

Minutes for a Regular Meeting on Monday, April 5, 2021, at 12:00 pm at 8305 Augusta Road Pelzer, SC 29669.

John Jennings asked Donnie Freeman to open the meeting with prayer. Jim Darby was absent.

Everyone reviewed the minutes from the March meeting. Jimmy Brashier motioned to accept the minutes. Donnie Freeman seconded it. All were in favor.

Jennifer Adams reviewed the Financial Reports for March. She reviewed the check report. There were no questions about the Financial Reports. Sabrina Bedingfield motioned to accept the financial reports. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor.

Chief Sutherland started the staff report with an update on COVID. We currently do not have anyone out with COVID. We have offered our employees to get vaccinations and they are now asking for the number of vaccinated employees in the weekly LLR survey. We have some plans for new developments in our District that will be starting construction soon. The sign at Headquarters has been ordered. We have started taking down the old one and getting everything ready for new one. Our new website is up and running. We are live again, so please check it out. There are some new sections that are still being worked on. Chief Sutherland said that there is no news on the property next door. They are in the process of voting on us purchasing it. The new Brush 74 has been ordered. It will not be here until August or later due to a shortage on some computer components. They have notified us that due to the delay it will actually be a 2022 model. We have completed our annual AED service for the year. Chief Sutherland is working on a 15-year strategic plan that he wants to present to the Commissioners in the May meeting. The first five years will be very specific with the details narrowing after that but list the specific truck replacement from 6-15 years. Chief Sutherland said the he is putting together a training tower committee that will be visiting some surrounding training towers in the area. We will be having the bi-annual department meeting on April 20-22 at noon that include the bi-annual 1% meetings. Any Commissioners that want to attend need to let us know so that we may include them in the lunch count.

Assistant Chief Finley gave an update on our call volume for the year and a breakdown of the types of calls. The preventative maintenance on the truck is still continuing. Quint 78 has several repairs and we are waiting to complete it. Engine 80 will become a BLS truck. We will be moving the BLS status from E-77 to E-80 due to the call volumes and needs in the area. We have ordered tires for B-80 and C-80 but they also are on back order. Assistant Chief Finley also said our COVID alerts are down for the month. Donnie Freeman asked if Assistant Chief Finley was basically over all the maintenance and repairs. Chief Finley said that yes all of that was now under him.

Chief Sutherland said Fire Marshal Horn has been doing plans at the County, but they are getting ready to start doing them online. We are in the process of seeing what needs to be done so that FM Horn can complete and review plans using the new system.

Chief Sutherland said that Jessica Phillips is still waiting on Greenville County GIS to finish putting layers on the maps so that she can finish updating our response plans. We are trying to add Simpsonville in our response plans and need to make changes for us to add them.

Jennifer Adams said that the 2020 Audit is complete. Greene Finny will be here for the next meeting to review the audit with the Commissioners and review our current status with them.

Old Business

- I. Chief Sutherland apologized to everyone about the LGIP program. He was under the assumption that the money was insured and your original investment could not be lost. That is not exactly true. The monies invested in LGIP are not secured. Chief Sutherland stopped the process of opening the account with them because of the fact that the monies are not insured. Chief Sutherland said that the State statute says that we must have all of our monies in banks secured over the \$250,000 FDIC insured amount. This statute does

not include investments like LGIP. Chief Sutherland said that he talked to the director of the program (see attached). No one that has invested in the program has ever lost their initial investments. They have a formal investment policy that is what they follow at all times. They must have a minimum of 17% of the assets in the fund liquid. They only invest in top tier accounts. Several local governments in our area use the program. Chief Sutherland said he needs to know with this new information do we still want to open an account and invest with them. John Jennings said he thinks we need to talk about the new information. Donnie Freeman clarified that our money will not be guaranteed like in a bank. Chief Sutherland said that we must invest \$1000 in order to open an account. John Jennings said that he thinks we should try it but with a very low amount minimizing our risk. This will give us a chance to learn the program and see how it works. John Jennings suggested we try up to \$100,000.00 to see how it works. Donnie Freeman said he thought we should start with \$50,000.00, but if everyone else thought \$100,000.00 he was ok with that. Everyone thought that \$100,000.00 was a good place to start. Donnie Freeman motioned to invest \$100,000.00 to test the water and have a monthly report of the investment. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor.

- II. The Rescue Truck Committee has completed the equipment list. We are ready to go ahead and start the process of designing the truck. The New Rescue Truck is in the CIP and the Commissioners have voted to proceed with this plan. Chief Sutherland thinks due to the fact this is a large purchase he thinks the Board needs to vote to allow the Committee to proceed. By starting this design, we are committing to purchasing a Rescue truck with them. Chief Sutherland said that the equipment will be the most expensive part of the truck. Chief Sutherland thinks that we could design, build and equip the truck for \$800,000.00. The problem is that we have to do the design to get the final price. Jimmy Brashier asked about the details of the truck. It will be a Pierce Enforcer, which is what was recommended by the guys that currently do our maintenance on our trucks. John Jennings asked what would the price be. Chief Sutherland said that we cannot get a final price until we do this pre construction plan because the equipment will determine the lay out of the truck and that will determine the price. Donnie Freeman asked if we do the preconstruction meeting are we on the hook to purchase the truck. Chief Sutherland said that he does not know if we are 100%, but by moving forward we are giving a showing of good faith that we will buy the truck when it is complete.

New Business

- I. Chief Sutherland said that we know that we need a new Platform and a new Rescue. We had Brad Love, our attorney, draw up a resolution that would allow us to reimburse ourselves the cost of the Platform and Equipment when we do the financing on the Rescue. Chief Sutherland thinks that we do need to finance these purchases. The current interest rate is below 1% for purchases. If we finance now when we know the rates are low, that will leave the money we were going to use to purchase these trucks with available for the future trucks we will need to purchase. We do not know what the rate will be in the future, and right now we do. This was also recommended by our Financial Advisor. We have also been advised by the County Auditor that we need have two lease purchases at all times. Chief Sutherland thinks that we need to finance the new Rescue truck and include the purchase of the new Platform and Equipment. We have to replace both of these trucks. Donnie Freeman motioned to accept the resolution that allow us to reimburse ourselves for the cost of the Platform when we finance the Rescue truck. Chief Sutherland hopes that we can replace the Rescue for \$700,000.00 to \$750,000.00. Donnie Freeman agrees that we need to keep our money in the bank if we can especially if we are earning more interest on it than we are having to pay on the loan. Assistant Chief Finley said that the interest we earn would be more that the interest we pay on the loan and he thought that is what we need to do. Donnie Freeman motioned to proceed with the process for the Rescue truck not to exceed \$800,000.00. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor. Jimmy Brashier motioned to accept the resolution to reimburse the

cost of the new Platform and Equipment when we do the financing for the new Rescue Truck. Sabrina Bedingfield seconded it. All were in favor.

- II. Chief Sutherland said we have finalized the purchase of the new Platform Truck from Johns Creek Fire Department. They are going to train us on it when we go to pick it up. We are taking three people: Lt. Garret, Lt. Blakley and FF Ricketts. They will go to be trained on it and will also be helping to pick the equipment we want for that truck. This truck is a once in a lifetime deal. Jimmy Brashier motioned to adjourn. Sabrina Bedingfield seconded it. All were in favor.

Minutes recorded by: 
Jennifer Adams, Administrative Specialist