

**EDGEFIELD COUNTY WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The November Regular Board of Directors Meeting of Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority was held on November 25, 2019 starting at 5:30 p.m. at 100 Waterworks Rd., Edgefield, SC (ECWSA Administrative Building). No individual or organization requested a copy of the Agenda. Notice of this Board of Directors Meeting was posted in the Administration Office 4 weeks prior to meeting and the Agenda was posted November 21, 2019.

CALL TO ORDER: Kenamer, 5:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Kenamer

MEMBERS PRESENT: Johnson, Clark, Creswell, Kenamer, Timmerman, and Kitchens.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Williams

STAFF PRESENT: Administrator Hare, Business Manager Carroway

GUEST PRESENT: None

AGENDA: A motion was made by Johnson to approve the November 25, 2019 Agenda. Second by Timmerman. Vote unanimous to approve the agenda.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Johnson to approve the October 28, 2019 Minutes. Second By Clark. Vote unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments from the public and no one present from the public.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Administrator Hare read the bank balances to the Board and compared them to six years ago. The Authority has approximately \$2.6 million more cash in hand as compared to six years ago. Administrator Hare discussed the Financial Statement ending October 31, 2019. Budget should be at 33%, Revenues are 40.17%, and Expenses are at 31.98%. Administrator Hare then held a brief update of the 2010 Bond Refinancing process. Pre-closing is complete, and final closing will be on November 26, 2019 at 11:00. The Authority should recognize approximately \$377,000 in savings over the term (8 years) of the refinanced bond. The Board then held a wide ranging discussion about the financial future of the Authority including future bond issuances, rates, credit ratings, and whether achieving a status of being "debt free" will be possible for the Authority. Administrator Hare said that paying off all the Authority's debt could be possible within the next ten years. There were also some major capital challenges on the horizon as well. The balance between customer growth, demand for services (water & sewer), rates, interest rates, and the lifespan of current assets would all be large factors in whether being debt free would be achievable in the near term (10 years) or would be a long term goal (20+ years).

REPORTS:

John Hare, Administrator covered the following items during the report section:

- Administrator Hare informed the Board that the Authority had recently been awarded a S.C. RIA grant for approximately \$227,000 to replace the water mains in the Sandy Run area. This project, along with the Murrah Road Sewer force main project, is currently being advertised for bids on the SCBO website. Administrator Hare asked the Board to hold a special called meeting on December 16, 2019 at 5:30pm to approve these bids, or they would have to wait until the end of January 2020 for approval. The Board was in favor of having a special meeting on 12/16/2019.

BUSINESS:

A. RESOLUTION TO AMEND SEWER RATES

Administrator Hare presented to the Board a resolution to amend sewer rates effective January 1, 2019. This was being recommended as the City of North Augusta is raising sewer rates to the Authority by \$0.145 per thousand.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
EDGEFIELD COUNTY)

RESOLUTION No. 02-2019

Revising Water & Sewer Charges
and other Fees by Amending the
Edgefield County Water and Sewer
Users Rules and Regulations

Whereas, the Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority (the Authority) is a body Corporate and Politic and a Special Purpose District, created by Act No. 571 of the Acts and Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, regular session of 1967, as amended, whereby the Authority is given the function to acquire, construct and operate a waterworks and sewer system within its service area, which consists of the territory of Edgefield County, South Carolina and a small area in the Southwestern corner of Aiken County, South Carolina, exclusive of any area within an incorporated municipality which owns and operates a municipal water works system;

Whereas, in order to perform its statutory function to operate and maintain the waterworks and sewer system, the Authority is authorized to adjust water and sewer rates as needed;

Whereas, each residential, commercial or industrial customer of the Authority's system must pay such customer's proportionate share of costs for operation and maintenance of the system; In addition, each customer must pay an amount to share the costs of debt service and to provide for Depreciation / Contingency funds;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the Board of Directors of the Edgefield County Water and Sewer Authority, that a resolution approving the revised schedules of water and sewer charges and fees be adopted.

Effective as of January 1, 2020, Sections IV and V of the Water and Sewer User Rules and Regulations are hereby amended and when amended shall read as follows:

EDGEFIELD COUNTY WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY
WATER & SEWER USER RULES AND REGULATIONS
(Proposed)

SECTION IV CLASSES AND CHARGES FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE

B. Sewer Service

There are five (5) classes of sewer service: Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Prison, and Wholesale/Saluda County. Each sewer service will fit into one of the five classes and will be billed at the rate for that class. The sewer service charge will be charged to all customers and does not include a water-use allowance. Sewer rates will be charged on 100% of the amount of water metered each month with a cap of 12,000 gallons for residential customers.

1. *Sewer Service Charge For All Classes*

<u>Meter Size</u>		<u>Meter Size</u>	
$\frac{3}{4}$	\$10.97	3"	\$109.65

1"	\$18.31	4"	\$182.68
1-1/2"	\$36.52	6"	\$365.49
2"	\$58.45	8"	\$584.80

- 2. *Residential Sewer Rate*
 Flat Rate **\$3.88** Per 1,000 Gallons (12,000 Gallon Cap)

- 3. *Commercial Sewer Rate*
 Flat Rate **\$3.88** Per 1,000 Gallons

- 4. *Industrial Sewer Rate*
 Flat Rate **\$3.88** Per 1,000 Gallons

- 5. *Other Sewer Rates*
 Flat Rate **\$5.18** Per 1,000 Gallons For State and Federal Prisons
 (Based on 85% of water metered each month)

 Flat Rate **\$4.41** Per 1,000 Gallons for Saluda County
 (Based on amount of wastewater metered each month)

 Monthly Charge **\$26.68** for Sewer Only Customers (No Water Service)

DONE THIS 25th day of November 2019, at Edgefield, South Carolina

Approved By:

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Treasurer / Secretary

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

ATTEST:

Administrator

A motion was made by Johnson to approve the Resolution. Second by Creswell. Kitchens asked if the Authority should go up more to cover its increased expenses. Administrator Hare said the sewer rates were currently being studied by AECOM in the Wastewater Master Plan, and adjustments would be needed in the near future to cover the costs of capital projects contained in the plan. No further discussion. Vote unanimous.

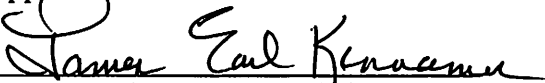
B. EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS BONUS

Chairman Kennamer discussed the approval of the annual Christmas bonus given to Authority employees. He recommended adjusting these bonuses as they had not been changed in over ten years. A motion was made by Johnson to approve adjusted Christmas bonus. Second by Clark. No discussion. Vote unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Board did not enter in to Executive Session

Motion was made by Clark to adjourn.
Second by Kitchens
Time: 6:25 p.m., November 25, 2019
Vote Unanimous

Approved


James Earl Kennamer, Chairman