

Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes of August 25, 2015

Board Members Present; Al Hitchcock, Wesley Gordon, Kay Benton, George Oldroyd, and Moe Wells. Also in Attendance: Chief Knight, Assistant Chief Haney

Public Comment: Wendy Swindell questioned why minutes of past board meetings had not been posted to the website since March. Assistant Chief Haney explained the files must be uploaded by the webmaster and this had not been done. He also said the goal was for the website to be controlled internally in the near future.

Ms. Swindell also inquired about a postcard mailing that, in her opinion, appeared to have been approved and sent out by the MIGCFD. Her concern was the Dept. appeared to have participated in a political campaign. Chairman Hitchcock explained the mailing had used a quote from him, and pictures from an unrelated mailing. He also expressed his disappointment that the mailing gave the appearance the MIGCFD had campaigned.

The minutes of the meeting held on July 27, 2015 were presented. Kay Benton moved to approve the minutes and was seconded by Moe Wells. The motion carried unanimously.

Financials: The July financials were presented. Chairman Hitchcock stated the District was currently “up” in impact fees in Horry County and “down” a little in Georgetown County. Kay Benton questioned the increases in insurance expense. Chief Knight believed this to be a result of an increase in personnel. Kay Benton motioned to approve the July financials, pending a check of the insurance expense amount, and it was seconded by Wesley Gordon. The motion carried unanimously.

Firefighter’s Report: Pat Walsh reported on the golf tournament.

Chief’s Report: Chief Knight introduced the new Administrative Assistant, Barbara Taylor. The Chief stated he has received favorable feedback regarding the new Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance plan. The applications are due September 3rd for the State Health Plan. Chief Knight stated the budget reading will be ready for the October Board of Directors Meeting. The Chief also reported the last full time position had been filled by a part time person, and the District is now fully staffed.

Assistant Chief’s Report: Assistant Chief Haney stated the request for bids for the construction of Station Four is ready to be advertised. The timeline for advertising was discussed, along with which newspapers to place the notice. Wesley Gordon questioned whether the advertisement should follow state procurement standards.

Chairman's Report: Chairman Hitchcock stated plans for Station Four are available for viewing. Moe Wells remarked the Conway National Bank financing package appeared to be the best package. Mr. Wells made the motion that the District will build Station Four and finance the construction with Conway National Bank. The motion was seconded by George Oldroyd. The motion carried unanimously.

Voting by Kay Benton abstained

Old Business: Captain Jerry Howerton presented information collected regarding programs to collect EMS fees from South Carolina residents. Moe Wells stated there is nearly \$900,000 in uncollected fees, and that 85% of those belong to South Carolina residents. Mr. Wells stated collection of these outstanding fees would help the EMS service pay for itself. George Oldroyd made the motion to establish collection procedures to include both the Set-Off, and GEAR programs, as presented. The motion was seconded by Kay Benton. The motion carried unanimously.

Captain Jerry Howerton presented the new unmanned aerial vehicle. The purchase was made possible by a grant from the Elks Lodge. Chairman Hitchcock stated this will save time and resources in responding to swimmer in distress calls.

New Business: Chairman Hitchcock presented a letter from a resident requesting impact fees be waived for demolition of a structure. Kay Benton stated there are no impact fees for demolition and it is unclear what the letter is asking for. Voting postponed until more information is obtained.

There being no further business, Kay Benton made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Wesley Gordon. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved on 9-23, 2015



Al Hitchcock, Chairman