

**WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Thursday, February 23, 2017, 8:30 AM**  
**Sullivan's Island Town Hall**

**1. Call to Order & Freedom of Information Requirements**

The Freedom of Information Requirements having been met, the meeting was called to order at 8:34 AM. Those present were Committee Members Mark Howard, Bachman Smith and Susan Middaugh (Chair), Staff Members Greg Gress and Jason Blanton. No Island residents or press were present.

**2. Minutes from W&S Committee meeting on 1-26-2017** were approved on a motion by Mark Howard, second by Bachman Smith and passed by unanimous vote 3/0.

**3. Poe Avenue Project: Feasibility and Funding for FY18**

The W&S Committee reaffirmed the need to proceed with the planned sewer line replacements between Citadel and Sta. 17 and along Poe Avenue from Hennessey to Palmetto. This project has been extensively discussed with the homeowners who are expecting this work to be carried out in the near future. Engineering studies have already been obtained for most of this project. This work is to be carried out in-house at a cost of \$300K (compared with an estimated \$500K if bid out). This work was temporarily delayed by the loss of W&S personnel. Greg Gress is currently hiring replacement personnel and the Poe Ave. Project can be scheduled for late 2017 or early 2018.

Funding for the Poe project remains to be designated. The W&S Committee has requested the Town Comptroller, Jason Blanton, to identify a source of funding for this project for the FY2018 Budget, with a stated preference for the full \$300K to come from Lot Sales Funds which are intended to include Sewer infrastructure improvements.

**4. Overview of Water Fund and Sewer Fund categories and clarification of items included in Fund Categories: Operating, Capital Improvement, Depreciation.**

Greg Gress presented a handout and carried out this review. The purpose was to prepare for upcoming FY18 Budget deliberations by clarifying the intended use of these fund categories and reviewing the current commitments for these funds.

**5. Rate Study Continued: consideration of additional data and timeline**

The Committee members confirmed their plan to rule out the Raftelis Consultant Plan as submitted. After presentation to Council and Island Residents and extensive feedback, it is clear that the Consultant's proposal is excessive and not acceptable to the W&S

Committee, Council or Residents. Instead, the Committee will continue to move forward, systematically and thoughtfully, to develop an acceptable alternative plan that is more in keeping with Sullivan's Island needs and values. No plan will be adopted or implemented as part of the FY2018 Budget starting June 30, 2017. Instead, the W&S Committee will continue to collect additional data for Sullivan's Island and consider how neighboring communities assess Basic Facility Charges, and other W&S charges, for different categories of residential, multifamily and Non-residential users. The goal is to develop alternatives for discussion by Council and Residents with the goal of having an acceptable plan to implement midyear.

**6. Communications / Additional Items from WWTF Manager, Greg Gress**

DHEC has confirmed that S.C. State standards require Waste Water Treatment Facilities to be built to the 100-Year Flood level. This is the standard that the Town of Sullivan's Island developed for the original FEMA Grant Application.

The legal consultant continues to communicate with CWS regarding contract issues.

The planned W&S line work that will cross Hwy 703 will now overlap DOT's planned road resurfacing and widening because DOT is starting earlier than previously planned. It remains feasible to carry out both the Sullivan's Island and DOT projects in the same time frame but this will involve more extensive road closures. However, both projects will be completed prior to beach season.

**7. The next Committee meeting** is confirmed for Thursday, March 23, 2017.

**8. The Committee Adjourned** at 9:30 AM on a motion by Bachman Smith, second by Mark Howard and unanimous vote, 3/0.

**Pending Items (to be considered in future meetings)**

- a. Poe Avenue sewer line replacement: Planned for FY2018
- b. I&I Phase II - postponed
- c. CWS contract revisions – in progress
- d. Private Sewer Lateral Policy for I&I Reduction – in progress
- e. W&S billing software replacement - in progress for August Implementation
- f. Development of a Cost Recovery Program: Planned for FY2018
- g. Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant for submersible pumps
- h. ASR: Aquifer Storage and Recovery