

**Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
October 25, 2021**

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

Also in attendance: Chief Haney, Assistant Chief Kosto.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Beth Ward made the motion to recede into executive session. The motion was seconded by Alison Burns and the motion carried. Alison Burns made the motion to return to the regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Pat Walsh, and the motion carried. No motions were made or passed during executive session.

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

Financials: Beth Ward asked to review the budget as requested by administration. Chief Haney reviewed a budget forecast for the remainder of the current year. In addition to the requested revisions, Ms. Ward asked for the loan proceeds and fire truck to be removed since it will not be acted on this year. She also asked that office expense be increased \$2,500.

Cost Recovery: No public comment on the implementation of a cost recovery program which would allow for the billing of rescue expenses.

First Reading of the Budget: Chief Haney reviewed the 2022 draft budget and five-year projection packet. Three budget projections were offered: one with current staffing; one with three personnel on every apparatus and the addition of a medic unit; one with staffing that would meet NFPA Standard 1710. Chief Haney stated there is no way to go by 1710 standards with our current revenue. Beth Ward asked to see FTE information at the next meeting. Chief Haney asked the board to consider application for a SAFER (Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant to help fund the increase in staffing. Beth Ward said she would like to see us position ourselves to utilize the SAFER grant and recommends applying for everything we can possibly achieve.

Beth Ward made the motion to approve the first reading of the budget. Alison Burns seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chief Haney said the pricing for the two new fire apparatus has been extended. Ms. Ward asked if it could be extended another 30 days?

Chairman's Report: Chairman Connell reported that he had heard back from the SC State Ethics Commission regarding the need for board members to file an annual Statement of Economic Interests. Because the board members are not compensated, they are not required to file a statement. The administrative staff are required to file. He also gave an update on the impact fees charged for the Swells Cottages. We are still awaiting an opinion from the Attorney General's office and should hear something by next meeting.

The Chairman announced the board has been discussing getting some HR assistance. The board is not upset with anyone's performance, we just want to get an overall assessment of the health of the organization – the

culture, the climate, whether it is a good place to work – those types of things. We hope to announce that at the next meeting.

He has had a couple of conversations regarding property near Seaside Elementary School for a potential fire station. The individual involved may attend the next board meeting.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Public Comment: None.

The next regular meeting was scheduled for November 22nd. Alison Burns made the motion to reschedule the meeting to November 15th due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. John Magann seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Adjourn: Kay Benton made the motion to adjourn. Beth Ward seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Approved on 11/15/21, 2021

