

**Kershaw County Finance Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting  
Wednesday, September 16, 2009**

**Members Present:**

Jimmy Jones, Chairman  
Stephen Smoak  
Sammie Tucker, Jr.

**Others Present:**

C.R. Miles  
Bobby Gary

**Staff Present:**

Clay Young, Administrator  
James Absher, Assistant Administrator  
Crystal Burr, Finance Director

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the date and time of the meeting was posted on the bulletin board of the Kershaw County Government Center and Courthouse, and posted on the Kershaw County web site.

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order.

**Agenda Item I. Approval of Minutes**

Councilman Smoak made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Councilman Tucker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item II. State Revolving Fund Capitalized Interest Payment**

Committee members were presented with a letter received from the State Budget and Control Board in reference to the capitalized interest due on the State Revolving Fund Loan for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Expansion project. County Administrator, Clay Young, informed the committee that the payment is coming due in November and staff is reviewing whether to pay the full amount or to accrue it over the life of the loan.

**Agenda Item III. Sewer Collection Agreements**

Committee members were presented with an updated agreement proposal from Lugoff Elgin Water Authority to bill and collect sewer revenues on behalf of the County as well as a cost analysis as previously requested by the committee prepared by Finance Director Crystal Burr. Mr. Young informed the committee that changes were made to items 8 and 14. Item 8 was changed to allow the County to be billed for the services rendered by Lugoff Elgin Water Authority and item 14 was changed to allow either party to cancel the agreement upon 90 days written notice. Councilman Smoak asked if Lugoff Elgin Water Authority has approved the updated agreement. Mr. Young stated no. Councilman Smoak stated he thinks the language "for any reason" should be added to item 14 in reference to cancellation of the agreement. Councilman Smoak stated he also thinks the agreement should be contingent upon a similar agreement being reached with the City of Camden. Councilman Tucker asked who would handle customer complaints, problems, and emergency situations. Assistant Administrator, James Absher, stated sewer maintenance problems would continue to be addressed by Russell Wright and Doug Porter. He further explained that sensors have been installed to help solve problems before they become emergencies. Councilman Smoak asked if an employee's position would be eliminated. Mr. Absher stated no, the position would have a reassignment of duties as it is paid from the finance department budget and not the sewer department budget. Chairman Jones expressed his thoughts about convenience to customers. Councilman Tucker asked who would be receiving sewer cutoff revenue. Mr. Absher stated Lugoff Elgin Water Authority would receive revenue

from cutoffs. Councilman Tucker asked when the County would be equipped to accept credit card payments. Mr. Absher stated staff will be looking into payment options in the near future. He further stated the financial system upgrade was the first step in the process and when other payment options are in place he would like them to be for all County offices not just the sewer department and it will cost approximately \$30,000 to \$40,000 for the necessary infrastructure. Councilman Smoak stated he agrees that convenience to customers is important however, he thinks this agreement will cost the County unnecessarily. Councilman Tucker stated he would rather see the money spent toward upgrading infrastructure to allow for more payment options. No action was taken.

**Agenda Item IV. Other Matters**

Mr. Young informed the committee that the appeal process is still continuing with Invista and the South Carolina Department of Revenue.

Mr. Young informed the committee that the Catawba Regional Council of Governments will be preparing the capital improvement plan and the University of South Carolina's Institute for Public Service and Policy Research will be preparing the strategic plan. Mr. Young stated the capital improvement plan will be completed first and will be instrumental in preparing the strategic plan. Mr. Absher stated the capital improvement plan will help budget for capital projects over a 10 year period.

Mr. Young informed the committee that an architect has been selected for the Bethune recreation and fire project.

Mr. Young presented the committee with a letter from County Auditor, Robin Watkins, requesting a prior year taxpayer refund for tax years 2003, 2004, and 2005 to Brenda Jackson Powdrill. Councilman Tucker made a motion to recommend a refund of taxes for tax years 2003, 2004, and 2005. Councilman Smoak seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Tucker made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing a legal matter. Councilman Smoak seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Smoak made a motion to come out of executive session. Councilman Tucker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The committee came out of executive session and no action was taken.

Chairman Jones asked Administration why the Department of Energy grant was not applied for with the Council of Governments. Mr. Absher stated the grant required proof of a 2.5:1 return on investment and the County couldn't prove that amount for the proposed project of retrofitting thermostats. Chairman Jones asked other committee members if they feel Administration was negligent by not applying. Councilman Tucker and Councilman Smoak stated they felt an opportunity was missed however they did not feel there was negligence.

Councilman Tucker asked for clarification about Colonial Life handling insurance benefits. Mr. Absher stated Colonial Life was being brought in to handle open enrollment for employee benefits. Mr. Absher stated Administration felt it was important to make one-on-one contact with employees during this very important open enrollment period and the County doesn't currently have available staff and time to accommodate that need.

Councilman Smoak made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Tucker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.