

**Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
March 23, 2020**

Board Members Present: Gene Connell, Pat Walsh, in person; Kay Benton, Alison Burns, Beth Ward, Steven Sellers, by phone/computer.

Others Present: Assistant Chief Haney.

The meeting was called to order 6:00 p.m.

Due to the Coronavirus and in compliance with the governor's direction to have no more than three people together at one time, the March 23rd meeting had only two board members physically present at the meeting site, and will only cover two topics: the Coronavirus preparations, and the announcement of the new Fire Chief of the Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District.

Assistant Chief Haney stated the preparations for the COVID-19 outbreak: All facilities have been closed to the public to reduce the risk to our responders and support personnel. We have participated in weekly phone conferences with Emergency Management and are on every known communication channel that deals with emergency services. Our medical control physician has made presentations onsite to our staff on how to combat COVID-19 in the field, and we have added a dedicated medic unit to transport nothing but COVID-19 patients and those that have similar symptoms. The unit has been specially prepared for rapid and thorough decontamination and will help eliminate any cross contamination in the field. The unit has responded to 14 calls as of today. We have upstaffed personnel not only to man that particular truck, but to provide an incident commander at every potential COVID-19 related call. We have ordered a HEPA rated air scrubber to retrofit into that unit and have ordered a UV decontamination system to aid in sanitization after transporting patients. Starting last week, all off-going and on-coming personnel will have a health assessment that will include a fever check and a general vital sign screening. This will ensure that no one comes to work sick and no one goes home to their families sick. N95's and other associated PPE are in short supply nationwide, but our department has done quite well, not only having a strong baseline stock before the outbreak, but in sourcing these hard to find items as we progress through the event. We have an inventory that should last several weeks. I would like to add a big thanks to everyone for the doing well with the trainings, adjustments to policy, long hours. We could not do what we are currently doing without us all rowing in the same direction. It has been a great team effort, and we have a great group of people, and I would like to say thanks. Chairman Connell wanted to echo that sentiment and that the entire board wanted to make sure we get everything we need. Board member Walsh said everyone appreciates the things that they are doing and the sacrifices they are making. Kay Benton thanked JR for the great job he's done and that he will continue to make sure that he protects all of us as well as our constituents. Alison Burns said great job by all. Our community is faced with a lot of challenges and you all have risen to that challenge. Great job, J.R., in sending us updates, it is appreciated. Stay well. Steven Sellers thanked everyone for doing a wonderful job.

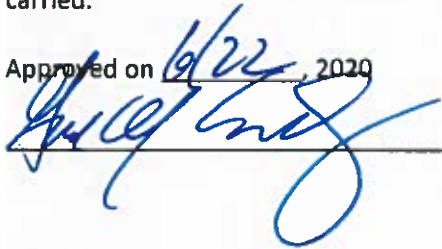
The choosing of the new Fire Chief for the District. I have a notebook in front of me that is about an inch and a half thick. It represents all the people that applied for the position. The board of directors met over the course of two nights and interviewed multiple candidates and the candidates were chosen by the group. Pat, Kay, Alison, Steven, answered the Chairman's request for a roll call before the announcement. After considerable hours spent on the hiring process, the board unanimously agreed that J. R. Haney be the new Chief of the Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District. All members agreed by

voting aye, including Beth Ward. Chief Haney expressed his thanks and the appreciation of the trust and faith put in him. He also thanked Chief Knight for the many years of mentorship given. Pat Walsh is very happy to welcome J. R. as Fire Chief. Kay, Alison, and Beth also voiced their congratulations.

The Chairman called for any other business that needed to be conducted at this time. Ms. Benton said we would defer the approval of the minutes and financials until the next regular meeting.

Adjourn: Pat Walsh made the motion to adjourn. Beth Ward seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Approved on 6/22, 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Pat Walsh", written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.