerk Donna Iskra

### Call to Order

Chair Kleckley called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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### Appoint Temporary Chair for Election

Mr. Ballard made a motion to appoint Mr. Lou Rasmussen as Temporary Chair. Mr. Drolet seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

### Election

- Nomination and Vote for Chair  
Mr. Ballard made a motion to appoint Jody Kleckley as Chair. Mr. Drolet seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.
- Nomination and Vote for Vice-Chair  
Mr. Kleckley made a motion to appoint Mr. Griffith as Vice-Chair. Mr. Ballard seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

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### Approval of Minutes – September 19, 2023

Mr. Ballard moved to accept the minutes of September 19, 2023. Mr. Drolet seconded this motion, which was approved unanimously.

### Old Business

#### A. Update on Moratorium

Town Administrator Aakhus reported the moratorium is still in effect. Notice to proceed for Pump Station A has been provided to Babcock Construction, LLC. Mr. Zemp reported that trees have been removed from the area and plans have been reviewed. The project has come in under budget and has an estimated completion date of August 19, 2024. The majority of the work is electrical, and the footprint will remain the same. Mr. Zemp confirmed they would revisit the moratorium once Pump Station A is complete.

**B. Update on Meter Readers**

The Town received funds in the amount of \$500,000 last fiscal year earmarked in the State budget for the automatic meter readers. The Town has applied for an additional \$1 million in grant money to cover any shortfall. Mr. Zemp noted there are two types of readers available: remote and drive-by and both would send notifications if there was abnormal usage.

**New Business**

**A. Update from Mr. Zemp: Rule Change on Lead/Galvanized Pipes**

The EPA has recently changed the rule regarding lead and copper pipes. DHEC has requested an inventory list of the composition of all pipes throughout the Town. Mr. Zemp reported that the majority of our pipes are plastic and copper, and anything built after 1988 was prohibited from using lead. He has consulted with local plumbers and contractors, and they have not reported any lead or galvanized pipes, and if any are discovered, they would need to be replaced.

**Open Discussion**

**A. Flooding**

~~The Ocean Ridge HOA is working with DOT to repair the outfall pipe at Docksite/Lybrand Road. The work that is being done will not prevent flooding but will allow the area to drain faster. Mr. Aakhus will consult with American Engineering on what could be done to prevent flooding at Pump Station B. The resurfacing of the road and the new riser should address the issue of the low spot where water tends to settle.~~

**B. Mandatory Septic Tank Inspection**

Mr. Aakhus and Councilman Renner are meeting with the Edisto Island Open Land Trust to discuss how to work together on public outreach regarding septic tank maintenance. Mr. Aakhus is working with SC Sea Grant Consortium, who may be able to fund monitoring wells to determine bacteria levels. Council is interested in pushing out the program. Mr. Zemp reiterated the key is proper septic tank maintenance.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Ballard made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Drolet. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVED BY THE WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE**



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Donna Iskra, Municipal Clerk  
May 21, 2024