

Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes of February, 23 2015

**Board Members Present:** Al Hitchcock, Booty Shelley, George Oldroyd, Wesley Gordon, Kay Benton and Moe Wells. Also in Attendance: Chief Knight and Pat Walsh

**Public Comment:** Wendy Swindell asked the Board of Directors what the plan is if the referendum does not pass. Chairman Al Hitchcock responded that the Board will look at all the expenses and income and adjust accordingly. He also commented that the Board is taking a positive stance and expects the referendum to pass, however if it doesn't pass, the Board will work diligently to do what is best for the department. Ms. Swindell also inquired about the contract with Georgetown County. Chairman Hitchcock explained the current situation and how the funding has not kept with the increase in expenses. He said that services may be affected if the funds don't increase.

The minutes of the meeting held on January 26th were presented Kay Benton motioned to accept the minutes as presented and seconded by George Oldroyd. The motion carried unanimously.

The Financial Statements for January 2015 were presented to the Board. Noting of the increase of the part Time Salaries was mentioned by Chairman Hitchcock, with the explanation of an additional pay period for the month last year explains the difference in the increase. Compared to this time last year, the department has hired 3 new full time employees which would also offset the part time salaries. With the new year and processing of invoices, there were some line items that did not show any activity, which will be caught up with February's figures. Kay Benton motioned to accept the Financial Statement for January 2015 as presented. Seconded by George Oldroyd. The motion carried unanimously.

**Firefighter's Report:** None

**Chief's Report:** None

**Assistant Chief's Report:** Assistant Chief Haney mentioned that call runs in both counties were up in January compared to last year. He informed the Board of Directors that the web site has added the link "Friends of Murrells Inlet-Garden City Fire Rescue" to the website to help with the referendum, provide information & a link to contribute donations. The Department has also created a Facebook page & Twitter account for the public to visit, keep up with current calls and general information about the department.

Assistant Chief Haney also informed the Board of Directors that the 2006 Ambulance that was placed on Gov.deals has received an offer of \$11,000, which he feels is a fair offer. The asking

price of \$15,000 was based on the specs of the vehicle. Assistant Chief Haney informed the Board that the costs associated with the upkeep and maintenance of this ambulance far exceeds all the others in the fleet. Booty Shelley made a motion to accept the bid for \$11,000 for the ambulance, seconded by Wesley Gordon. The motion carried unanimously.

**Chairman's Report:** Chairman Hitchcock wanted the Board of Directors to consider using a collection agency for the revenue not collected from medic calls. Over \$400,000 is uncollected at present time. Chairman Hitchcock asked the Board to consider getting more aggressive with collections, taking into consideration the adjustments the billing company has to take with Medicaid, Medicare & VA insurance. The amount annually is too high to overlook. Chief Knight was asked to look into what Horry County is currently doing about collections. Both Kay Benton and George Oldroyd inquired as to the percentage not collected and where MIGCFD stands compared to other counties.

Chairman Hitchcock also talked about the upcoming referendum and that both counties are ready for it. Home Owners Associations in the District, the Burgess Community and Realtors Associations are all on board with helping get the referendum passed. Volunteers are set to be on foot going door to door to get the word out to vote on it.

**Old Business:** Moe Wells asked for an update on the DOT letter presented and if there has been a response. There has been no response as of yet.

**New Business:** None

***The Board of Directors went into Executive Session to discuss contractual issues with Horry County.***

Upon return from Executive Session, there being no further business, Moe Wells made the motion to adjourn, seconded by George Oldroyd. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved on March 16, 2016

  
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Al Hitchcock, Chairman