

**Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
April 25, 2022**

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

**Also in attendance:** Chief Haney, Deputy Chief Kosto.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Minutes:** Kay Benton made the motion to approve the minutes as written. John Magann seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Financials:** Kay Benton stated the financials looked to be pretty well on target and made a motion to approve the financials as presented. John Magann seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Chief's Report:** Chief Haney updated the board on the A/C repair in the administrative hallway at Station 76. A part is on order and the repair time is estimated at two weeks. The mower at Station 78 is out of service. This unit has been in service for over 22 years and the service department recommends its replacement due to repair costs. Deputy Kosto has requested bids and the quote we will go with is the lowest bid at approximately \$4,000. The new unit will match the unit at Headquarters which has given us 5 years of trouble-free service.

We have been researching bunk room lockers to replace the 20-year-old lockers which have latching and delaminating issues due to age. The new lockers will be metal and match those at the other stations. Deputy Chief Kosto is working to replace the rotted parking signposts with aluminum posts and is purchasing parking stops.

Steel bollards will soon be installed in front of the fuel depot at headquarters at the request of our general liability insurance carrier. We will rent equipment and install ourselves. Roof repairs are known to be needed at headquarters. We have countered the roofing company's proposal with our request to utilize the remaining portion of our existing roof warranty.

Deputy Chief Kosto is working on updating the Horry County paging system at the department. He is looking at installing new antennas at the stations to improve reception and upgrading the computers that the dispatch program runs on. Currently, we are using retired laptops that are 3 – 15 years of age.

Unit 5218, the medic unit for Station 78, is getting a significant oil leak fixed under warranty at Conway Ford and should be ready in the next week or so. Truck 76 is out of service due to a power steering pump issue. The truck company running out of headquarters is currently in our 22-year-old reserve apparatus. Wednesday, the new medic unit will be picked up pending a

positive inspection and should be ready to be put into service in another two weeks. The Ram Chassis is scheduled for delivery to the ambulance manufacturer and a 90 – 120-day turnaround is anticipated. Chief Haney has put the department's name on two admin vehicles with two separate Dodge dealers, no money is required until the units are ready for our purchase. The boat is being prepared for sea trials and is being scheduled for delivery the middle of May.

Our department currently has six paramedic openings and one lieutenant opening. We have one employee in medic school with anticipated completion in May and one part-time employee also in medic school who has expressed interest in a full-time position upon graduation. We do have a waiting list of tested and approved EMTs ready to go once a position opens up. We are currently advertising on numerous platforms for employment. The majority of our advertising budget for this year has been spent.

Due to military travel, Dr. Coradi, our medical control physician, will be out of the area for 3 – 4 weeks beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>. Due to some of our staffing challenges, secondary to finding certified personnel, I have instructed Division Chief Owens to begin the process of becoming a state authorized training institution for an EMT program. This will take some time to happen and will not fix any of our immediate issues.

Bike week will be May 13 – 22. We will staff the best we can, but we are accustomed to the call volume, so we will move assets and personnel where necessary as it gets closer. Our Battalion Chiefs, Division Chiefs, as well as the Fire Chiefs, met during last month's executive officers meeting and based on call data we have decided to move our career staffed medic unit from Station 78 on New River Road to Headquarters. This move along with the redrawing of call boxes will go a long way to help shoulder the increasing call volume. It is anticipated that each medic unit will then have a similar number of calls. Station 78 will house a medic unit staffed with part time personnel during peak hours. Our contract obligations with Georgetown County will still be met by the medic unit housed in Georgetown County at Headquarters as it was when the contract was originally drafted.

The lead auditor with the consulting firm was present several days last week. Interviews were held with several chief officers and other stakeholders of our department. The management team was provided an excellent opportunity to share our operational state and our well known and department wide shared concerns on district funding, HR support, staffing needs – both in the field and administratively. Deputy Chief Kosto will be working to put out a schedule for the remaining consultant visits with further interviews, equipment, property inspections. Our administrative staff has been in near constant contact with the consultant group, both pre- and post-visit and we are looking forward to receiving their insight and their projected needs analysis for our agency.

**Chairman's Report:** The Chairman asked Senator Goldfinch about getting money from the general assembly for special purpose districts who were not able to request ARPA funds directly from the federal government. The other thing the Chairman is working on is getting the impact fee statute language cleaned up.

**Executive Session:** Kay Benton made the motion to recede into executive session. The motion was seconded by John Magann and the motion carried. No votes were taken during the executive session. John Magann made the motion to allow Chairman Connell to seek legal counsel. Kay Benton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** None.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Adjourn:** John Magann made the motion to adjourn. Kay Benton seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2022.

Approved on 5/23, 2022

