

**New Smyrna Beach Utilities Commission Regular Meeting**  
**February 27, 2023**  
[Agenda Packet](#)

**Participants:** Chair - Davenport, Commissioners Hawes, Conrad, Smith, GM – Bunch

A final Public Hearing was held regarding the consideration and declaration of two new Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Acts(PURPA) Standards.

1. Demand response and resolution and
2. Electric vehicle charging program.

Commissioner Hawes voiced his opinion regarding the PURPA resolutions and how the NSBUC is obligated to continue to provide adequate and safe water and power to all its customers. There was no comment from the public. General Counsel advised that that these resolutions have been considered and to not adopt the resolutions. The public hearing was closed.

Immediately following the regular meeting was called to order.

**Public Participation:** A member of the public spoke regarding the UCNSC Grid Reliability Program. An update was given regarding the Turnbull Creek Preservation Committee. Environmental impacts were highlighted regarding the Turnbull Creek Route (pink) with the suggestion of utilizing the Williams Road Route for the NSBU Grid Reliability project.

Mr. Bunch advised that a final decision has not been made and there will be a public hearing, hopefully by June, with recommendations of routes discussed taking into account all considerations, IE costs, environmental concerns, ease of construction, etc.

**Safety Message by Efren Chavez-** Purposes of a Safety Committee. This committee can operate more efficiently if the purposes are clearly defined and documented. The goal is to create and nurture a culture of safety.

**Approval of Consent Items:** All items unanimously approved.

- a) Minutes of Regular NSBUC Meeting Held 1-23-2023
- b) Project Approval - Pioneer Trail and Sugar Mill Drive Reclaimed Water Main Relocation (w/county of Volusia JPA)
- c.) Approval - Developers Agreement – The Palms at venetian Bay, Phase 6
- d.) Ratification Budget Increase – Turnbull Bay Road Line 17 Reconductoring Project

**General Manager's Report** – J Bunch/E Chavez

**Financial Status**

- a) In January 2023 there was a change in net assets of approximately \$1.2 million. This was due to increased operating expense and less capital contributions. There was an offset caused by favorable revenues (rates, customer growth and purchase power adjustments.) Electric consumption was higher year over year due to fluctuating temperatures. Purchase power was higher than budget. Water consumption was slightly lower. January Capital Expenditures were approx \$3.1 million for Major projects and approx.\$2.3 million for Annual Projects.
- b) Natural Gas Price was reviewed and was slightly over 2021 rates and lower than 2022 due to milder weather driving down the commodity price.
- c) Under/Over Fuel Cost Recovery Reserve – There has been an improvement since Oct 2022. FY2023 plan is to build the reserve to approx \$3.0 million.
- d) Income and loss and changes in net assets charts were highlighted.
- e) Key Performance Indicators ( KPI) highlight that the numbers are headed in the right direction. The areas of interest include Safety and Risk, Electric, Water Resources, Financials, Customer Service, Organizational Capacity with only 3 areas, YTD slightly over targets.

Danielle Woods reviewed the new and updated Customer Service portal which is now live. She highlighted the ease of use of the site and discussed the key changes. Customers can now track usage, pay bills on line, and see trends, etc. Customer Service reps are available to assist and answer any questions.

**Commissioner's Comments:**

Commissioner Smith asked staff for the following items for next month's meeting.

- a) What is Florida's trend in RNG (renewable natural gas)
- b) The feasibility of capturing methane gas off of wastewater treatment plant.
- c) Comments from staff about Florida Start Program.

Meeting Adjourned