

**Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of November 18, 2019**

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

Others Present: Chief Knight.

Budget Workshop: Gene Connell called the workshop meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.; a quorum was present. The Horry County Treasurer spoke via telephone regarding the tax revenues for the upcoming year. The figure given by the county for the 2020 budget was the amount currently billed. It cannot be compared to the amount of revenue collected, because that amount includes delinquent taxes collected.

The \$25,000 for the purchase of Station Five will be cut. Accounting expense will be increased to \$20,000.

Steven Sellers made the motion to adjourn the budget workshop meeting. Elizabeth Ward seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Call to Order: After a five-minute intermission, the regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

First Reading of the Budget: Kay Benton made the motion to approve the second reading of the budget. Elizabeth Ward seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Minutes: The October minutes were reviewed. Elizabeth Ward made the motion to approve the minutes. Pat Walsh seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Financials: Steven Sellers asked about the amount in accounting expense and if the amount needs to be amended. Kay Benton made the motion to approve the financials as presented. Steven Sellers seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Inspection and Impact Fees: Captain Zimpleman expressed his concern that a January 1st start date may be too soon, and that February 1st would give enough to have the process in place to start. Steven Sellers would like to look at the fee schedule again at the December meeting. Gene Connell suggested adding a February 1st start date for the Inspection Fees to the agenda for the December meeting.

Old Business: At the last meeting, a board attendance policy for the Christmas party was discussed. Kay Benton made the motion that any board member could attend the Christmas party with the understanding that no business will be discussed. Steven Sellers seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Gene Connell is working with Horry County on the EMS Contract and hopes to have that by the December meeting. Chief Knight reported that Georgetown County is without a County

Administrator and that the EMS Contract should wait until that position is filled. He also explained that Georgetown County is looking at the Medical Control Physician position for EMS services, increasing the number of physicians from one to three. Pat Walsh made the motion to work toward having an updated EMS Contract ready to take to the Georgetown County Administrator by June 2020. Steven Sellers seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chief Knight spoke about the ban on open burning in residential areas now effect in Horry County. Burning is not allowed within 50 feet of a residence, or within 50 feet of a property line. He said we are still working on how to make this work within the District. Unless Georgetown County mirrors the Horry County policy we will be in limbo. If there is a call in Horry County, we will handle it the way we always have. We are not in a position to write tickets in Horry County. Gene Connell suggested asking the General Assembly to give us statutory authority to enforce the ordinance.

Chairman's Report: There will be a major reconstruction of Highway 17. Meetings are being held to discuss with the public. Chief Knight said that we need to be as vocal against that as we can if this will add to response time. There will be a meeting Wednesday night, Chief Knight will attend. In follow up to last meeting, Mr. Connell passed around a draft letter addressed to the Legislative Delegation and asked if Mr. Sellers wanted anything added to it. Mr. Sellers indicated he did not, and asked that the letter be included with the minutes on the website.

New Business: None.

Public Comment: Maggie Fancher spoke about two free radio stations and asked the board to use this resource to educate the public about the District. She also asked about how Horry County is getting 400 applications and we are understaffed. Captain Berube explained that Horry County will hire untrained candidates.

Next regular meeting is December 16th at 6:00 p.m.

Kay Benton made the motion to adjourn. Elizabeth Ward seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Approved on 2/24/20, 2019
