

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

Board Members Present: Gene Connell, Pat Walsh, Kay Benton, Alison Burns, Beth Ward (by phone).

Others Present: Chief Haney, Assistant Chief Kosto.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

Minutes: Kay Benton made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Pat Walsh seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Financials: Kay Benton asked if funds had been received from the COVID-19 grant. Funds have not been received. She also asked if the county tax assessment figures had been received. We have not yet heard from Georgetown County. Ms. Benton made the motion to accept the financials as presented. Beth Ward seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Second Reading of the Budget: Beth Ward asked for the Georgetown County tax revenue to be moved down to \$1.6 million and the Horry County tax revenue adjusted up to \$2.6 million. Medical billing income moved to \$985,000 based on collections from this year. Extra overtime was increased to \$205,000 along with \$55,000 for the associated taxes, retirement, and workers comp. The boat was removed from the budget, but a remedy discussed would be to earmark any excess impact fees for the boat. Kay Benton asked about the impact fee revenue budgeted. Chief Haney said many large projects were anticipated next year. Salaries expense is based on a 3% increase. Pat Walsh asked about pre-COVID-19 overtime. Overtime has been high due to the shortage of full-time personnel. Chief Haney explained that 59.4 FTE's are needed, and full staffing is 54 full time employees. More applications come from EMTs than paramedics. Chief Haney would like to see monies set aside to help employees get certified at the paramedic level. Alison Burns said all medical fields are experiencing a national crisis. People don't stay for pay. Thinking on the long term would be how to sustain – possibly supporting a certain amount of scholarship. Kay Benton stated two things were needed: meeting with Georgetown County regarding the Rescue and its shortfalls; and looking at a referendum. Kay Benton made the motion to approve the second reading of the 2021 budget. Alison Burns seconded the motion and the motion carried. Chief Haney noted that most likely, the ambulance remount was in the tax revenue column due to a clerical error. The 2016 Budget shows the ambulance paid with impact fees.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman has received many calls expressing appreciation for the use of the fire station for the election. The SCDOT plans move forward with the intersection improvements in the district. Condemning properties will begin in January.

Chief's Report: Chief Haney said he appreciated the administrative staff for keeping things running smoothly in his absence. Plans are being made to replace the awards banquet with three individual dinners, one for each company. Due to COVID, we are having to be quite clever on how to figure this out and keep our personnel safe.

Old Business: No news on the territory from Horry County. AFC Kosto distributed quote information on the EIFs repair and painting. The lowest quote was approximately \$30,000. Kay Benton said it would be necessary to put an ad in the newspaper to request bids.

New Business: None.

Public Comment: None.

Kay Benton made the motion to enter executive session. Alison Burns seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Kay Benton made the motion to return to the regular meeting. Pat Walsh seconded the motion and the motion carried. No decisions were made during executive session.

The next regular meeting will be December 14, 2020.

Adjourn: Kay Benton made the motion to adjourn. Alison Burns seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Approved on 12/14, 2020

