

**Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
September 26, 2022**

Members in attendance: Gene Connell, Pat Walsh, Kay Benton, Alison Burns, John Magann.

Also in attendance: Chief Haney, Assistant Chief Kosto.

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

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

Financials: Kay Benton made the motion to accept the financials as presented until Beth Ward can give further details. Alison Burns seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman received an email from the Horry County Deputy Administrator stating he will recommend the County give the District 70% of the cost of a new ambulance, approximately \$317,657. This is based on the District's call volume in Horry County of approximately 70%. Chief Haney has a chassis on order. The Chairman also discussed with the County the District's expansion to include all of the 29576 zip code. Kay Benton said it will be less confusing for property owners and insurance companies. The board members agreed that Chairman Connell should continue work with the County to expand the District boundary to include the properties within the 29576 zip code. The Chairman said County officials also discussed with him Surfside Beach Fire and its need for mutual aid.

Chief's Report: Bike week will be held this week. We are not really upstaffing as we are doing the best we can with staffing with what we have. We will be moving up to alert status in the next day or two for Hurricane Ian. National Fire Prevention Week is coming up and we will host an Open House on October 13th. It is our first since pre-COVID. It will be good for our community. We plan on bringing all our "toys" out and doing demonstrations. We are excited about providing that event for them.

Chief Haney has spoken with the consultant group who reports that a draft should be ready for review soon and a report ready to present to the board sometime in late October to early November. Chief Kosto reported that we have hired one EMT, one Firefighter/EMT and one Firefighter/Paramedic in the last two weeks.

Lt. Bemis told the board we are ready to apply to Georgetown County for Accommodation Tax monies. This funding would allow the department to provide two certified lifeguards/rescue swimmers from Memorial Day to Labor Day, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the beach in Georgetown County.

Chief Haney stated that at the last Horry Georgetown Executive Chiefs Meeting, some of the chiefs expressed concern over significant issues with Cummins engines. They recommended finding an alternative engine for any new fire truck. That particular engine is in our pumper that is on order. Deputy Chief Kosto reached out to some other agencies and found that 2020 models are being placed out of service within weeks of being put into service. We have the ability to change the engine to a larger one on our current order for approximately a \$37,000 upcharge. John Magann made the motion to upgrade to the larger engine. Alison Burns seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Old Business: John Magann asked if the consultants had a date for a presentation. Chief Haney said no later than November. Chairman Connell asked if the board would like to have a public presentation. Pat Walsh asked if the board would have a meeting with the consultants before the report is completed. Chief Haney stated he believed a draft report would be sent for the board's review.

Executive Session: Kay Benton moved to enter executive session. Pat Walsh seconded the motion and the motion carried. No votes were taken during executive session.

Chairman Connell said that the board is asking for a public presentation of the report to be made in November if the consultants are available, provided a preliminary review is given to the board at the October meeting.

New Business: None.

Public Comment: Larry Hopkins asked if the board planned to build a building for the equipment sitting out in the weather. Chief Haney said that concern should be addressed in the consultant's report.

Next meeting is October 24, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Approved on 10/27/22, 2022

