

**Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of October 28, 2019**

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

Others Present: Chief Knight, Assistant Chief Haney, Alison Burns.

Budget Workshop: Gene Connell called the workshop meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.; a quorum was present. Chief Knight gave an overview of the draft budget. Steven Sellers asked if the tax income projected had come directly from the counties. Numbers given by Horry County appeared to be less than what was collected over the prior twelve months, so the actual collections were used in the projection. Gene Connell suggested inviting the Horry County Treasurer to the next meeting. Kay Benton discussed the timing of another referendum and its effect on the 2021 budget. Gene Connell would like to look at using a bond to fund capital expenses; an attorney will be joining the regular meeting. Steven Sellers would like to cut \$25,000 for the down payment of Station Five from the budget, and include \$10,000 for attorney fees. Kay Benton asked for the accounting fees be increased to \$25,000.

Steven Sellers moved to adjourn the budget workshop meeting. Kay Benton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Call to Order: After a five-minute intermission, the regular meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

First Reading of the Budget: Elizabeth Ward made the motion to approve the first reading of the draft budget as presented. Pat Walsh seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Gene Connell introduced Alison Burns who is going through the approval process to take the vacant seat on the board.

Bond Info: Attorney Jeremy Cook joined the meeting via telephone and presented an overview of the bond process. Mr. Cook will review the department's debt information and have detailed information by the next regular meeting.

Minutes: Kay Benton made the motion to approve the September 23rd minutes. The motion was seconded by Pat Walsh, and the motion carried.

Financials: Kay Benton made the motion to approve the financial statements as presented. Steven Sellers seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chief's Report: Chief Knight asked Fire Marshal Zimpleman to give an overview of the proposed inspection fees.

Pat Walsh asked Chief Knight about expanding the area to include all of the 29576 zip code. The Chief said he has talked to Chief Tanner regarding the matter and that he seemed initially receptive.

Assistant Chief's Report: There are 10 open positions. A lieutenant position is open, with testing anticipated for November.

Chairman's Report: None.

Old Business: Steven Sellers spoke with the Fire Corps Coordinator, Wendy Hills, and to Chief Knight regarding the continuation of the Fire Corps program. Mr. Sellers asked Chief Knight to update the board at the next meeting. Pat Walsh asked about the answers to the Legislative Delegation and the EMS contracts. Gene Connell has spoken to the county attorney, who said he is working on it. As to questions from the Delegation, Mr. Connell stated his understanding was it had all been answered. Steven Sellers wants a response from the Legislative Delegation. Mr. Sellers had asked for documentation to back up the answers to the Delegation's letter; this was presented by Chief Knight. Steven Sellers asked for that documentation to be attached to tonight's minutes. Mr. Sellers made the motion that the documentation supporting the answers be attached to a letter addressed to the Legislative Delegation and to The Friends of the Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District. Pat Walsh seconded the motion and the motion carried with one abstention. Steven Sellers asked Assistant Chief Haney to work with Captain Berube and Georgetown County on the EMS contract.

New Business: Chief Knight said Horry County passed an ordinance prohibiting open burning in unincorporated areas less than 50 feet from a building or property line. Georgetown County does not have an ordinance regarding open burning. Chief Knight will look into the direction the District should take and bring back information to the next meeting.

The Awards Banquet and Christmas Party will be held December 14th. Kay Benton asked if there is any problem with all board members attending the party. Last year, it was said that it could be construed as an official meeting, and she would like clarification.

Public Comment: Maggie Fancher reviewed the millage from her most recent tax bill. She also expressed her concern that the department should reach out to the HOA's to answer public concerns raised during the referendum.

The next regular meeting will be held November 18th at 6:00 p.m. A budget workshop will also be held on the 18th at 5:30 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Approved on November 18, 2019

