

**Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
August 22, 2022**

Members in attendance: Gene Connell, Pat Walsh, Kay Benton, Alison Burns, 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. Alison Burns seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Financials: Kay Benton noted the tax revenues are behind and the impact fees and Horry County ambulance billing are both over budget at this time. Ms. Benton made the motion to approve the financials as presented. John Magann seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chief's Report: Chief Haney presented the revised impact fee manual including the wording "unattached" to exclude townhomes from single family residences. Kay Benton made the motion to approve the Impact Fee Administration Manual. Alison Burns seconded the motion and the motion carried. Pat Walsh asked the effective date of the manual. Chief Haney confirmed that the effective date is the date of approval, August 22, 2022.

Chief Haney has begun advertising for Paramedic Specialists and said this full-time position will hit a currently untapped market in the area. The budget has underutilized funds in Part-Time Salaries he will use for this expense. He said employees working as Paramedic Specialists will have the ability to transfer to a dual role and hopes it occurs.

The Chief thanked Deputy Chief Kosto for his work on the boundary map. Chief Kosto has working with Horry County GIS to come up with a proposed change to the boundaries, encompassing more of the 29576 zip code. Kay Benton made the motion to present the "29576" version of the map to Horry County Council. Alison Burns seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chairman's Report: Gene Connell has spoken to Lee Hewitt regarding statutes governing the District, originally written in 1965. The Chairman will work on modernizing the language for the board to review in the upcoming months. The Chairman also asked Representative Hewitt about the possibility of using impact fees for salaries. He doesn't believe that would be approved but may be able to add language that would allow it in an emergency.

Chairman Connell spoke to the owner of Tupelo Bay, who said they still plan to put in 800 houses and asked if the District is still interested in receiving a piece of property for a fire station. He also asked the board if they would support the request for a new traffic light at Woodland Drive and Highway 17.

Chairman Connell has been working with Horry County government to get an ambulance for the District through ARPA funding. He heard from Horry County Administrative Department that a resolution had been submitted to Horry County Council for approval of \$453,000 in funding for a new ambulance for the District.

Chairman Connell said Rep. Hewitt also spoke to him regarding the legality of charging inspection fees. A number of counties charge a road fee which is being challenged in court. No one knows what the court will do, but the statute should be changed to keep this from being an issue in the future.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Public Comment: Ron Cheves, a retired Fire Chief from the Charlotte area, introduced himself and stated he has interest in serving on the board. Chairman Connell stated board members apply to the legislative delegation and are appointed by the governor.

Lt. Bemis gave an update on the FEMA grants, we are still in the running. Lt. Bemis also announced that on behalf of the District, the Local 4940 donated \$3,336 to the MDA that was raised during a recent boot drive.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, September 26th at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn: Kay Benton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Alison Burns and the motion carried.

Approved on 9/26, 2022

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Alison Burns", written over a horizontal line.