

Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of October 1, 2018

Board Members Present: Kay Benton, George Oldroyd, Steven Sellers, Booty Shelley.

Others Present: Chief Knight, Assistant Chief Haney, Captain Brown, Captain Zimpleman, Captain Howerton, Whitney Hills.

At 6:30 p.m. Kay Benton called the board of directors meeting to order. This meeting was originally scheduled for September 24th.

Public Comment: Jerry Fancher thanked the District for looking over the neighborhood during the recent flooding. In reference to bylaws, one issue raised through the years is the format of the meeting and the delay in the minutes being produced. He shared an outline of meeting rules with the board, and an email from 2014 to Senator Cleary. Mr. Fancher also expressed his disappointment to hear that the process to fill the vacant board seat is not as transparent as in the past.

Minutes: Minutes were presented from August 27th and August 8th. George Oldroyd made a motion to approve both sets of minutes, which was seconded by Steven Sellers. The motion carried.

Financials: Kay Benton noted the accounting expense has been increased to \$45,000. She also noted some accounts that are over budget. George Oldroyd made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented, which was seconded by Booty Shelley. The motion carried.

Firefighter's Report: None.

Chief's Report:

Beginning on September 6th through today, the men and women of the MIGCFD handled the events surrounding hurricane Florence and the subsequent flooding in a very professional and safe manner; we protected the citizens to the best of our ability. The costs associated with the event will be submitted to FEMA.

A copy of the 2019 draft budget has been distributed. We realize there will be constraints in funding, and we are prepared to make changes as necessary. The information presented is our best estimate of what we believe to be needed to provide an effective and efficient fire and EMS service.

Open House will be held on Saturday, October 6th beginning at 3:30. We will start with a small ceremony.

Fire Marshal Zimpleman reviewed the current project list.

Captain Brown reported that 14 of 16 hours of training were completed, despite the hurricane. Overall, training is going very well.

Overtime payroll expenses were reviewed. Our paramedic positions have now been filled, so overtime expenses are expected to decrease.

Chief Knight has been with the District for eighteen years this week. He stated he is as proud now, as he was then, to be here and continues to look forward to making strides in this department that we have all worked for. It has been a team effort.

George Oldroyd asked the rhetorical question of the Chief: if he will be in the position to justify the items of increase in order to assist the board in making decisions in order of prioritizing. Mr. Oldroyd asked Captain Brown if, after the hurricane, he could foresee anything that would be needed in the way of additional or different training. Captain Brown noted some specialized training such as decontamination of flood water, or swift water training, may be helpful. Mr. Oldroyd asked about plan review fees, in regard to repairs in kind due to damages from storms. He would like to see the same language waiving impact fees to be used with plan review fees. Captain Zimpleman asked if that would also apply to fire damage. Booty Shelley would like to see that reviewed on a case by case basis. George Oldroyd made the motion to ask the Chief and the Fire Marshal to develop language to add to the policy and bring to the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Steven Sellers, and the motion carried.

Assistant Chief's Report:

- The apparatus exception report was reviewed.
- Station 76 is still experience roof leaks. We continue to work with Spann Roofing and will have the stucco wall inspected.
- Station 79 humidity continues to be monitored. We are currently working with the architect and the initial HVAC installer to correct.

EMS Report: Captain Howerton reviewed the EMS report.

Chairman's Report:

- Audit update: the field work has been completed for 2014. We should have the 2014 financials by the end of October. The completion date for all years is December 31st.
- The auditors will have recommendations for bookkeeping oversight.
- Two new board members should be in place sometime in the next 30-60 days.
- Bank signature cards will be changed when the new board members are in place.
- We received a letter from Conway National Bank in regard to identifying deposits as public funds. A request to be identified as public funds will be sent to the other banks as well.

- A Special Purpose District conference will be held this month. George Oldroyd would like to attend. Two attendees and two guests could attend for \$900. George Oldroyd made the motion to allocate \$900 so two board members and two guests can attend the South Carolina Association of Special Purpose District's conference. Steven Sellers seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The funds will come from convention expense.
- Ms. Benton asked each board member to review the draft 2019 budget and note questions that they would like to discuss at the first budget workshop, which was scheduled for October 16th at 5:30 p.m.
- Each board member was given a copy of the draft sent to Gene Connell. He will have the first complete draft for each board member by the October meeting. Ms. Benton cannot attend on October 22nd. The meeting was rescheduled for October 29th.
- Horry County was in receipt of our FOIA request, and called to say they are working on the reply.
- The Chairman thanked the staff for the job they did during the storm, and for what they do every day to protect us and our community.

Old Business: Mr. Oldroyd expressed his disappointment that the bylaws are being pushed "down the road". He also pointed out that the draft bylaws did not include the Legislative Delegation being recipient of the financial statements. Ms. Benton explained this language should be in the draft from Gene Connell. Mr. Oldroyd would like to hear from the counties in writing regarding the expected tax revenues for 2019.

New Business: Booty Shelley thanked Chief Knight for this eighteen years of service to the District. He also responded to Mr. Fancher by saying the Legislative Delegation should hear his concerns regarding the selection process for the new board member. Mr. Shelley asked the Chief to pass his thanks for their work during the storm on to the members of the department. He also acknowledged the spouses, friends, and families of our firefighters.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 29th at 6:00 p.m.

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

Approved on Oct 29, 2018

Gay Benton
 CHAIRMAN