

Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of June 22, 2015

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

Public Comment: Jerry Fancher stated that the Fire District could have asked for more millage in the most recent referendum vote. Mr. Fancher stated he felt frustrated with the process and the overall handling of the contract issues surrounding Station 4 and the Blackmoor community.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on May 18, 2015 were presented. Chairman Hitchcock stated there did not appear to be anything out of order with the minutes. Booty Shelley motioned to approve the May 18th meeting minutes and it was seconded by Moe Wells. The motion carried unanimously.

Financials: Chairman Hitchcock stated that we had two months of financials to review. Moe Wells stated that both months appeared to be in order. George Oldroyd motioned to approve both April and May financials and it was seconded by Kay Benton. The motion carried unanimously.

Firefighter's Report: None

Chief's Report: Chief Knight stated the Fire District has received a large amount of applications for the Administrative Assistant position and that the Administrative office is currently looking through all of those applications. Once those applications have been processed it may require a special meeting to go over the findings. Chief Knight asked Chairman Hitchcock for direction regarding the application timeline and testing procedures. Chief Knight then presented the Board with an informational packet regarding the health insurance renewal for the Fire District. George Oldroyd stated that health insurance is a major expense for not only the District but also the employee. George Oldroyd believes that the District should place extra focus on health insurance as it helps with employee recruitment and retention. The Board gave Chief Knight direction to gauge employee opinion on insurance and continue to investigate further options in regards to health insurance, with a vote to be taken at the July Board meeting. Chief Knight presented information regarding the Set-Off and GEAR programs for EMS revenue collections.

Assistant Chief's Report: Assistant Chief Haney stated that the billing company presented information to the Administrative office regarding accepting credit card payments for medical collections. Assistant Chief Haney states having the ability to process credit cards would assist the District with their collections and give those individuals making the payment more flexibility. Booty Shelley motioned to move forward with the credit card processing agreement and it was seconded by George Oldroyd. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report: Chairman Hitchcock stated that the bill to include the Blackmoor area in our district has successfully passed all legislative hurdles and will go into effect January 1st, 2016. Chairman Hitchcock stated that he met with the architect and that everything is on schedule for Station 4. All building and engineering plans are currently being assembled. Rescue funds from Georgetown County have been increased by \$70,000.00, which puts the total amount received annually from Georgetown County for EMS operations around \$400,000.00. Chairman Hitchcock states that the Board needs to discuss setting the new millage rate for the coming year, and recommends 14 mills. Chairman Hitchcock opens up his question for discussion. George Oldroyd makes a motion to notify both Horry and Georgetown County that the new rate will be set at 14 mills. The motion was seconded by Moe Wells and was carried unanimously.

Old Business: George Oldroyd would like to revisit the topic regarding charging for motor vehicle accidents. Chief Knight stated he believes there is pending legislation regarding a standardized fee schedule and that there is a possibility that the practice of charging for motor vehicle accidents may be made illegal in South Carolina. Chief Knight stated that since there is too many variables regarding that practice, Chief Knight recommended holding off until further information is made available.

New Business: Booty Shelley would like to make a motion to no longer authorize Moe Wells to sign any checks or enter into any loan agreements, financial contracts etc. This is a result of Moe Wells handling bookkeeping oversight for the new Administrative Assistant.

The Board of Directors went into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

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

Approved on July 27th, 2015



Al Hitchcock, Chairman