

Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of June 26, 2017

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

Others Present: Chief Knight, Assistant Chief Haney, Captain Jewett.

At 6:00 p.m. Chairman Hitchcock called the board of directors meeting to order.

Chairman Al Hitchcock welcomed the new board member, Steven Sellers.

Public Comment: None.

Minutes: Minutes for the May 22nd meeting were reviewed. Kay Benton made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by George Oldroyd, and the motion carried unanimously.

Financials: Chief Knight followed up on the board's request to send a letter to the Georgetown County Treasurer regarding the delay in receiving both financial information and reimbursement for tax revenue. He reported that the new treasurer will not take office until July 1st, so we will wait to send a letter then.

Kay Benton 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 distributed a report showing the current commercial building projects in the District. He also presented a report detailing last month's call volume. Moe Wells requested a report showing totals only. Captain Jewett will work on this for next meeting.

The Chief met with ISO representatives last week and anticipates the ISO to come in the first of next year. He talked about the need for a written automatic aid agreement with Horry County and Midway, which will help us because of the lack of volunteers. With mutual aid, firefighters are counted one to one, while volunteers are counted three to one career firefighter. He would like to see the Fire District be the first in Georgetown County with a number one rating. There are only 1200 fire stations in the nation with a Class 2 rating, and only 242 rated as Class 1.

Assistant Chief's Report: The EMS Summary for May was distributed, reporting numbers consistent with last year's report. Ladder 79 is now in service at Station Four and is running

well. Ladder 76 is now in reserve status and it is time for some much needed maintenance. On July 24th, we will switch to the new P25 radio system in Georgetown County.

Chairman's Report: The South Carolina Retirement System is increasing retirement contributions to 21% over the next five years. Georgetown County will provide the Fire District with a new ambulance during their fiscal year 2018. The Fourth of July festivities are coming up, per Chief Knight, the golf cart parade is at 2:00; the boat parade at 4:00; and the fireworks at 10:00.

Old Business: None.

New Business: George Oldroyd acknowledged we have some expenses beyond our control, but one thing we may have a little control over is income, as in asking for it. He thinks we need to take a serious look at the need for more money and need to be real serious about planning out how we will approach that and get it done. The process needs to be clarified, and we need a good public relations effort to accomplish that. A concern associated with public relations is the number of volunteers. The department has evolved, but the volunteers still have value. He believes it is important to maintain a cadre of volunteers for a number of things. He would like to find ways to reinvigorate the program and asked the board to informally agree that it is something that is important. Al Hitchcock agreed, saying volunteers made the department. All the training needed to be a firefighter makes it harder to be a volunteer, but there is something that most people can do as far as the fire department goes. George said it was too big an issue to dig into now, but he would like the board to keep their minds open. Moe Wells agreed the role of the volunteer has changed and suggested forming a committee to redefine the program. Assistant Chief Haney agreed the need to redefine is a big part of it. Steven Sellers remarked we have a need for structural firefighters, and would like to see an advertisement on the website. Booty Shelley believes the volunteer numbers may have dropped due to the economy, and thinks we will see an uptick as it improves. He also would like to see what millage rates are from other districts in the state. George Oldroyd is gathering that information and will bring it next meeting.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2017.

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

Approved on 7-24, 2017



Al Hitchcock, Chairman