

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BAMBERG BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2003 AT 5:15 P.M. AT CITY HALL. MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bob Clary, Commissioner Carl Kilgus and Commissioner Marion Dwight. MANAGER: Bruce Ellis. CLERK: Bruce Watson. VISITORS: Jerry Durgan and Bob McCully.

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

During the discussion of the minutes of the August 25, 2003 meeting, Commissioner Dwight said he felt the wording of the paragraph where Chairman Clary said that no more incorrect information would be given to the public seemed a little harsh and said he felt it should be reworded to say so correct information would be given to the public.

Commissioner Kilgus and Chairman Clary agreed to the amendment.

Commissioner Dwight then made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2003 meeting as amended. Commissioner Kilgus made the second. All approved. The motion carried.

During the discussion of the income and expense statements, Commissioner Kilgus said he had noticed that \$399,173.00 in grant funds had been received. Commissioner Kilgus mentioned that he had also noticed that residential sales were down as compared to last year.

Manager Ellis said they were down because the electricity was not used.

Chairman Clary said he felt they were down due to the mild summer.

Commissioner Kilgus said he also noticed that bad check revenues were up while self use utility expenses were up as compared to last year.

Commissioner Dwight said he felt an 8% increase in cost was acceptable in any business from one year to the next.

Chairman Clary informed the Commissioners that items 3 and 5 on the agenda would not be discussed. They included a discussion of the demand rates with Buzzy Bunch and a request from the Shalom Mission Cottage, Inc. of \$500.00.

Commissioner Kilgus asked if the BPW's demand charges started with the use of 25 kw.

Manager Ellis explained that they did and said all 52 utility companies in the state charged different demand rates. Manager Ellis said he wanted to discuss the demand charges with certain individuals first hand.

Commissioner Dwight said it suited him to have Manager Ellis contact the individuals to explain the demand charges.

Manager Ellis informed the Commissioners that the BPW had the lowest utility rates throughout the county and that the BPW was in the lowest 5% of the utility companies who had the lowest rates in the state. He explained that Edisto Coop, South Carolina Electric and Gas and the BPW served utilities in Bamberg County.

Under Manager's Report.

Manager Ellis informed the Commissioners that the final on Well 9 was being done and that the well was in operation. He told them that the grant for the well was being closed out and that a permit to operate the well and a final inspection would be done soon. He said the plant was purring away.

Manager Ellis explained that the Tobacco Fund Grant Projects were wide open and that they should be operational by 2004.

Manager Ellis informed the Commissioners that the spray field expansion had started. He said the land clearing and the pipe laying for the project was being done at this time. Manager Ellis explained that the expansion project would give the BPW an extra 50,000 gallons per day discharge rate.

Manager Ellis said that more grants were constantly being applied for but he cautioned them that the BPW had already received more than their share of state grants.

Commissioner Dwight informed the Commissioners that he had noticed that the SCDOT was busy cleaning out the drainage ditches throughout the town.

Manager Ellis explained to the Commissioners that he had received a letter from DHEC saying that they were going to fine the BPW for excessive discharge rates. Manager Ellis said he wrote DHEC and informed them to look at the SCDOT concerning the discharging problem since the BPW sewer system was draining the streets throughout Bamberg. Manager Ellis explained that he sent pictures of the flooding and said that he had really stirred things up. Manager Ellis said a lot of people were mad at him for stirring it up and that EPA really didn't like to see any combined sewer overflow.

Commissioner Dwight mentioned that the ditches in front of his office needed to be cleaned out.

Commissioner Kilgus said he had been trying to get the ditches cleaned out by the Bar-B-Q Restaurant on McGee Street for a long time.

Commissioner Dwight voiced that he was glad to see that the ditches were being addressed.

During the questions from the press and audience, Mr. Bob McCully presented an article to the Commissioners concerning the SC Department of Corrections' plans to build three

new prison facilities at the cost of 80 million dollars per facility. He said Bamberg County was on the top of the list for one of the facilities. Mr. McCully explained that a facility would mean 500 jobs and that it would require 300,000 gallons of discharge per day. Mr. McCully said the decision process would be a highly political process and that the new facility if placed in Bamberg County would affect the BPW.

Commissioner Kilgus asked if any news had been received about the Veterans Nursing Home in Walterboro.

Mr. McCully said Walterboro had gotten all the necessary funding required but that another wing had been added to the plans since the original plans were approved. Mr. McCully said the SC Budget and Control Board put the brakes on the whole project since the State would be required to increase their share towards the project.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:41 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