

WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, June 23, 2016, 8:30 AM

Water & Sewer Department Office

1. Call to Order & Freedom of Information Requirements

The Freedom of Information Requirements having been met, the meeting was called to order at 8:35 AM. Those present were Committee Members, Mark Howard, Bachman Smith, Susan Middaugh (Chair) and Staff Members Greg Gress, Andy Benke and Jason Blanton. Also attending were Recreation Committee Chair Sarah Church and two Park Foundation members Manda Poletti and Kaye Smith.

2. Poe Avenue Playground plans & location of water and storm water pipelines

There has long been a well-used and valued Town playground in this area. At present, the Park Foundation has developed plans to upgrade the play equipment. The basic problem is that the Poe playground is essentially within an extensive DOT Right of Way along Poe Ave and both a water main and an 18" storm water pipeline run through this area as well as water lines to adjacent houses. Some of the existing, old play equipment lie on top of these utility pipelines and have underground stabilizing components located inches away. Current requirements are for a 10 foot clearance on either side of pipelines. This requirement substantially limits the location for installation of new playground equipment, which cannot be relocated in the old, non-compliant location.

After thorough discussion, a reduction of the setback requirement from 10 ft. to 5 ft. was arrived at on the grounds that (1) this was Town property and this decision would not constitute a precedent for private property and (2) this would be an improvement in the current situation where current encroachment is within 5 ft.

MOTION: to reduce the required setback from pipelines in Poe Park from 10 feet to 5 feet. Motion was made by Bachman Smith, second by Mark Howard, passed unanimously 3/0.

NOTE (added at 7/25/2016 Water & Sewer Committee Meeting): This decision was made against the advice of Staff. Greg Gress, as the W&S Utilities Manager, opposed this departure from the 10 ft. setbacks that are standard for Sullivan's Island and in accordance with nationally recognized Best Practices.

3. Sta. 19 & 22 contract and cost of relocating W&S utilities due to road work.

There was discussion about whether the contractor or the Town should pay Charleston County for utility costs associated with storm drain work performed by the contractor for the County at Stations 19 and 22. The Town paid for this item at Sta. 24, but the contract for Sta. 19 and 22 states that the contractor is responsible. After discussion it was decided that the Town would ask the County for 50/50 cost sharing for the \$15,486 cost. The Town portion is to come from the Town General Fund. In the future, the Town will discuss this with the County in advance of work that will require follow-up road repairs.

4. Poe Ave (Hennessy to Palmetto) sewer line easements.

The Town will be replacing the sewer line in this location and the lateral lines from the homes to the new sewer line will also need to be replaced. There was discussion of two options for lateral replacement. (1) The Town can contract with a plumber to carry out, and pay for, the work for all the lots to take advantage of economy of scale. (2) Each homeowner can hire their own plumber to carry out the work, with the Town providing reimbursement to the homeowner up to a specified dollar amount, with stated time frame for reconnection. This will be a staff decision with consideration of homeowner input.

5. FEMA grant update

If the FEMA Grant is awarded, there may be residual funds available with a potential 25/75 funding formula. Accordingly, the W&S Committee reviewed Town funds from the previous lot sales that could be used for a 25% match for the following items. It was determined that should additional FEMA funds become available, the Town would be able to provide a 25% match for these items that are all related to the WWTP upgrade.

- a. updated cost estimate of WWTP
- b. on-site project inspector
- c. generator/sludge press building enclosure
- d. Chlorine system upgrade from gas to tablet
- e. SCADA Monitoring System upgrade
- f. Pole barn

The expected Timeline for this project, if awarded, will be 9 months for engineering followed by RFP, Bid and 18 months for construction.

6. Proposed new billing software: This will be discussed in Town Council meetings.

7. Communications / Additional Items from WWTF Manager, Greg Gress

Pending Items a, c and d (below) were briefly discussed.

Water pumping station fencing and site improvements: This work is scheduled to begin in July and completed by end of August, to include required vegetation and tree removal, demolition of concrete from an old clarifier and installation of an 8 ft. shadowbox fence.

Rate Study and CWS contract revisions: It is anticipated that the Rate Study will be completed in August. The consultants were asked to include additional work (1) to compare the water rates that the Town currently pays to CWS with the rates paid to CWS by neighboring communities and (2) reviewing the rates the Town is contractually obligated to pay CWS.

- 8. Next W&S Committee meeting will be Thursday, July 21, 2016, at 8:30 AM.**
- 9. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM on a motion by Bachman Smith, second by Mark Howard, passed by unanimous vote 3/0.

FY17 Planning & Review of Pending Items

- a. Rate Study – in progress
- b. Poe Ave / Hennessy Sewer line relocations – in progress
- c. Water pumping station fencing and site improvements – in progress
- d. CWS contract revisions – in progress
- e. W&S billing software replacement - in progress
- f. Revision of Appeals Policy and Procedures
- g. Update of Private Sewer Lateral I&I Reduction Policy
- h. Development of a Cost Recovery Program
- i. ASR: Aquifer Storage and Recovery
- j. Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant for submersible pumps