

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BAMBERG BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS ON MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2004 AT 5:15 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bob Clary, Commissioner Carl Kilgus, and Commissioner Dr. Marion Dwight. MANAGER: Bruce Ellis. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Lee Early, Jerry Durgan, Will Martin, Chuck Hughes, and Gene Searson.

Chairman Clary called the meeting to order and Clerk Watson gave the invocation.

Commissioner Kilgus made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2004 meeting as received. Commissioner Dwight made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the discussion of the Income and Expense Statements, Commissioner Kilgus asked Manager Ellis to explain the SCAT Park expense line item.

Manager Ellis explained that the line item was for the cost to operate the SCAT Park water plant and distribution lines as well as the wastewater system at the park which was located in Barnwell County.

Manager Ellis explained that EDA and CDBG grant money built the plant and that the BPW had no money in it except for the operation of the plant by BPW employees. He informed the Commissioners that the BPW had approved the venture when the Tri County Alliance asked them to get involved.

Chairman Clary explained that the grant money would have been lost if the BPW had not been willing to get involved. He said the BPW may want to turn the operation of the plant over to them at some point in time.

Commissioner Kilgus asked who the plant was serving.

Manager Ellis explained that the plant was presently serving Unitec and Chem Nuclear.

Commissioner Kilgus asked how many gallons the wastewater plant at the SCAT Park could treat.

Manager Ellis explained that the system was just being started up.

Commissioner Kilgus asked Manager Ellis to explain the DAF expense line item.

Manager Ellis explained that the DAF expense line item was the costs to run the pretreatment plant for Rockland. He explained that the pretreatment plant was also paid for utilizing EDA and CDBG funds.

Manager Ellis informed the Commissioners that he was putting together a power point presentation to explain the fluctuations in natural gas prices.

Commissioner Kilgus asked if the vehicles could be run on natural gas if gasoline prices continued to climb.

Manager Ellis explained that it was not convenient to run vehicles on natural gas since you could be traveling and give out of natural gas with no place to refuel. He explained that Orangeburg DPU tried using natural gas but that the conversion didn't work for them.

Mrs. Lee Early who said she was a friend and volunteer of the Bamberg County Library explained that the Winthrop Foundation had donated \$500.00 to purchase a tree for the library. She explained that the Bamberg Lady's Club had also donated a tree. Mrs. Early presented the landscape plan for the library and asked the Commissioners to please consider donating an irrigation system in order to keep the plantings alive.

Commissioner Kilgus asked if the use of the library had increased since it had been renovated.

Chairman Clary informed the Commissioners that he had seen a large number of kids utilizing the library computers to do their homework assignments.

Chairman Clary asked Mrs. Early if the BPW could get a copy of the landscape plan so the BPW could have an engineer determine the cost for an irrigation system.

Commissioner Kilgus asked if additional shrubbery would be placed once the irrigation system was installed.

Mrs. Early explained that the landscape plan called for a lot of additional shrubbery.

Commissioner Dwight asked Mrs. Early if they were also requesting a well for the irrigation system.

Mrs. Early explained that they were requesting that a well be included in the system.

Chairman Clary told Mrs. Early that the Commissioners would take her request under consideration.

During the discussion of the irrigation system after Mrs. Early had left, Chairman Clary informed the Commissioners that he was wondering if the BPW would be within the law to use money from the citizens of Bamberg to improve the County Library. He said he had never known the BPW to be called upon to donate money to be used on county property.

Commissioner Kilgus said he felt the money would be used to enhance the Town of Bamberg.

Manager Ellis told the Commissioners that he would get a rough estimate of the costs to install the system and that he would also check on the legality of the use of funds.

Commissioner Dwight said he would like to see a sign put on the property saying the BPW donated the system if the Commissioners decided to provide the irrigation system.

Chairman Clary cautioned against the placement of a sign if the system is provided by the BPW.

Manager Ellis informed the Commissioners that he had been asked by the Sheriff's Department, the Bamberg County Hospital, and the Bamberg Police Department if the BPW would donate their surplus vehicles to them. He explained that he had always sold the surplus vehicles and used the money to purchase additional vehicles. Manager Ellis said the surplus vehicles could be sold and one new vehicle could be purchased with the money generated from their sale.

Commissioner Kilgus said he would like to see the total bill for the newly purchased BPW vehicles and that he would like to see from whom they were purchased.

Manager Ellis explained that he newly purchased Vehicles came from Zeigler Chevrolet. He informed the Commissioners that they had agreed to purchase vehicles locally if they could meet the 2% cap set by the Commissioners.

During the Manager's report, Manager Ellis informed the commissioners that the BPW had received \$34,900.00 from Orangeburg for the work the BPW had done during the ice storm. He explained that Orangeburg was reimbursed by FEMA who in turn reimbursed the BPW. He said it was a worthwhile venture which the BPW was obligated to perform due to the mutual aid agreement the BPW had signed.

Manager Ellis informed the Commissioners that he had met with SCDOT Officials to discuss cost estimates to move the BPW utilities during the Highway 301 Widening Project. Manager Ellis informed the Commissioners that some utility lines may be placed underground but cautioned that AT&T, BellSouth and the cable company may still want their services on poles above ground. Manager Ellis said no utility company wants to place utility lines underground due to the high maintenance cost involved. Manager Ellis said he would be meeting with SCDOT Officials again in May.

Manager Ellis presented the Commissioners with a handout on natural gas pricing.

Manager Ellis informed the Commissioners of the SCAMPS meeting and asked them to please let him know if they planned to attend.

Manager Ellis informed the Commissioners that the BPW presently transfers \$150,000.00 to the City of Bamberg each year. He said the BPW didn't have to transfer any amount to the City and also said the percentage of transfer to the City was high as compared to other cities. He told the Commissioners that the MASC has advised the BPW to watch this.

Commissioners Kilgus asked if the DPU in Orangeburg had anything to do with the operation of the City of Orangeburg.

Manager Ellis said the DPU of Orangeburg was kept separate from the City of Orangeburg by the way the books were kept. He said the auditors have been telling the BPW to be careful.

Commissioner Kilgus asked Manager Ellis to report on his meeting last month.

Manager Ellis informed the Commissioners that he had attended a Square D training meeting in Florida last month during the Commissioners Meeting. He explained that all the new equipment in the new plants were utilizing Square D components.

Manager Ellis informed the Commissioners that the well which was out of service last month is now back in operation. He said another non major well was out of service at this time. Manager Ellis explained the various problems the BPW was having was due to engineers not understanding the BPW's cathodic protection system.

Commissioner Clary read a letter to the Commissioners from Mrs. Linda Frye of the SC Water Environmental Association expressing the association's gratitude and praising Will Martin for his service to the association.

The Commissioners commended Mr. Martin for his accomplishments in the SC Water Environmental Association.

With no announcements or questions from the press and audience, the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk

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Chairman-BPW

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Commissioner-BPW

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Commissioner-BPW