Minutes of the Seabrook Island Utility Commission Regular Meeting
October 21, 2020

Due to Convid-19 mandates, the meeting was held via Zoom conference call with Zoom link published to the public on the Town’s website. Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Smith-Jones at 9:33 AM.

Commissioners Present: Vancini, Morawski, and Smith-Jones.

Others Present: Tommy West, Beth Geiss, and Chris Houghton of LBH.

Upon a motion by Vancini and seconded by Morawski, minutes of the September 16, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted.

FINANCIAL REPORT September, by Ms. Geiss
Net income for the month of September was a surplus of $35,557. Monthly service and Irrigation were below budget while all other revenue sources were above. Salt Marsh paid impact fees for two additional buildings. On the expense side O&M expenses were more than $10k under budget for September. There were no Capital Expenditures this month. After adjusting for Bond P&I, September showed a net profit of $33,779.
On a year to date basis there is a surplus of $123,208 over budget.
During September, the Commission approved the transfer of $192,862 from the Operations account to pay vendor invoices.
The conversion process with Edmunds continues and the Utility Billing module will now go live in November.

Financial Report with September payables that were approved electrically were accepted by the Commissioners.

OPERATIONS REPORT September, 2020 by Mr. West
SEABROOK WATER RESOURCE FACILITY
Effluent quality continued to meet permit requirements during the month. Daily average flows were 0.453 million gallons per day (MGD). The maximum day was 0.478 million gallons for the month. The average effluent Total Suspended Solids (TSS) was 3 mg/l and the average effluent Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) was 7 mg/l, indicating excellent process control. During September 3603 gallons of Sodium Hypochlorite (Bleach) was used for effluent disinfection and process control. We were experiencing bulking with the biological process and started adding beach to the influent back in June to improve the process. The trend shows the improvement of the SVI over the past 90 days. An SVI of 100 is considered good settling sludge.
Total effluent

SEABROOK WATER DISTRIBUTION
Total effluent & deep well pumped to Seabrook golf courses for irrigation for August was 18,377 million gallons effluent and 0.000 million gallons deep well. Total effluent and deep well pumped to Oak Point golf course were 1,816 million gallons effluent and 0.000 million gallons deep well.
The deep well pump had to be pulled for repair and we are still supplementing the golf courses with potable water. Total potable water delivered to Seabrook was 0.650 million gallons. Total potable water delivered to Oak Point was 0.000 million gallons.

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Jul 2020
SEABROOK WATER DISTRIBUTION
SIUC delivered 28,793,002 gallons of water for the month compared to 27,580,401 gallons last year. The accounted for water received the month from St Johns 95.32% compared to 98.23% last year.
Installed 60 new Radio Read Meters.
MAINTENANCE HIGHLIGHTS
Leak Repairs -3
New Meter Installs-2
Radio Read Meter Installs-32
New Sewer Inspections-2

OLD BUSINESS
The Holding Pond Expansion Project, a legal opinion letter from attorney, Stephen Brown regarding the Agreement between the Club and Heater, a facility fee/effluent charge for the Club and Oak Point Golf Course, and the WK Dickson proposal were discussed. Commissioner Smith-Jones continued to question the immediate need to rush into the holding pond expansion project given that the WK Dickson Study had indicated that capacity was not an issue. The legal opinion letter stated the Club was obligated to accept up to 1.1 million gallons a day of effluent. Commissioner Smith-Jones reported that a meeting between the Club’s general manager, Caleb Elledge and Sean Hardwick, director of golf course maintenance and included Tommy West had occurred on 10/16. At that meeting the Club acknowledged the 1.1 mgd obligation including if necessary, the need to over-irrigated their practice range to comply with this obligation. It was further reported at this meeting that it was SIUC’s intention to charge either the fee of .25/1000 gallons of effluent as stated in the Agreement or a facility’s charge. Mr. Elledge wanted the know the approximate cost based on effluent for this current year in order to add that amount into the Club’s budget. He also asked if it was SIUC’s intent to charge Oak Point a similar fee.

The Commissioners then looked into the Oak Point Agreement regarding charging for effluent and it was determined that that Agreement did not have a similar statement to charge .25/1000 gallons. It was suggested that the Agreement be reviewed by our attorney regarding if a facility fee could be charged. Discussion continued as to whether the Commission should have one fee/charge for the Club but not for the other. Commissioner Vancini pointed out that we allow for two different fee amounts between our on-island customers vs those not residing on Seabrook. Commissioner Morawski felt that it was not fair to charge one but not the other facility.

A motion was made by Vancini and seconded by Smith-Jones to charge the Club the .25 per 1000 gallons of effluent as per the Agreement beginning January 1, 2021. The motion was passed with Vancini and Smith-Jones voting to approve and Morawski opposed.

Discussion of the holding pond expansion next occurred. Commissioner Smith-Jones again stated that given the WK Dickson Study stated that we were not out of capacity particularly with the Club’s obligation of accepting up to 1.1 m/g/d that we should not rush into this project. Further she expressed the desire to put the engineering services out to bid. Commissioner Morawski stated that he did not feel that a professional services contract should go out to bid
unlike a construction contract. After further discussion a motion was made by Morawski and seconded by Vancini to approve the WK Dickson proposal in the amount of $234,600 for professional services including the design of the holding pond. Morawski and Vancini voted in favor of the motion and Smith-Jones opposed. Motion passed. Commissioner Smith-Jones requested a written response from SCDHEC regarding whether DHEC will require the holding pond be lined bringing it up to current standards. The WK Dickson timeline for this project was also requested.

A brief discussion of 2021 budget information provided by Mr. West occurred. It was decided to have a special budget meeting which was scheduled for November 13 at 9:30. Commissioner Smith-Jones will have the meeting posted for the public.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no further New Business. Meeting was adjourned at 11:53 am.

The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for November 18, 2020 at 9:30 am via a Zoom video conference call.

Date: January 20, 2021

Town Clerk