

Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of February 25, 2019

Board Members Present: Kay Benton, Gene Connell, Pat Walsh, George Oldroyd, Steven Sellers.

Others Present: Chief Knight, Captain Brown, Captain Howerton, Captain Zimpleman.

At 6:00 p.m. George Oldroyd called the board of directors meeting to order. A quorum was present.

The Chairman called for a concurrence of the board in modifying the order of the agenda: the audit presentation by representatives of CPA firm Smith Sapp to occur at the beginning of tonight's meeting, with public comments afterward.

Dave DeKleva and Nathan Skipper, with the CPA firm Smith Sapp, gave an overview of the 2014-2017 audits. A price and timeline was discussed for subsequent audits. Chairman Oldroyd asked the accountants if there is an advantage to moving the year-end from December 31st to June 30th.

Public Comment: Gene Connell made the motion to move all public comment to the end of the each meeting, rather than the beginning, so that it will be the last item on the agenda. Steven Sellers seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: The minutes from the January 28th meeting, and the February 11th workshop were reviewed. Kay Benton made a motion to accept the minutes of January 28th. Gene Connell seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Pat Walsh made a motion to accept the minutes of February 11th. Gene Connell seconded the motion, and the motion carried with one abstention.

Financials: Kay Benton made a motion to approve the financial statements as presented. Gene Connell seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Firefighter's Report: None.

Chief's Report: Chief Knight reviewed information for the SAFER grant. After three years, the department would be responsible for 100% of the salaries for the new positions. The deadline for applying is March 22nd. Gene Connell made the motion to approve the request to apply for the SAFER Grant. Steven Sellers seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Asphalt repair, Station 78: Three contractors were asked to quote the asphalt repair, and two responded. PSC gave an estimate of \$11,228; Coastal Asphalt quoted \$24,435. Steven Sellers

would like to see another quote with some drainage. The Chairman asked Steven Sellers to write up his request in construction terminology and give to the Chief. Mr. Sellers would like to take a better look at it with the Chief and Assistant Chief over there and walk through it. Chairman Oldroyd asked him to do that and discuss it at the next meeting.

Jet Ski: The old jet ski has been sold for parts which leaves us with nothing for this season. We have two quotes for the same model, with the low quote coming in at \$11,615. Gene Connell made the motion to purchase the new Jet Ski and trailer with the funding source to be determined. Steven Sellers seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Gene Connell made the motion to authorize Treasurer Kay Benton to identify the funding source. Steven Sellers seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Chief Knight distributed results of exit interviews from the past year. George Oldroyd added that employee retention is an important thing. Longevity of our employees is a valued item. The bottom line is to pay them enough so that they cannot afford to leave, and we need to figure out a way to do that.

As requested from the previous meeting, Chief Knight presented a draft instrument for use with a Fire Chief review.

Assistant Chief's Report: None.

EMS Report: None.

Fire Marshal's Report: So far, \$1,300 has been collected in plan review fees in 2019.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman asked Chief Knight to "dust off" the multi-year projection of income and expenses. The board needs to reaffirm the items in the projection, such as the fourth ambulance, taking the captains off the trucks, etc. We need hard income numbers from each county. The time is closing on us to decide if we are planning to hold a referendum. The consensus of the board is to support the staff increases the Chief requested last year as a basis for cost projection. Gene Connell will ask the Horry County Treasurer to come to the next meeting. Kay Benton will call the Board of Elections for each county to get their meeting schedule.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

George Connell made the motion to authorize the Treasurer to negotiate a multi-year contract with the accounting firm Smith Sapp. Pat Walsh seconded the motion, and the motion carried. A proposal for quarterly oversight from Smith Sapp is being considered. The board has consensus to leave it to the recommendation from the Treasurer, and table it until the next meeting.

Voting of the Bylaws: After a brief review, Pat Walsh made the motion to approve and adopt the bylaws. Gene Connell seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

After consideration of the matter of meeting length, Gene Connell made the motion to establish a business meeting of 90 minutes as a goal. Steven Sellers seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

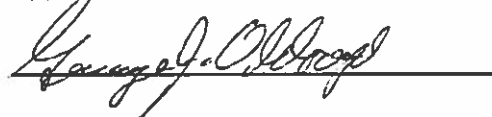
Public Comment: Anita Crone asked about the subject of the executive session. Jerry Fancher would like to suggest allowing the IAFF to assist with grant writing. Wendy Swindel acknowledged that the district has a good reputation in the community, but would like to respectfully disagree about there being turnover in other departments.

Executive Session: Steven Sellers made a motion to recede into executive session to discuss a contractual matter. The motion was seconded by Kay Benton and the motion carried. No motions were made or passed during executive session.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 25, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Gene Connell made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Steven Sellers. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved on March 25, 2019

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George J. O'Connell", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Chairman