

Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District  
Public Hearing &  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes of March 28, 2016

**Board Members Present:** Al Hitchcock, Booty Shelley, Wesley Gordon, Kay Benton, George Oldroyd, Moe Wells.

**Others Present:** Chief Knight, Assistant Chief Haney, Pat Walsh, Captain Howerton.

At 6:00 p.m. Chairman Hitchcock called the Board of Directors meeting to order.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the February meeting were presented. Kay Benton made the motion to approve the minutes as written, which was seconded by Booty Shelley. The motion carried unanimously.

**Financials:** Booty Shelley made the motion to accept February's financial statements as presented. The motion was seconded by Kay Benton. The motion carried unanimously.

**Firefighter's Report:** Pat Walsh gave an update on the 50<sup>th</sup> year journal. He will meet with the publisher on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Steven Sellers gave an update on the repair of Engine One. He expects to be finished by June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Chief's Report:**

- The new engine will be delivered this week.
- The SAFER grant was submitted last week.
- He has not heard back on the grant for the air packs.
- The law adding Tupelo Bay to the District has been passed and signed by the Governor.
- All shifts are fully staffed with career personnel.
- Barbara Taylor has successfully completed her six month probationary period.

**Assistant Chief's Report:** On March 31<sup>st</sup>, A Shift and new employees will be sized for new bunker gear. Next year, B Shift will receive new gear; and C Shift the following year.

**EMS Report:** Captain Howerton went over the highlights of the EMS Report. The first payments resulting from the GEAR program was reflected on February's report.

**Chairman's Report:** Chairman Hitchcock noted interest from the employees to join the South Carolina Deferred Compensation Program. It is voluntary for the employees and has no cost to the District. Kay Benton made the motion to allow eligible employees to participate in the South Carolina Deferred Compensation Program, which includes the Salary Deferral [401(k)] and Savings Profit Sharing Plan and the Public Employee 457 Deferred Compensation Plan and Trust; and to allow Roth contributions. There will be no employer match, the District will administer only. The motion was seconded by George Oldroyd, and the motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Gene Connell sent a letter asking the Board how to proceed with a settlement with the South Carolina Retirement Systems. The letter states the SCRS has accepted the District's offer of \$2500.00. George Oldroyd

made the motion to accept the offer to settle for \$2500.00, if it is indeed a valid offer. The motion was seconded by Booty Shelley, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hitchcock passed around a resolution to refinance Station Three with Conway National Bank, and to borrow money for the purchase of the new truck. These items were agreed upon during the budget meetings in December, but not officially documented. Booty Shelley made a motion to accept the resolution which was seconded by George Oldroyd. Kay Benton abstained from voting. The motion was carried.

Chairman Hitchcock expects a letter of engagement to arrive soon from the auditor, Deborah Weir, and would like to sign it as soon as possible so the audit can begin. Kay Benton made the motion to sign the letter so the audit can begin. Booty Shelley seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Concrete is to be poured at Station Four tomorrow.

**Old Business:**

- George Oldroyd and Moe Wells are still working on salary guidelines for employee promotions.
- Chairman Hitchcock asked Pat Walsh about the dates in June for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary events. He would like to have a firm date set so it can be put on the calendar and issues like parking can be addressed.
- The PTO policy has been approved by the attorney and the SOG will be sent out soon.
- Chief Knight pointed out the purchase of the new truck had not been recorded as approved. Moe Wells made the motion to purchase the new truck, seconded by George Oldroyd. The motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:** None.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, Booty Shelley made the motion to adjourn, seconded by George Oldroyd. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved on April 25, 2016

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Al Hitchcock, Chairman