

**Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 24, 2022**

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

**Also in attendance:** Chief Haney, Assistant Chief Kosto (by phone).

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

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

**Minutes:** Pat Walsh made the motion to accept the October minutes as written. Beth Ward seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Financials:** Beth Ward made the motion to approve the 2021 budget adjustments as presented. John Magann seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Chief's Report:** Chief Haney stated the Cost Recovery Resolution was waiting on a final edit from Chairman Connell. As previously discussed, a letter of support for the SAFER Grant was given to the Chairman for signature. Chief Haney announced that staffing was down to just two open positions. One of our volunteers is in recruit school and doing very well. Lt. Brad Bemis gave a brief overview of grants currently being applied for, including extrication tools and fire prevention and education. The new medic unit is headed to the paint shop and should be completed in approximately four weeks. Assistant Chief Kosto and the apparatus spec team will be traveling to Sutphen in February to verify specs on the new apparatus and tour the facility. Travel expenses are rolled into the purchase price of the new apparatus.

Chief Haney asked the board for the go ahead as purchasing agent to sign purchase agreements for the medic unit and two admin vehicles, all approved in the 2022 budget. Pat Walsh made the motion to allow Chief Haney to sign purchase agreements for the medic unit and two administrative vehicles. Beth Ward seconded the motion and the motion carried. Chief Haney reviewed the call volume for 2021. From 2017 through 2021, fire calls in the district increased 35 percent, EMS calls increased 31 percent, and calls for public service increased 77 percent.

**Chairman's Report:** Chairman Connell said the board was very happy with what was going on but are considering the hiring of a consulting firm to assess the department. He will be calling a closed meeting in the near future for the board to discuss a contract. Chief Haney said whatever it takes to get a positive referendum.

Chairman Connell has been in contact with the Waccamaw Council of Government regarding a 25-year study, with no charge to the District.

Assistant Chief Kosto reviewed a recent call involving an overdue kayaker in which MIGCFD was not dispatched for 6.5 hours. Follow up meetings with Georgetown County Dispatch, Sheriff, and the Coast Guard were conducted to get to the bottom of the communication issues.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Public Comment:** None.

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

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

Approved on 28<sup>th</sup> of July, 2022

Pat Walsh