

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

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

Others Present: Chief Knight, Assistant Chief Haney.

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

The Chairman called for a minor change to the agenda: the Chairman's Report will be given with Old Business, and he will defer to Ms. Benton regarding the jet ski findings.

Minutes: The minutes from the February 25th meeting were reviewed. Kay Benton made a motion to accept the minutes. Steven Sellers seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Financials: Kay Benton recommended pulling \$4,114 from impact fee reserves to pay the amount of the jet ski purchase that exceeds the budget. She also reported the audit and quarterly review will cost \$18,000 annually, and the amount budgeted for accounting is \$10,000.

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

Subcommittee Reports: Steven Sellers reported on the bid process for the asphalt repairs at Station 3. We will rebid, and we will give quantity. Gene Connell made the motion to accept the report and move it to the Chief's for processing. Steven Sellers seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Pat Walsh reported on the Senior Administrative Staff Evaluation project. He is in the process of setting up a template of areas to be evaluated, and then will meet with the Chief. He will have a report next month.

Kay Benton reported on the audit engagement agreement. Smith Sapp quoted \$9,000 per year for the audit with a five-year commitment, and \$2,250 per quarter for quarterly oversight duties. Gene Connell moved to accept the five-year proposal and for the 2018 audit and quarterly oversight begin without delay. Pat Walsh seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Firefighter's Report: None.

Chief's Report: The new jet ski is operational and in service. Training has been scheduled to recertify staff for water rescue. Ted Sacra is working part time in the Fire Marshal's office while Tom Zimpleman is out. The SAFER grant application is on hold until we find out what our future finances will be. Chief Knight had statistics on the number of employees that had been hired and left the department from January 2000 to February 2019. Of the 201 hired, 55 were still employed; and 146 had left, approximately 50% of those were part time employees. There are six employee positions open at this time.

Steven Sellers asked about an in-house person trained to assist the Fire Marshal. The District is getting to the size that an assistant is needed.

Assistant Chief's Report: The apparatus maintenance report was reviewed. Station 3 is undergoing ductwork cleaning. The Fire Marshal's report and the EMS reports were included with the board packet.

Executive Session: Gene Connell made a motion to recede into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Pat Walsh and the motion carried. No motions were made or passed during executive session.

Old Business: Discussion and consideration of future funding needs and options for increasing District income to meet those needs. Budget projections were presented. Kay Benton made the motion to proceed to seek approval for a millage rate increase of 2 mills in the year 2020, 1 mill in 2021, 1 mill in 2022, and 1 mill in 2023. Gene Connell added that he would like operations personnel to conduct three public meetings, with one board member attending each meeting for support. Gene Connell seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

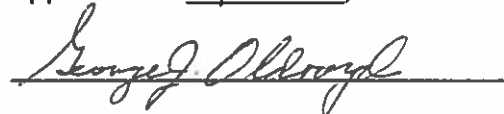
New Business: None.

Public Comment: Al Jordan said the board should run the numbers before making a proposal. He would support a millage increase. Maggie Fancher paid 19 mills before her property came into the District, and then paid only 14 mills. She also supports a millage increase.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 27, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Kay Benton made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Pat Walsh. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Approved on April 22, 2019

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George J. Oldroyd", is written over a horizontal line.

George J. Oldroyd, Chairman