

**Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
November 15, 2021**

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

Also in attendance: Chief Haney, Assistant Chief Kosto.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes: Kay Benton made the motion to accept the October minutes as written. Alison Burns seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Financials: Beth Ward approved the financials as presented. Alison Burns seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Cost Recovery: No public comment on the implementation of a cost recovery program which would allow for the billing of rescue expenses. Assistant Chief Kosto recommended contracting with Fire Recovery due to its more user-friendly platform, lower cost, and better fee schedule. Beth Ward made the motion to accept management's recommendation. John Magann seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Second Reading of the Budget: Chief Haney

Beth Ward made the motion to approve the second reading of the budget. Kay Benton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chief's Report: Chief Haney said the board would need to approve the purchase of the two new trucks today to avoid a \$90,000 increase on the current pricing. Beth Ward reviewed a cash flow schedule. We have balloon payments of debt in 2023 and 2024. She would like to see the department take a loan out on the ladder truck and make the balloon payments as scheduled. Based on the review, Beth Ward made the motion to approve both the engine and ladder truck. The ladder truck should be here in 2023, we would finance that at 2.5% interest for 10 years, and the engine would be here in 2024 and we would pay for that. John Magann seconded the motion and the motion carried. Ms. Ward also said more work was needed on the current debt structure.

Chief Haney said it was time for the annual vacation buyback and \$90,000 was budgeted. He would like approval to send out notices. The estimate was not available, and Ms. Ward asked that it be brought to the next meeting for approval. Chief Haney said the Firemen's Fund line item had \$30,000 budgeted for Christmas bonuses and he would like approval for bonuses. Pat Walsh made the motion to approve the bonuses. John Magann seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Lt. Bemis reviewed the NFPA 1710 and how it compares to our current staffing. The SAFER grant would help the department meet the standard. Gene Connell said there are no additional liabilities to the District by not following the standard. Pat Walsh said there is public expectation that we meet the standard. Beth Ward said we should attempt to go to the fullest extent for the grant, including additional administrative staff. John Magann made the motion to apply for the SAFER grant. Pat Walsh seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chief Haney introduced the new Division Chief of EMS, Dwayne Owens. Division Chief Owens is from Hartford, Maryland and has been with the department since May.

Chairman's Report: A developer may attend the December 13th meeting to discuss land for a fifth station.

Old Business: Pat Walsh said the department needed to look at the impact of the new Swells Cottages on fire response. The Chairman said new language regarding impact fees meant the statute would need to be changed. Mr. Walsh asked if a Christmas party was being planned this year. Chief Haney explained that the firefighters enjoyed the small shift parties held last year and would like to do the same thing this year.

New Business: None.

Public Comment: None.

Executive Session: Beth Ward made the motion to recede into executive session. Pat Walsh seconded the motion and the motion carried. No votes were taken during executive session.

Beth Ward made the motion to approve the employee vacation buyback. Pat Walsh seconded the motion and the motion carried. Ms. Ward asked that the matter be brought to the board in October next year.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2021.

Adjourn: Pat Walsh made the motion to adjourn. Beth Ward seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Approved on _____, 2021

