

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BAMBERG BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS ON MONDAY, MAY 24, 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: Will Martin, Gene Searson, Jerry Durgan, Mayor Alton McCollum, Del Brown, Bob McCully and Lesa Stokes.

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

Auditor Del Brown of C.C. McGregor and Company presented the 2002-2003 Audit Report to the Commissioners. He informed the Commissioners that the BPW was given an unqualified opinion which was the best possible. Auditor Brown told the Commissioners that assets had exceeded liabilities to give the BPW a \$19,683,613.00 Fund Equity. He informed the Commissioners that operating expenses had exceeded operating revenues to give the BPW a net income loss of \$160,682.99 for the year. Auditor Brown told the Commissioners that all funds of the BPW had been collateralized as required and that the audit found no instances of non compliance or matters of internal control to report. He explained that there were no findings during the audit to report. He said that all federal programs had been complied with on all grants of federal money.

Commissioner Dwight asked Auditor Brown if he meant that there were no deficiencies.

Auditor Brown said yes. He said he could find no deficiencies during the audit.

Manager Ellis explained that since Auditor Brown had to go back and adjust some entries from the previous auditor that it took him longer to complete his audit.

Auditor Brown presented a communication letter to the Commissioners. He said he was glad to be performing the audit and said he would begin the new audit next month.

Commissioner Dwight made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2004 meeting as received. Commissioner Kilgus made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the review of the income and expense statements, Commissioner Dwight asked Manager Ellis how they compared as to last year during this time.

Manager Ellis explained that grant monies were coming in and that the tobacco grants were winding up.

During the manager's report, Manager Ellis informed the Commissioners that SC Pipeline Officials would be rescheduling their meeting with them since their currently planned meeting fell on Memorial Day.

Manager Ellis informed the Commissioners that another \$10,000.00 had been found within the 2.7 million dollar Tobacco Grant and that it would be used to buy more equipment. He explained that the Tobacco Grant had been used to build a pump station, a force main line, a chlorine system, a spray field and also used to remove the sludge from the wastewater plant. He said the BPW could now handle any industry within the area. He told the Commissioners that the plant was really doing a great job.

Manager Ellis presented the Commissioners with a copy of the recent vehicle purchases. He said the approved budget included the trucks that had not been purchased in the prior budget. Manager Ellis said the total purchases came in \$19,000.00 under budget and that the vehicles were still purchased locally.

Commissioner Kilgus asked who wanted to purchase the BPW's surplus vehicles.

Manager Ellis told the Commissioners that the hospital and Sheriffs Department wanted the surplus vehicles.

Manager Ellis informed the Commissioners that the Interim Finance Authority was being disbanded and presented them with papers which the City Council needed to sign in order to disband the Authority.

Manager Ellis informed the Commissioners that since the BPW operated the facilities at the SCAT Park which were in the City of Bamberg's name that an agreement to operate the system must be signed by both parties.

Commissioner Kilgus asked if a lawsuit arose at the SCAT Park who would be held liable.

Manager Ellis informed him that the BPW would be held liable.

Commissioner Dwight said he felt the owner of the property would also be held liable.

Manager Ellis informed the Commissioners that the BPW would begin taking credit card payments on utility bills.

Commissioner Dwight asked how much the BPW would loose in revenues by using the cards.

Will Martin informed the Commissioners that it would cost the BPW 1.6 % of the bills paid to use the cards.

Manager Ellis explained to the Commissioners why the BPW required deposits for certain customers.

During the questions from the press and audience, Mr. Bob McCully asked Manager Ellis what was the total discharge rate of the wastewater system. Manager Ellis explained that with the increased ability to treat 7 million gallons of wastewater per day that they could still only discharge 1,050,000 gallons of treated wastewater per day. Manager Ellis said the BPW would have to make plans to discharge to a main water source like the Edisto River but said there was no need to go to the rivers at this time. He explained that the BPW could be discharging to a main river source within six months if needed.

Mr. McCully asked where the Rockland Pretreatment Plant was located.

Manager Ellis explained that the pretreatment plant was located on BPW property and was paid for with a grant. He said Rockland not only made up 16% of the BPW's total revenues but that they were helping subsidize the cost of utilities for the citizens of Bamberg.

Mr. McCully informed the Commissioners that Edisto Electric Coop had contributed to the Cross Rhodes Park and had helped build a spec building in St. George. He said the BPW was in the position to do the same in Bamberg County.

Manager Ellis informed Mr. McCully that Edisto Electric Coop made the contribution using Federal Funds which the BPW does not receive. He said they had to use the money for something other than the distribution of electricity. Manager Ellis informed the Commissioners that the Commerce Department is now saying not to build spec buildings.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk

Chairman-BPW

Commissioner-BPW

Commissioner-BPW