

**Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 23, 2023**

**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.

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

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

**Financials:** The Chairman said Beth Ward sent an email stating she had reviewed the financials and there were no issues. Kay Benton made the motion to accept the financials as presented. John Magann seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Chief's Report:** Chief Haney reviewed the Impact Fee Schedule with the board saying the lowest fee was \$100 for commercial businesses up to 1,000 square feet. What we are finding is many food trucks/food trailers in our area and that fee is a little excessive due to the size. Chief Haney asked to add the fee of \$25 for food trucks/food trailers to the Impact Fee Schedule. John Magann made the motion to approve adding the fee of \$25 to the Impact Fee Schedule for food trucks/food trailers. Alison Burns seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Chief Haney reported the department has twelve openings currently. In his Friday update he announced a sign on bonus: \$3,000 for Firefighter/Paramedic; \$2,000 for Paramedic Specialist; \$1,000 for Firefighter/EMT. He also announced a referral bonus: \$750 for a Firefighter or \$500 for Paramedic Specialist, when the referring party's name is included on the new employee's application as a referred party. Part time employee hourly rates have been increased: from \$15 to \$18 per hour for EMTs, and from \$18 to \$22 per hour for Paramedics. This increase puts us in line with the private sector which is taking some of our potential applicants. We are utilizing funds budgeted for the unfilled positions.

Chief Haney has reached out to groups for a compensation study. Of the four groups contacted, only one has returned a proposal. He has concerns regarding the timeliness of the reports and the board having a referendum this year. Because of that, the admin staff will work on their own analysis, so hopefully, if a compensation study cannot be done we will have something to show our need. We may need to put some workshops together, if necessary.

Deputy Chief Kosto presented Chief Haney with a plaque in recognition of his twenty years of service to the District. The chassis should arrive in late February and Chief Haney would like to ask the board in March to approve the work on the remount. Chief Haney thanked the team that worked on the A-Tax proposal, we were awarded approximately \$150,000.

**Chairman's Report:** Chairman Connell asked for a motion to approve the 2023 Meeting Schedule included in last month's board packet. Kay Benton made the motion to approve the schedule. John Magann seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**Old Business:** Chairman Connell asked the board if there needed to be some discussion about how to release the consultant's report. Alison Burns made the motion to release the full report to the public with the exception of information regarding the annexation and the future station, on the website, on Friday, January 27th. John Magann seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Pat Walsh asked about the Swells Cottages case. The Chairman said the first round was in the favor of the District. They asked to reconsider the decision. If the judge refuses, Swells Cottages has 30 days to appeal.

Mr. Walsh asked if the debt payments had been made. Chief Haney said that all loans had been paid in full. Mr. Walsh asked if the board should schedule a workshop or meeting now that the report has been received. Kay Benton suggested that the board wait until next month after everyone had time to review the report. Chairman Connell asked the administration to present a list of items that have already been addressed at the next meeting.

**New Business:** None.

**Public Comment:** None.

Next meeting is February 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Approved on 2/27/23, 2022-2023

  
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