

Minutes for the Regular Meeting on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 12:00 pm at 8305 Augusta Road Pelzer, SC 29669.

Jim Darby called the meeting to order. Jim Darby asked Donnie Freeman to open with prayer. He welcomed the guest that were in attendance.

Everyone reviewed the minutes. Sabrina Bedingfield motioned to accept the minutes. John Jennings seconded it. All were in favor.

Jennifer Adams reviewed the financial statements. Jimmy Brashier motioned to accept the financial statements. John Jennings seconded it. All were in favor.

Chief Sutherland started the Staff Report (see attached) by discussing the recent fuel price increases. All non-essential trips have been stopped. We will continue to monitor these prices and may have to make further adjustments in our operations in the future. The training tower has been held up at County Codes. There are several issues that they require clarification on. We also must put a fence around the completed tower. Chief Sutherland and Fire Marshal Horn are working with Codes to get them the items they need to get their approval. John Jennings asked if we paid anything for this project. Chief Sutherland said that we had paid an installment to the company that makes the actual training tower. John Jennings asked if that was a good idea. Chief Sutherland said that we had to pay this installment to start the project. Donnie Freeman asked if Chief thought we would have a problem getting the project approved by Codes. Chief Sutherland said that he felt that once we submitted the items requested, we will be fine and get the approval. Chief Sutherland said that he received some clarification on the new CDL requirements. There is no longer an exemption for governments. All new CDL applicants will be required to attend the 70-hour class to become a Class B driver. We could test our own people, but they would still be required to take the class. Everyone that currently has a CDL will be grandfathered in and not be required to take the class. All of our new employees will now be required to get a Class E license. The closest test center for the Class E license is in Greer. There is a class offered by the SC Fire Academy, but you must have a SC Fire Academy Instructor teach the class and we are still trying to get clarification on how the process will work. Chief Sutherland said that there will be a Travelers Rest police car parked in the parking lot. They signed a release to all liability from us so that we are not liable for any damage done to it. It will be parked on the training room side of the building. Brush 74 was placed in service on March 11. Chief Sutherland said that we had a big push on all of our social media accounts, and had a huge response from the community. It has come to our attention that a neighboring department, Friendship Fire Department, has a need for a brush truck in their second station. They are always willing to come when we call them. Chief Sutherland said that he does not think that we could get a lot of money for the vehicle due to the age and condition of the vehicle. Chief Sutherland recommended that we donate this vehicle to them. Donnie Freeman said he thought that was a great idea. He motioned to donate the old brush truck to Friendship Fire Department. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor. Chief Sutherland said that we are in the process of placing the old fire safety house on GovDeals to liquidate it. Platform 77 is ready to be placed in service. We will have a truck dedication ceremony on April 4, 2022 at 10 am at Station 77. Chief Sutherland welcomed our guests to attend if possible. The new Engine 77 paperwork has been completed, and the truck has been paid for. The Rescue 80 truck committee went to the pre-bid meeting in Wisconsin last month. They made a few changes, but the truck is ready to be built now. Chief Sutherland said that we are currently working on a promotion ceremony to hopefully be held in May after the truck dedication. The old legacy VHF radio system that we were using before the 800 MHz finally stopped working because the power supply went out. This system is obsolete and the power supply cannot be replaced or fixed. Chief Sutherland said we will be assisting Greenville County ERT and surrounding agencies on a grain bin rescue class. It is in Piedmonts District, but this will be a large-scale event and they will need our resources to help them. There was information in your packets about upcoming SPD training and meetings for the State SPD and the local Greenville SPD. Please let Jennifer know as soon as possible if you would like to go. Chief Sutherland read an email from Kevin Blakely thanking the staff and Commission Board for allowing him to be a part of the new Platform-77 committee and setting that truck up the best for the firefighters, department and the community. Chief Sutherland said we had received a check from Greenville County for our help with the original COVID testing site. This was for the use of our vehicles and equipment as needed for decontamination at the testing site. Since it was a reimbursement for vehicles Chief asked that Jennifer

place the money in the New Apparatus Account. The Retiree and History Breakfast will be on March 23rd at 9am.

