

**Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
February 22, 2021**

Called to order at 6:04 p.m., this meeting was held by video conference due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

Members in attendance: Gene Connell, Kay Benton, Alison Burns, Beth Ward, Pat Walsh.

Also in attendance: Chief Haney, Assistant Chief Kosto.

Minutes: Beth Ward reviewed the minutes and made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Kay Benton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Financials: Beth Ward noted that Georgetown County tax revenue has not been received for the month of January. The Administrative Assistant will call to follow up on payment status. Chief Haney had no additional items for review. Beth Ward made the motion to accept the financials as presented. Kay Benton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Firemen's Fund Bank Account: After reviewing interest rate information, Beth Ward made the motion to open an account at Coastal Carolina National Bank. Kay Benton seconded the motion carried.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman is following the possibility of legislation that will affect MIGCFD regarding code enforcement and for the use of impact fees for recurring expenses. He will give an update when he knows more. Chairman Connell has received a couple of phone calls about the construction near Seaside Elementary: the developers are asking questions about the impact fees. He expects the board to hear from them closer to the start of construction. The Chairman also reports speaking to Lee Hewitt regarding a board member's resignation and asked Kay Benton to follow up with him this week.

Horry County All Hazards Mitigation Plan: Chief Haney said the plan is renewed every five years and is a condition to receiving mitigation funding. A resolution must be submitted to Horry County for inclusion in the plan. We have the option to go with Horry or Georgetown County. Ms. Benton asked if we should participate with both? Chief Haney said he could investigate being included in both plans. Mr. Walsh asked if there were any significant changes to the plan? Chief Haney said most items were a rollover from the 2016 plan with changes to the FEMA and flood plain mapping.

Chief's Report: The FEMA grant request for public assistance for the COVID-19 overtime is in its final step before award. The grant amount of approximately \$174,000 will offset overtime expenses. We have also been offered a grant for COVID-19 expenses which will help purchase approximately \$75,000 in personal protective equipment. Chief Haney thanked Lieutenant Bemis, Ms. Barbara Taylor, and Division Chief Berube for their work to make these grants possible. Lt. Bemis is now working on a grant for the replacement of our aging extrication equipment. Chief Haney said the award of this \$283,000 grant would be a great benefit to the department.

Chief Haney asked the board to consider earmarking the \$212,000 in unused impact fee revenue from the 2020 budget cycle to purchase an ambulance remount and a new admin vehicle. Quotes for a remount have been received from three companies and two are close in price. The purchase of an admin vehicle would allow the replacement of the 2007 Chevrolet Trailblazer. Beth Ward made the motion to accept the recommendation of the Chief and allow the purchase of both the ambulance remount and the admin vehicle. Alison Burns seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Old Business: Chairman Connell asked for an update on the issue that had been raised about the impact fees. Chief Haney said the complaints had pretty much ebbed. Fire Marshal Zimpleman agreed – he has not heard much of anything and everyone had paid their bills. Pat Walsh followed up on the insurance recovery program and whether we were billing insurance companies for structure fires. Chairman Connell said more discussion would be needed, including three readings and public comment. Chief Haney said public education would be key and that we would be collecting only from insurance companies, not individuals.

New Business: Alison Burns congratulated Chief Haney on his position of Vice President of the Horry-Georgetown Fire Chiefs Association. She also congratulated Lt. Kasko on his retirement and continuing as a volunteer.

Public Comment: None. Chief Haney will look into a way for the public to ask questions of the board electronically due to the continuation of virtual meetings and social distancing.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Approved on 4/11, 2021



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sue G. J.", is written over a horizontal line.