



**Minutes of the Seabrook Island Utility Commission
March 21, 2018
Town Hall**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bannwart at 9:30 AM.

In addition to Chairman Bannwart, Commissioners Vancini and Morawski were also present. Also in attendance were Tommy West and Carmella Montgomery of Hawthorne Services and Chris Houghton of Louis Berger. Mr. Neil Callahan, Executive Water and Wastewater Consultant for Louis Berger U.S. Division also attended the meeting.

The minutes of the February 21, 2018 meeting were approved as submitted.

The financials for February were reviewed. Consolidated operating income exceeded \$30,000 in February despite reduced water sales as is typical during the winter months. At the same time purchased water costs were also reduced and sewer operations benefited from the recent rate increase and four new connections. For the first two months of 2018, net cash remained positive at approximately \$56,000. One hundred twenty eight (128) customers have now signed up for on line billing and payment.

It was determined to include a notice in the March 31 billing cycle of the rate increase pass through from Charleston Water. The 4.1 percent increase will raise the cost of water usage by \$0.17 per thousand gallons.

For the month of February, Mr. West reported that all permit parameters were met. Wastewater flow for the month averaged 344,000 gallons per day. He reported that the staff was busy with spring clean up in progress and utility location marking for companies installing new cable for telecommunications companies. Five manholes are scheduled for repairs and will require close coordination with traffic flows around rehab sites. The third back-up generator is due in by the end of the month and the final application to FEMA for a grant for six additional generators is due in April. Mr. West announced that the insurance renewal is scheduled for April and will reflect a 30 percent increase in state insurance rates. This will have an impact of an additional \$8,000 to \$9,000 in annual insurance rates.

A request by the St. Johns Fire District to eliminate the annual hydrant fees was denied. The Fire District had proposed transferring these fees to water customers.

The proposal for a Kiawah Senior Living Facility near the traffic circle at Freshfields Village was reviewed. A preliminary analysis indicates impact fees could be as high as \$290,000.

A motion to go into Executive Session was approved to discuss contractual and legal matters pertaining to additional information submitted by Louis Berger in support of the proposal for the new Management Agreement.

A motion to return to regular session from Executive Session was approved. After review of the proposed five year contract, issues were noted which Berger will readdress before engaging legal counsel for further review and comment.

There being no further business, upon a motion, second and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM. The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for April 18, 2018 at 9:30 AM.

Date: April 18, 2018

Faye Allbritton, Town Clerk