Assistant Chief Finley started the Operational Report with a review of the month's calls. Engine 80 is once again out of service. There is limited access to parts for the American LaFrance trucks, which we have been dealing with for several months. We had to order the parts from California. Rescue 80 had to be towed again due to cooling system issues. We had the hose in stock here so it is back in service. The backup generator at Headquarters did not come on for its weekly check. It was an oil sensor that needed to be replaced. The new Breathing Air Compressor is in service and the guys are all appreciative for it. Chief Finley told everyone that Jessica Phillips was still working on the set up for Active 911. They are conducting a test now with several people in our department.

Fire Marshal Horn said that we have been having a lot of training with Task Force 6 and ERT because we have a lot of employees on those teams. Training is going well for everyone. Inspections have begun for the year. There have been a lot of new plans coming through for review.

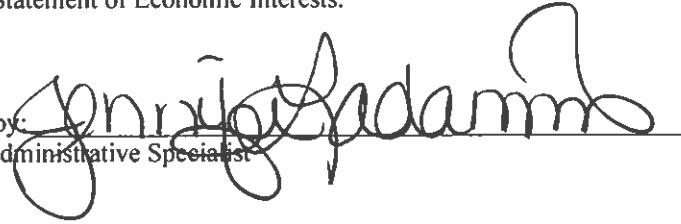
Jennifer Adams told everyone that the Audit had been completed and they were finalizing the Financial Statements. We hope to have the presented audit findings in the next meeting.

New Business

- I. Chief Sutherland said that he had been talking to Chris Harris from Spartan about the truck we just purchased. There will be a mid-year and end of year price increase at either 5% or 7%. Chief Sutherland made a spreadsheet to show these price increases on the trucks and equipment. (See attached) The CIP for FY2023 has the replacement for Engine 80. Replacing Engine 80 will liquidate all of the American LaFrance trucks. If we wait until next year to purchase this truck the 5% increases will increase the cost \$62,767.31. If the increases are 7% the cost of the truck will increase \$88,731.54. Then you must add an estimated increase of 15% which is \$10,764.00 for equipment. That will make the total cost of the truck with 5% increase to be an additional \$92,644.31. The truck will cost an additional \$118,608.54 if there is a 7% price increase. We can always order the truck now and pay for it when it arrives. John Jennings said it is obvious that there will be a price increase even if it is only 2% or 3% and we have to purchase another truck. Jimmy Brashier said that he agreed with John Jennings. Chief Sutherland said we had always paid the pre-payment to save some money, but it is not enough savings to wait until the time to purchase due to the cost increases of the trucks and equipment that we are expecting. John Jennings asked to have a price for a new truck with the new equipment prices for next meeting. Jim Darby said this will also speed up when we receive the truck, maybe by mid-year of 2023. Donnie Freeman asked if we have the money to pay for the truck when we order it. Chief Sutherland said the only thing that we would have to pay for now would be the equipment to prevent any more price increases. The equipment will be paid with the money from the New Apparatus Account, but the truck will not be paid for until the truck is received. The contract will be signed to lock in the price. Donnie Freeman asked if all of the equipment would be the same. Chief Sutherland said that it would all be the same. Our goal is to make all the trucks the same so that if a firefighter moves from one station to another, it will all be the same.
- II. Assistant Chief Finley said that we are still waiting on two sets of gear that we ordered last year. Lieutenant Garrett is working on getting prices for this year's gear order. We are trying to get price quotes before April 1st because some of the companies are having a price increase. We budgeted \$60,000.00 for gear this year. We need the Board's approval to make this purchase before the next meeting and the price increase. Jimmy Brashier motioned to spend up to the budgeted amount of \$60,000.00 to purchase bunker gear. John Jennings seconded it. All were in favor. We will not be using the same vendor that we used last year. They still owe us helmets, boots and flash hoods. Chief

Sutherland said we have given them a cut off time of April 1st. He also said that next month you will see a new line item in the Capital Account. We are going to have to start setting aside this money due to the amount of time it is taking to get items delivered. This will allow us to carry over the money from year to year and make sure that we are able to pay for everything that is ordered and do not lose the budgeted amount that is not used. Jim Darby thanked the citizens that attended the meeting and asked if they had any questions. There were none. Jimmy Brashier motioned to adjourn. Sabrina Bedingfield seconded it. All were in favor. The Commissioners stayed for a workshop on how to set up the new accounts for the SC State Ethics Commission so they could file their annual Statement of Economic Interests.

Minutes recorded by:
Jennifer Adams, Administrative Specialist

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Adams", written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.