

Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes of August 26, 2019

**Board Members Present:** Kay Benton, Pat Walsh, Steven Sellers, Gene Connell, Elizabeth Ward.

**Others Present:** Chief Knight, Assistant Chief Haney.

Gene Connell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present and the press had been notified. Mr. Connell introduced himself and let the firefighters know that the board wanted to make sure they receive the best pay and equipment. He stated the board was a policy board and was not here to run the fire department. Gene Connell will be Acting Chairman due to the resignation of George Oldroyd.

**Minutes:** Kay Benton found a few spelling or grammatical errors, but no content errors in the minutes of July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Kay Benton made the motion to approve the minutes with grammar changes. The motion was seconded by Steven Sellers and the motion carried.

**Financials:** Kay Benton stated the Department was on target with our income and expenses. Ms. Benton made the motion to make the following amendments to the 2019 Budget: Accounting Expense from \$10,000 to \$18,000; Capital Expense – Jet Ski from \$7,500 to \$11,614.65; and Capital Expense – Asphalt Repair from \$15,000 to \$20,140. Pat Walsh seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Signers on the bank accounts:** Kay Benton said she gave the information to add signers to the bank accounts to the Chairman back in March. Tonight, we need to vote stating who we authorize to be signers on the accounts. Board members Pat Walsh, Gene Connell, and Elizabeth Ward agreed to be signers on the accounts. Steven Sellers did not wish to be a signer at this time. Kay Benton made the motion to add Board Members as signers on the bank accounts in addition to Chief Norman Knight and Kay Benton who are already authorized to sign. Steven Sellers seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Life Membership Nomination:** Steven Sellers made the motion to approve the life membership for Lieutenant Jeffrey Richnafsky. The motion was seconded by Pat Walsh and the motion carried.

Kay Benton made the motion to recess the meeting for the reception for Lt. Richnafsky. The meeting is to reconvene in fifteen minutes. Steven Sellers seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Returning from recess, Acting Chairman Gene Connell called the meeting to order 6:49 p.m.

**How to answer the Legislative Delegation's letter:** Steven Sellers would like to answer the Delegation in an open meeting. Mr. Connell will email Representatives Hewitt and Fry.

**Part time employees:** Steven Sellers is looking for clarification regarding part time paramedics such as how many hired, wages, and job description. Chief Knight said that salaries expense was under budget at June 30<sup>th</sup>. Paying \$18 per hour is a little more than other departments, but holding to 36 hours per week, with no benefits, part time salaries are expected to remain within the operating budget. All part time paramedics hired to date are also firefighters and are not intended to permanently fill the open paramedic positions. Captain Berube said we have hired 13 part time paramedics to date, one of which has moved to full time. Mr. Connell said this is a good recruiting tool.

Kay Benton said at the June meeting, the May financials were not approved. Ms. Benton made the motion to approve the May financials. Pat Walsh seconded the motion and the motion carried. Elizabeth Ward abstained from voting.

**Public Comment:** Joseph Kelley asked about the \$8,000 added to the budget for accounting expense. Kay Benton explained the amount is for not only the 2018 audit, but also the additional work of quarterly oversight for 2019.

Pat Walsh made the motion to recede into executive session. Elizabeth Ward seconded the motion and the motion carried. No motions were made or passed in executive session.

The next regular meeting will be held September 23, 2019.

Kay Benton made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Pat Walsh and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Approved on 8/23/19, 2019

