

**Water and Sewer Committee Meeting**  
**May 20, 2013**  
**10:00 a.m.**

The following were in attendance:

Ray Johnson, David Lybrand, Charles Kerekes and Bill Houston, Committee Members; Bob Doub and Iris Hill, ex-officio members. Ray Archibald was excused.

Ray Johnson called the meeting to order and agendas were distributed.

**Upcoming Public Hearings:**

The Committee met to discuss the upcoming public information meetings. Administrator Hill stated that the screen at the Civic Center was working, and the Denarius is working on the Power Point presentation. The Denarius Group will not be present at the meetings, but the Committee feels it would be useful to have Mike Beckman (or his designee) from URS there. Bob Doub said he would ask. Mr. Johnson pointed out some things he would like to be more clear on for the public. ATAX funds were the first of these items. Administrator Hill and Councilman Mann told Mr. Johnson that there was no way to get a firm answer on whether or not the ATAX board and Council would approve funds if the Water and Sewer Committee asked for them if the referendum passed. There is a possibility that \$50,000 **could** be approved. Mr. Johnson also had a question about whether or not there would be any grant funding. Projects must be under construction to apply for two grants, one through The South Carolina Rural Development and one through the Federal Congressional Delegation. The Committee asked for a consensus on the timeline of the project. The Committee agreed it would take approximately 3-4 months to pick a design-build firm, 6-12 months for permitting and construction beginning mid-2014. The project should be completed two years after the start of construction. Other contributing factors beyond the Committee's control **may** push the completion date later. The Committee reiterated the decision that a qualified, experienced project manager needs to be hired to safeguard the interests of Edisto Beach in the process.

The Committee discussed adding an "If not approved" slide to the PowerPoint presentation to include expanding costs of maintaining current system (reserve funds are not able to sustain the infrastructure costs). In addition, another well will be needed, as will additional storage to meet demand, at an estimated cost of 3.5 million. Mr. Lybrand suggested mentioning the low interest rate in the "if not approved" section. Quality of life and property values being threatened were also discussed. The Committee decided to have visual aids for the public meeting so those in attendance could see the corrosive effect on various items (valves, aerators, plumbing fixtures from homes, etc.) Mr. Doub was asked to put some equipment on one of the flatbed trailers to display.

Mr. Lybrand stated his desire for a signed letter from each Council member stating his or her support for the R/O project and the work of the Water and Sewer Committee. Councilman Mann said he would contact Council and send them a sample letter for them to use if they wanted to. Mr. Lybrand said he thought there would be people who wanted more information and suggested members of the Committee remain after the presentation to answer questions. He also suggested having a map available for the public to look at so they can see where the wells are and where the water will be pumped from. Mr. Lybrand reiterated the fact that the public needs to be assured the "watering hole" at Town Hall will not be shut down until after the completion of the project, and will not be shut down

at all if the referendum fails. The Committee discussed moving to monthly billing as opposed to the current twice a year format, and recommended starting in January 2014.

The Committee decided to add some of the information discussed to the PowerPoint presentation prior to the public meeting on Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. Ray Johnson offered to give the presentation at the public meeting, with the remaining members of the Committee to assist in answering questions.