

Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of March 16, 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: None

The minutes of the meeting held on February 23rd were presented. Kay Benton motioned to accept the minutes as presented and seconded by Moe Wells. The motion carried unanimously.

The Financial Statements for February 2015 were presented to the Board. Chairman Hitchcock mentioned that the Fire Contract funds have been received & will be adjusted in the financials. He also noted that Horry County's shortfall for last year seems to be recovered. Booty Shelley motioned to accept the Financial Statement for February 2015 as presented. Seconded by Wesley Gordon. The motion carried unanimously.

Firefighter's Report: Pat Walsh mentioned that the Volunteers would like to discuss the responses to the tone out they receive, that it appears erratic. Chief Knight stated he will address any issues they have at the next Thursday Night meeting.

Chief's Report: Chief Knight began his report discussing the Medical Billing and the past-due amounts owed the District for Medical calls. He referred to Captain Jerry Howerton and his research on the matter. Captain Howerton discussed the two options that are available to recover past due amounts. He explained the "Set-Off" and "Gear" programs that most all SC counties use to recover these amounts. The "Set Off" program allows the billing company to seize a patient's tax return to pay the past due amounts, where as the "Gear" program allows the billing company to garnish wages or bank accounts. These programs are for SC residents only, and the "Gear" program will cost the District around 28% in fees. The amount uncollected is 15%, and the "Set Off" program should yield up to 10% of that. Many counties start with the "Set Off" program and move to the "Gear" program after seeing if they need to be more aggressive. Kay Benton and Booty Shelley asked questions about the percentage of residents in our district and statewide. Chief Knight stated that out of 1000 calls, about 18% were from people who live out of state. Assistant Chief Haney mentioned he can query the report to see how many actually live in our zip code. Chairman Hitchcock asked the Board to consider these figures for a later discussion.

Chief Knight also talked about the letter from the Department of Transportation concerning the widening of the intersection at McDowell Shortcut and 17 Bypass. He stated he attended a meeting that the DOT suggested that included the GSATS & Ride 3, the 2 committees that are

involved in the current project underway. He recognize 2 people at the meeting and plans to contact them about our issue, even forwarding the letter the District Received stating that the DOT cannot help at this time. Chairman Hitchcock mentioned he will be in contact with Mr. Gosnell, the Chairman of Ride 3 and ask for costs involved and perhaps see what the District can do to assist in getting the project completed.

Assistant Chief's Report: Assistant Chief Haney mentioned he has posted the 2006 Ambulance for sale and is waiting for offers. He has had to re-list it and plans to inform the Board next month that it has sold. He went on to inform he Board that the bay floor at Station 3 was finally completed from last year's order and that the vendor is just now billing the District. He then announced a promotion for Chris Battlo as an engineer and congratulated him on the promotion.

Chairman's Report: Chairman Hitchcock started his report by acknowledging Captain Nick Juliano and his shift for earning the "Life Saving Award". A ceremony took place to honor those involved and Chairman Hitchcock wanted to formally congratulate B Shift for a tremendous achievement. The patient involved was also on hand at the ceremony to offer her thanks.

Chairman Hitchcock then mentioned the many Homeowners Associations, HOA's, Republican Committees he attended to discuss the referendum that will take place on March 17th. He has a positive feel from each and even those not sure about the issue have expressed interest in getting the referendum passed. A discussion as to where to vote and how voters can be contacted took place, with Wendy Swindell explaining the rules, as she is a polling agent. The polls close at 7:00pm and both Booty Shelley & George Oldroyd will be on hand at Georgetown & Horry Counties for the results. The remaining Board Members will await the results at Headquarters.

Old Business: None

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 April 27, 2015



Al Hitchcock, Chairman