

**Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
October 26, 2020**

**Board Members Present:** Gene Connell, Pat Walsh, Kay Benton, Alison Burns.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. A quorum was present.

Representative Fry's presentation will be rescheduled.

**Minutes:** Kay Benton made the motion to accept the September minutes with typographical errors corrected as noted. Alison Burns seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**Financials:** Kay Benton asked about the status of the FEMA Public Assistance grant. It is still pending final review. The AFG grant funds have been received. Kay Benton made the motion to accept the financials as presented. Alison Burns seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**First Reading of the 2021 budget:** Chief Haney reviewed the items requested in the 2021 budget. Tax revenue assessments are still pending from the counties. Chief Haney would like to order a new fire truck next year; the draft budget reflects loan proceeds and a ten percent down payment. Remodeling the board room into two administrative offices is included. The expected cost of the project is \$5,000. Kay Benton made the motion to approve the first reading of the budget. Alison Burns seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Chairman's Report:** The Chairman has received several calls regarding the election and the use of the stations as polling places. He reviewed the rules regarding polling places. Chief Haney reviewed plans in place to accommodate voters and keep staff secure during the pandemic. Kay Benton mentioned awareness of bumper stickers that may be on vehicles parked in the station lot on election day.

**Chief's Report:** Chief Haney will be out of town but will be available by phone over the next couple of weeks. He is working on salary comparisons. The Chief would like permission to use the Firemen's Fund Expense line item to pay bonuses as we do each year. The One Percent Fund cannot be used for bonuses but can be used for a banquet. Chief Haney will bring to the next meeting information regarding an alternative to the awards banquet. He thanked the board for approval of the carpet installation.

Assistant Chief Kosto reviewed the selection process for the Battalion Chief position. Tier one and tier two candidates were tested. Daniel Richards and Brennan Moore were both promoted to Battalion Chief. Pat Walsh asked if the Battalion Chiefs had been taken off the trucks. Chief Haney indicated he would like to do that next year if the budget allows. If the pandemic continues into 2021, the budget will need to be adjusted. Chairman Connell asked about the written test. This is the first round of testing utilizing tests generated by Fire and Police Selection, Inc. Chief Haney said it was a good process and AFC Kosto did an outstanding job.

**Old Business:** Kay Benton said we will be adding Ms. Burns and Chief Haney as signers to the bank account. She also said the Special Purpose District renewal forms were due by the end of the year. She

would like to name the officers for the next year so the information given to the Secretary of State will be current. This will be tabled until Beth Ward can be present. Pat Walsh asked about a District statement to the public after receiving the 2019 audit. Kay Benton would like the public to understand that the balance at the end of the year is made up of the tax funds we need to operate the fire department the coming year; our tax revenue timing is not monthly like a typical business. Chief Haney said if we received a statement from the auditing firm, he will have it posted to social media and the website.

**New Business:** None.

**Public Comment:** Larry Hopkins asked what was going on with the 2007 pickup truck. Chief Haney advised it has been placed out of service permanently due to severe rust damage to the front suspension. A replacement vehicle is included in the 2021 budget.

The next regular meeting will be held November 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Approved on 11/23, 2020  
