

**Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
May 24, 2021**

Members in attendance: Pat Walsh, Kay Benton (by phone), Alison Burns, Beth Ward, John Magann.

Also in attendance: Chief Haney, Assistant Chief Kosto.

Minutes: Alison Burns made the motion to accept the February minutes as written. John Magann seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Financials: Beth Ward reported she had signed off on the representation letters for the quarterly reviews. There were no adjustments for either quarter. She expressed to Smith Sapp that we needed to have these more timely in the future. Beth Ward would like to schedule a meeting with the auditors. The Administrative Assistant has questions regarding items budgeted in capital outlay being moved to expense accounts and how these moves may make expense accounts appear overspent at the end of the year. Kay Benton asked about the spending in vehicle repair and maintenance and the need to amend the budget. Chief Haney stated the expenses were mostly due to work on newly acquired vehicles and did not expect to exceed the budget. Kay Benton made the motion to accept the financials as presented. Beth Ward seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chairman's Report: None.

Chief's Report: Chief Haney reported that bike week came and went with an expected call volume and no issues. We utilized a limousine golf cart as an acute quick response vehicle. The enclosed trailer to be used as a medical exam room was not ready for use until the end of the week. An agreement made with the Refuel station allowed a reserve ambulance to be stationed across from Suck Bang Blow which was well received by both the public and our staff members. Pat Walsh said everyone should see the special ops trailer and thinks it is going to seem some use. Chief Haney said it was purchased through the SC Forestry Commission like the high-water vehicles and is outfitted with its own diesel generator and fuel supply, built-in cabinets, and excellent lighting. Our crews have worked tirelessly on getting it up to speed.

Hurricane season starts June 1st. The fire department handbook has been updated with this year's storm names and we will review that as a department next week. Division Chiefs and above will receive an annual refresher on Palmetto EOC, a tool to share disaster and emergency information with state and local agencies.

Chief Haney reports that one part time paramedic would like to move to a full-time position. Once that individual passes the agility test, the department will have three openings department wide. Thanks to Assistant Chief Kosto's hard work and Paramedic Firefighter Hackman for his work on social media. AFC Kosto has promotional exams coming up in the next month or two.

Recently, we have had a fuel crisis in our region which has provided a stress test for our fuel supply for the department. Our current diesel tank is rented from the fuel supplier, and they provide the upkeep. Since this tank is provided by a sole source, if they have no fuel to provide, we cannot get it from any other vendor. The department owned gasoline tank is undersized for frequent use. Chief Haney would

like to mitigate this issue in the future by purchasing our own thousand-gallon diesel tank and an additional 500-gallon gasoline tank. The District would then have the ability to fuel the department for up to 3-4 weeks during a disaster. A purchase of \$11,916 would give us an additional 500-gallon gasoline tank and a 1,000-gallon diesel tank of our own. If we purchased two thousand-gallon tanks, the cost would be \$15,000. Chief Haney prefers the first option. He would also like the board to consider adding \$7,500 in fuel management software to the 2022 budget. It would help with reporting and preventing theft. Beth Ward asked the source of funding for the purchase. Chief Haney would like to pay for the tanks with impact fees received over the budgeted amount. Beth Ward made the motion to purchase the 500-gallon gasoline tank and the 1,000-gallon diesel tank for \$11,916 and save the incremental money for the fuel monitoring software. Alison Burns seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Chief Haney asked Battalion Chief Edbrooke, our boat rescue coordinator, to present information regarding a rescue boat. Sea Support quoted a new 25-foot center console boat for \$335,275. Sea Support quoted a used 25-foot full cabin boat for \$204,015. BC Edbrooke's recommendation would be to go with Sea Support due to their good record for their equipment and the price point. The difference between this price and the original quote is upgraded radio and vision systems. BC Edbrooke stated Horry County is purchasing a boat this year, but at this time, the Coast Guard is the only agency in the area that has the capability the upgrades would provide us. Pat Walsh asked what we could do right now with the equipment we have. BC Edbrooke stated our current boat would be limited by four-foot seas and its single engine. The newer vessel would be better designed to handle rough seas. A response to our area from the Coast Guard could take 30 – 45 minutes if towing its boat from Charleston. Alison Burns requested more information to review. Chief Haney said we have been unable in the past to search at night and have had to turn down calls. Kay Benton shared some information regarding financing a boat purchase. Beth Ward is opposed to financing a vehicle. More information regarding the need for a rescue boat will be sent to board members before the next meeting.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Beth Ward thanked AFC Kosto and MIGCFD crews for showing up to Tideland's Health last month for a "rather smoky event". She said crews were very professional and very much helped people on site feel more comfortable.

Public Comment: None.

Next meeting is June 28, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn: Beth Ward made the motion to adjourn. John Magann seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Approved on 4/28, 2021

