

Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
June 22, 2020

Board Members Present: Gene Connell, Pat Walsh, Kay Benton, Alison Burns, Beth Ward, Steven Sellers.

Others Present: Chief Haney.

Minutes: Kay Benton made the motion to approve the March 23rd minutes. Beth Ward seconded the motion and the motion carried. Beth Ward made the motion to approve the May 18th minutes. Kay Benton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Financials: Kay Benton noted the difference in receipts from the prior year, and the increase in supplies expense due to COVID-19. Chief Haney noted the addition of a line item separating the amount of overtime due to COVID-19 from other overtime expenses. Beth Ward asked if we have received any reimbursement from FEMA. We have received money from the CARES Act, but not FEMA. The FEMA claim is nearly ready for submission. Beth Ward made the motion to approve the financial reports as presented. Steven Sellers seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Kay Benton stated the 2019 audit is complete and she will invite them to the next meeting to review them with the board.

Medical Control Contract: A question has been raised about liability insurance. Chairman Connell will update the board at the next meeting.

Expanding the District: Chief Haney updated the board on expanding the District to include all of the 29576 zip code. He will be attending a meeting with Horry County next week to go over map details. Pat Walsh asked about purchasing property in the new area. Chief Haney agreed that it would be a good idea.

Recruitment: We have eight open positions currently: one Assistant Chief, one Lieutenant, and six paramedics. We have one who has successfully completed his National Registry written testing for paramedic and can begin work as a paramedic, opening a position for EMT. New hire testing is scheduled for Friday with six individuals expected to attend.

Water Rescue: Chief Haney stated we have a renewed focus on our water rescue program this year. Being near so many bodies of water, we need to be ready for any potential rescue. There is no safe way to get a patient into our current boat, Chief Haney has tasked Captain Howerton to look at boat options that are designed for water rescue. The cost range would be \$100,000 - \$150,000. Chief would like to approach the A-Tax committee for help with funding. The Chief would also like to place boats in slips on the waterway and ocean side to improve response times.

Strategic Plan: Alison Burns asked about the timeline for a referendum. Kay Benton said we cannot hold another referendum until after July 2020. She also said there was a waiting period of 75 days after requesting the County to hold a referendum. Whenever a referendum is held, the millage rate cannot be changed with the counties until the following August 1st. Gene Connell proposed an alternative to ask the legislature for taxing authority up to a certain millage rate. Alison Burns said she realized asking the taxpayers for additional millage is a difficult thing, but she believes we should try to be where other departments are.

Chief's Report: The ambulance remount is on schedule and should be ready the third week in July. Chief Haney distributed the updated Hurricane Storm Manual. It was updated to follow the new OPCON levels used by Georgetown County. Some operational forms were also removed from this year's document.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Kay Benton made the motion to recede into execution session to discuss a personnel matter. Alison Burns seconded the motion, and the motion carried. No votes were taken.

Regarding the Assistant Chief selection process, it was found to be transparent and honest. The job description was used, and interviews were conducted with two fair and impartial committee members who did not know either of the candidates. The Chief should be given the authority to decide who the next Assistant Chief should be and make the announcement.

Public Comment: None.

Next regular meeting will be held July 27, 2020.

Adjourn: Kay Benton made the motion to adjourn. Pat Walsh seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Approved on 7/27/2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kay Benton", written over a horizontal line.