

MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE
ISLE OF PALMS WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
MAY 17, 2023

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Agenda was posted on May 10, 2023, at City Hall, the Commission Office, and provided to *The Post and Courier*. The meeting was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at the Commission Office, 1300 Palm Boulevard on the Isle of Palms, SC.

Attending were Chairman Donald Smith, Commissioner Jay Leigh, Commissioner Bob Hooper, Commissioner Curtis Helfrich, PE, Commissioner Jeff Forslund, General Manager Chris Jordan, Special Projects Administrator Bill Jenkins, Comptroller Helena Stickles, CPA, Operations Manager Shorty Meade, Engineer Mark Yodice, and Attorney Jennifer Blumenthal.

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Following the opening prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, and roll call, Comptroller Stickles shared a spreadsheet detailing the bid proposal amounts from two CPA firms for the Commission's annual audit. Staff recommends HRG CPAs, LLC.

Commissioner Hooper made a motion to recommend to the Commission the approval of the bid received from HRG CPAs, LLC, for the annual audit. Commissioner Leigh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

General Manager Jordan reviewed the operations portion of the FY24 budget. He reported that there is a \$730,000.00 increase, which is a 3% increase once the depreciation for the new water meters is taken into consideration. There were some cost increases in chemicals, benefits, retirement, and insurance. He noted that staff anticipates lower costs in sewer treatment processing once the IOPWSC begins processing its own sludge. General Manager Jordan then reviewed the capital projects budgeted for FY24.

Commissioner Helfrich questioned the need to spend money on undergrounding utilities at the new Wild Dunes Pump Station. General Manager Jordan said that the project will be left in the budget, but it will come back to the Commissioners before any work is done.

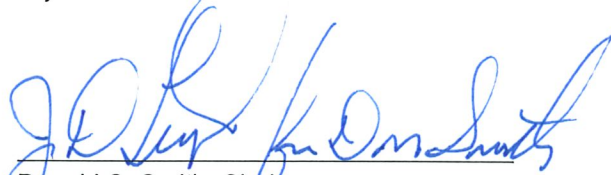
General Manager Jordan explained that the Duneridge water line replacement project has been moved out to FY25, as doing so will better protect the cash flow balance, and it is unknown when the Commission will receive the FEMA and ARPA funds that it has been awarded for other projects.

Commissioner Hooper also expressed concern regarding cash balances with the planned large capital projects. Chairman Smith expressed concern about delaying maintenance. General Manager Jordan said that no maintenance is being pushed out that would put the system's integrity at risk. Chairman Smith would like to see staff be proactive in seeking additional grant funding.

Comptroller Stickles reviewed the revenue projections for FY24. She is projecting higher revenues for FY24 than the actuals seen in FY23. She noted that "everything seems to be good in the revenue area."

Commissioner Helfrich made a motion to recommend the FY24 budget as presented to the Commission for approval. Commissioner Forslund seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Hooper made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Forslund seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 a.m.



Donald S. Smith, Chairman

6-21-23
Date