

Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of July 27th, 2015

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

Public Comment: None

The minutes of the meeting held on April 27th had to be amended due to an issue with the recorded date. Booty Shelley motioned to approve the amended minutes and it was seconded by Moe Wells. The motion carried unanimously. The minutes of the meeting held for June 22nd were presented to the Board. Chairman Hitchcock stated that the minutes appeared to be in order. Kay Benton motioned to approve the minutes as presented and it was seconded by Wesley Gordon. The motion carried unanimously.

The Financial Statements for June 2015 were presented. Chairman Hitchcock stated the District was currently “up” in impact fees in Horry County but “down” in Georgetown County. Tax income is currently better than it has been in past years. Booty Shelley motioned to accept the financials as written. Kay Benton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief’s Report: Chief Knight gave an update on the open Administrative Assistant position. Chief Knight stated the District has received a good number of applications, with over 200 received. The Chief is currently in the process of narrowing those applications down to 12 and has already begun the process of interviewing the candidates. Chief hopes to have a selected candidate available for Board approval by the next BOD meeting. Chief Knight gave an update regarding the health insurance renewal. Chief Knight stated that our current insurance provider CIGNA, presented an initial figure for renewal that held a 26.33% rate increase. This percentage was revisited by our insurance agent and the rate was then reduced to 18.99%. Chief Knight stated that we have been currently looking at all available options in regards to insurance, up to and including, moving to another insurance carrier all together. Chief Knight stated that he is actively seeking a comparable insurance carrier that would provide close to the same benefits and stay similar in regards to cost. Chief Knight stated that after looking at several options, he has put together a proposal that the District switch from CIGNA to Blue Cross Blue Choice, and feels that the change will not only save the District money, but the employee as well. Some members will be affected by a higher premium rate, but the majority will see a cost savings. Chief Knight stated the swap to Blue Cross Blue Choice would minimize the financial hit from renewing with CIGNA. The swap over to Blue Cross Blue Choice will start August 1st, 2015. Chief stated that in the midst of researching insurance, Chief Knight stated that he took another look at the State Health Plan which has undergone a few changes since last reviewed. This now makes it a viable option for the District. Chief Knight states the changes made to the State Health Plan make it beneficial for both the Department and the employee. Chief Knight stated that based upon the information he received, that he recommends the Board strongly consider

switching to the State Health Plan. Moving to the State Health Plan takes a minimum of 120 days from the filing of the application. Chief Knight stated that the end result is a savings for not only the employee, but the District as well. Chairman Hitchcock then inquired about employee expense regarding double deductible periods and out of pocket expenses by switching insurance carriers. Chief Knight stated that the State Health Plan option was brought before career personnel and has received positive reviews. Kay Benton made a motion to move to the Blue Cross Blue Choice Plan and check on the State Health Plan with an anticipation of moving to the State Health Plan January 2nd. Motion was seconded by Wesley Gordon. Discussion on the motion by George Oldroyd for clarification that it was the intent of the motion that the District was to move to the State Health Plan and that the Blue Cross Blue Choice Plan would be used in the interim until the change to the State Health plan could be made. The motion then carried unanimously.

Assistant Chief's Report: Assistant Chief Haney stated that there were no issues with EMS operations, and that the credit card processing application has not yet been processed. Nothing further to report

Chairman's Report: Chairman Hitchcock stated that he has been working with the County attorney on the Annexation law that had passed to make sure there was a smooth transition and that he will be awaiting on additional information regarding payment on the remaining year in regards to coverage for the contracted areas. Chairman Hitchcock stated that he met with the Architect for Station Four and that everything is on track and it should be out for bid August or September, with contractor selection to occur in October. Booty Shelley inquired on the need for a pre-qualification before a builder's packet is sent out. Chairman Hitchcock stated that Felix Ayres would speak to the Board at the next meeting, with the date pending upon his schedule.

Old Business: George Oldroyd asked about the status of budget preparation for next year and that if there were additional monies that come in before the end of the year, if the District could revisit the current budget. It was then decided that any additional funds that may come in would be too close to year end that it would not be feasible to adjust the current year budget.

New Business: None

The Board of Directors went into Executive Session to discuss banking issues. Booty Shelley made a motion to go into executive session and was seconded by George Oldroyd.

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

Approved on August 25th, 2015



Al Hitchcock, Chairman