

**Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of February 27, 2017**

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

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: Senator Stephen Goldfinch, Representative Russell Fry, and Representative Lee Hewitt were in attendance to honor retiring Board Member Wesley Gordon. A resolution was passed which recognized Mr. Gordon for his more than fifty years of service to the Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District board of directors. Wesley Gordon led efforts to create the Fire District, helped deliver the first fire truck, served as one of the first volunteer firefighters, and served as a founding board member for over fifty years.

Chief Knight presented Tom Swatzel a Best Friends Forever plaque in appreciation for his efforts back in 2015, when he helped get the referendum passed, that allowed for some of the accomplishments that was in the information Lee Hewitt read. The referendum was a big thing for us, and helped get Station Four up and running.

Chairman Hitchcock also presented Wesley Gordon with a life membership to the department.

Minutes: Kay Benton noted a change in wording necessary on page one of the minutes. She suggested the words nominating committee be changed to recommendation committee. Booty Shelley made the motion to accept the January minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Kay Benton, and the motion carried unanimously.

Financials: Booty Shelley made a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. The motion was seconded by George Oldroyd, and the motion carried unanimously.

Firefighter's Report: None.

Chief's Report: Chief Knight passed out copies of building projects in the District, from the Fire Inspector. The Chief asked that a lifetime membership be granted to Angelo Scorzello. Mr. Scorzello has been a member of the Fire District for over sixteen years, volunteering with the support group and as a firefighter early on.

Chief Knight presented a sheet with prices for a new truck. The one he would like to recommend is basically a twin of the ladder truck we will be replacing. It can be ready in April.

Booty Shelley asked how we will pay for the new truck. Chief Knight stated the budget included \$100,000 for a down payment. He also stated the truck on the road now has sixteen plus years on it, and in the last three years we have spent over \$65,000 on maintenance, and we really need to get it off the road. Financing options were discussed. Moe Wells will work on projections, and Kay Benton will work on a list of obligations, to be reviewed at the next meeting. George Oldroyd made the motion to authorize the Fire Chief to purchase truck #2 on the list at the price shown. The motion was seconded by Moe Wells, and the motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Chief's Report: No report at this time.

EMS Report: EMS report was reviewed. January looked the same as last year. Chief Knight said we are tracking calls differently. In January, the department ran a total of 470 calls, which required about 800 responses. We have also started tracking calls where there are more than one call going on at the same time. In January, of the 470 calls, we had 267 where we had more than one at a time. Hopefully, at the end of six months, we'll have a better idea, and be able to report that, so that when we are ready to ask for a millage increase or other monies, we will have good solid numbers on the number of calls we responded to, and how they were broken down.

Larry Hopkins said the public has no idea what the District does, and thinks the number of calls should be in the paper. Assistant Chief Haney stated the information is on the website. How to get the information to the public was discussed. Chairman Hitchcock asked Chief Knight to come up with a plan to help get the message out and present at the next meeting.

Chairman's Report: A special meeting to select the public members of the recommendation committee will be held March 14th at 5:30. It is time to sign the mortgage on Station Four.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

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The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2017.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Moe Wells made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Booty Shelley. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved on 3/27, 2017

Al Hitchcock, Chairman