

**Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
November 14, 2022**

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

Also in attendance: Chief Haney, Deputy Chief Kosto.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Minutes: Kay Benton made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Pat Walsh seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chief's Report: Chief Haney outlined the fourth quarter budget review. Tax revenues are expected to meet the budgeted mark, ambulance billing and impact fees are expected to exceed budgeted amounts. Changes to expenses reflect the increase in fuel, medical supplies, and contract services expense seen this year. Beth Ward asked the Chief to expand on changes to the debt line items. Chief Haney said he would like to utilize the impact fees collected this year to make a balloon payment that is due in 2023, taking it off the books and saving additional interest. Beth Ward made the motion to approve the changes to the 2022 Budget as presented. Alison Burns seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chief Haney stated that the department has tried its best to utilize part time salaries expense, but personnel have been hard to come by. Chief Haney would like to use the \$167,000 remaining in that line item to give employees a \$3,100 performance bonus, with employees serving less than one year receiving a prorated amount. Alison Burns made the motion to approve the bonus. Pat Ward seconded the motion and the motion carried. Chief Haney asked permission to use the \$30,000 budgeted for end of year bonuses to give each full-time employee \$500 and each part-time employee \$300. Alison Burns made the motion to approve the bonus. Kay Benton seconded the motion and the motion carried. Chief Haney said that if every eligible employee sold back vacation hours the amount would be \$83,000 and that \$90,000 has been budgeted. Pat Walsh made the motion to approve the expenditure. Alison Burns seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Second Reading of the 2023 Budget: Chief Haney reviewed the draft budget for 2023. Georgetown County tax revenue is estimated to be \$1,803,000 based on current valuations. GEAR Program Income has been adjusted down due to the medical billing company having an issue submitted this year's accounts for collection. We still anticipate collections from prior years. Expenses have not changed since the first reading and include a jet ski for water rescue and a receptionist for Headquarters. Beth Ward made the motion to accept the second reading as it stands. Alison Burns seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Executive Session: Chairman Connell announced the need for an executive session to receive the consultants report. This session is not to hide anything, but to ask questions of the consultant, to understand his findings regarding personnel and employment matters. Kay

Benton made the motion to move into executive session. Pat Walsh seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chairman Connell stated executive session with the consultants was 3 ½ hours long and that no decisions were made, and the consultant would continue working on his written report to be released to the public. Beth Ward made the motion to allow the McGrath Consulting Group meet with all current employees on December 12th. Pat Walsh seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chairman's Report: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Public Comment: None.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, December 12th at 6:00 p.m. at Headquarters.

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

Approved on 12-15, 2022


