Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
August 24, 2026

Agenda

6:00 Call to Order

Executive Session

Minutes

Financials

Chief's Report

Chairman's Report

Old Business

New Business

Public Comment

Next regular meeting September 28, 2026

Adjourn

Murrells Inlet-Garden City Fire District

PO Box 648, 3641 Hwy. 17 Bus.
Murrells Inlet, SC 29576
PH (843) 651-5143 FAX (843) 651-1101

Gene Connell, Chairman
J. R. Haney, Fire Chief

Board of Directors Meeting
Attendance Record
August 24, 2026

Kay Benton	Kay Benton
Alison Burns	
Gene Connell	Absent
Ricky Cox	
Katie Wilson	By Phone

Murrells Inlet-Garden City Fire District

Post Office Box 648 3641 Highway 17 Business
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Gene Connell, Chairman
J. R. Haney, Fire Chief

Board of Directors Meeting
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Public Comments

Name	Topic of Discussion
NOPE	

Murrells Inlet Grden City Fire District

Boards of Directors Meeting

August 24, 2026

Board Members: Ricky Cox, Kay Benton, Alison Burns, and Katie Wilson via phone.

Also in Attendance: Fire Chief Haney, Deputy Fire Chief Kosto, Administrative Director Barbara Taylor.

Minutes: Kay Benton stated that the minutes had a few typos that did not affect the subject matter. They were addressed and fixed. Kay Benton made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Alison Burns seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Financials: Katie Wilson reported that she had reviewed the financial statements. The financials were found to be in good order. It was noted that the current reports do not yet reflect Horry County's July impact fee payments. No additional concerns were raised regarding the financial statements at this time.

Chief Kosto provided an update to the uniform budget that was discussed at the last meeting. Chief Kosto explained that the district has experienced challenges associated with multiple invoices and packing slips being generated for individual orders, creating a significant administrative burden and complicating expense tracking. Chief Kosto reported that uniform expenditures are currently estimated at approximately $140,000, pending final reconciliation. Costs exceeded original projections due to increased uniform prices, higher-than-anticipated employee uniform package costs, and the complexity of processing multiple invoices and tax charges. Chief Kosto requested additional time to complete the reconciliation process and noted that a budget amendment may be necessary once all expenses have been verified.

Katie Wilson made a motion to approve the financials. Alison Burns seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Chiefs Report:

EMS Division: Chief Kosto reported no significant issues within the division. He announced that the final recruit successfully passed the EMT certification exam, resulting in all recruits being certified and assigned to operational shifts. Chief Kosto recognized the crews, supervisors, and training staff for their support throughout the training process. Additional testing is scheduled in the coming days.

Fire & Operations Report: Ongoing vehicle maintenance and repairs continue, with staff working to minimize equipment downtime. Personnel were recognized for diligently identifying and reporting maintenance issues. A proposed 2027 budget initiative includes constructing an on-site

maintenance facility and hiring a dedicated mechanic to improve turnaround times and reduce repair costs.

Administration Report: Barbara Taylor, Administrative Director, reported that recruitment efforts for Paramedic Specialist positions continue to be successful, with approximately thirty applications received to date. Five candidates are scheduled for testing, and an additional three candidates are scheduled for testing soon. Several prospective applicants have also contacted the department seeking additional information regarding employment opportunities.
Barbara Taylor noted that the department's candidate ride-along program continues to be an effective recruitment tool, providing applicants with the opportunity to observe operations and interact with department personnel. Barbara Taylor further reported that staffing levels on the fire suppression side have improved significantly because of recent recruit hires. Promotional testing for several vacant positions is anticipated within the next one to two months. Current staffing levels have enhanced operational readiness and improved apparatus staffing throughout the department.

Chief Haney announced that Ricky Marshall successfully completed the promotional testing process for the EMS Supervisor position and officially assumed his duties in that role.

Fire Chief: Chief Haney reported that preparations for the FY 2027 budget will begin in September. He noted that department operations continue to run smoothly and commended administrative staff, Chief Moore, and Chief Richards for their efforts in advancing department training initiatives. Chief Haney also reported continued success in recruitment efforts, citing a strong applicant pool and a high level of interest from qualified candidates. While vacancies remain, he expressed confidence that the department is attracting and hiring high-quality personnel who align with the organization's culture and standards.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Public Comment: None.

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

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 28, 2026.

Approved: _____