

Minutes for the Regular Meeting on Monday, October 10, 2022, at 12:00pm at 8305 Augusta Road Pelzer, SC 29669.

Jim Darby called the meeting to order. Jim Darby asked Jimmy Brashier to open with prayer. He welcomed the public in attendance.

Everyone reviewed the minutes. John Jennings said that the agenda posted on the website had the wrong date. It had October 10th on it. Jennifer Adams apologized stating that was her mistake. John Jennings reviewed the items he said needed to be corrected and then motioned to accept the minutes from the September meeting. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor.

Jennifer Adams reviewed the Financial Statements. Jennifer stated that Chief Sutherland wanted to discuss our LGIP account. Chief Sutherland said that the Reserve Account at Southern First has approximately \$550,000.00 earned 0.08% interest, which was \$44.75, for last month. Our LGIP account that has approximately \$250,000.00 earned 0.22% interest, which was \$542.00 for last month. Chief Sutherland and Jennifer have been checking the LGIP account several times a month and it continues to do well. John Jennings brought up that when we opened the account, we did not put much money in it. We started small to test the waters so to speak. He recommended that we put more money in it. He reminded everyone that it is easy to access and we can have it transferred overnight. Chief Sutherland reminded everyone that our goal is to have \$1,000,000.00 in Reserves. Right now, between LGIP and the Reserve Account we have \$802,910.22. John Jennings recommended we move everything from the Reserve Account except \$1,000.00 to the LGIP account. Sabrina Bedingfield said that she did not think we should move that much because the money is not insured and we are taking a chance. John Jennings said the account has flexibility and we can move the money if the interest rates go down again. Donnie Freeman asked if a transfer was instant and Chief Sutherland said they were overnight. Mike Stadler asked if the LGIP was insured. Chief Sutherland explained that is not insured. It is managed by the SC Treasurer's Office. No one has ever lost money investing in it since its inception. Sabrina Bedingfield said that she did not want to move everything over. Donnie Freeman reminded everyone to think what you would do if it was your personal money. Sabrina Bedingfield motioned to move \$250,000.00 from the Southern First Reserve Account to the LGIP Account. John Jennings seconded it. All were in favor. Sabrina Bedingfield motioned to approve the Financial Statements. John Jennings seconded it. All were in favor.

Chief Sutherland presented a plaque and gift from the town of Cabral, Dominican Republic for the last truck we just sent over. Chief Graham and Chief Flowers were present for the delivery and brought back these gifts from Mayor Rafel Farris. Chief Sutherland read the interpretation of the plaque. He said he is going to find a way to display the handmade table with four chairs they sent as a thank you. This is a handmade gift and it is an honor to receive the gift. Chief Sutherland thanked the Commissioners for allowing us to donate the truck to them. It was paraded around the town the day it was received. It was in service the next and was used to extinguish a fire.

Chief Sutherland started the Staff Report (see attached) by updating everyone on the training tower. It is almost complete. Everyone is extremely excited. There were good crews that did the concrete and the boxes. Chief Sutherland said this is one of the best investments for our department and community. It will be training people for generations. Our Promotion and Award Ceremony is October 15th at Woodmont High School Auditorium at 9am. The new FM80 is here. We are just waiting on the radio to be installed to put it in service. The State SPD Conference is October 19th through October 21st. We will leave Headquarters at 11am on October 19th. On October 5th we had a structure fire off Standing Springs Road. The crews were able to save two houses on each side with minor damage. The house where the fire was had major damage due to hazardous conditions, but our guys did a great job of putting the fire out and saving surrounding dwellings.

Assistant Chief Finley started his report with the September call volume of 292 calls and a total of 2,709 for the year. Quint-78 is back in service from having an air tank replaced. Platform-77 is still waiting on the wiring harness. Rescue-80 had a bad ECM, but has been repaired and is now back in service.

Chief Sutherland reminded everyone of Sparky's Bash on October 27th from 4pm-7pm at Headquarters. The new fire safe house will be there as well as other local agencies. We have sent the information out to the schools and posted it on our social media accounts.

FM Horn said we are currently doing our annual burns at Gantt since our tower is not complete.

Communications Supervisor Jessica Phillips had no report.

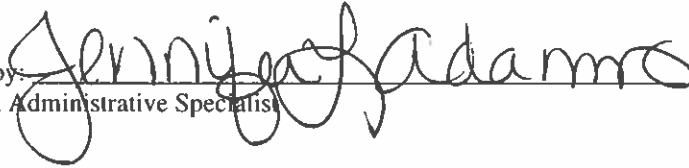
Jennifer Adams had no report.

Old Business

- I. Chief Sutherland gave a copy of the proposed FY2023 Budget to everyone. (See Attached) It has been updated with the actual cost of the 2023 Workers Comp of \$121,693.00 from the quotes we received. We did have a decrease on that item. Chief Sutherland asked if the Board wanted him to go line by line again or just discuss any items there are questions or changes with. Jim Darby said that we could just discuss the items that people wanted to address. He reminded everyone that discussion must be done in open session. Everyone was good with just having a discussion. Donnie Freeman asked if they were going to discuss the payroll issues from last meeting. Jim Darby said that we can only discuss that in Executive Session if we are discussing one person, therefore it must be discussed in open session. There was discussion about the payroll line item. It includes all the items that were discussed last meeting like salaries, retirement, FICA, promotions, new hires, etc. Chief Sutherland pointed out the only thing that is not included is hospitalization insurance. Jim Darby said that the Executive Session that is on the agenda is for the discussion of the salary for the Fire Chief. Jennifer Adams said there was an amount in there for that position which is what Mr. Darby told her to put in there. John Jennings verified that all the changes discussed before were included in that number. Donnie Freeman asked again could it not be discussed in Executive Session. Jim Darby clarified that Executive Session for personnel issues must be for one employee, not a group. There was clarification that the budget does not have to be approved until the November meeting so it can be properly advertised for the Public Hearing in December. Donnie Freeman asked about the breakup of the salaries, FICA, and Retirement. Chief Sutherland said about 70% is Salaries, 7.5% is FICA, and 20.2% is Retirement. John Jennings asked about a Christmas Bonus this year. Chief Sutherland said that the End of Year Bonus of \$750.00 for 2022 was set in last year's payroll budget so it is taken care of this year. Donnie Freeman verified that it will go out before the Thanksgiving Holiday for Black Friday shopping. Sabrina Bedingfield verified that we did ask for a millage increase this year and part of that was to help increase our salaries. Chief Sutherland said that we did list that as a reason for the increase because our salaries are still behind other departments in our area. John Jennings said that we do not have to use it all for that, but we do need to use some of it for that reason. Jim Darby asked if there was any more discussion about the 2023 Budget. Hearing none, John Jennings motioned to approve the 2023 Budget as presented to be advertised in The Journal on November 30 and December 7, 2022. Our Public Hearing will be on December 12th at 5:00pm at Headquarters with our Regular Meeting to follow. Sabrina Bedingfield seconded it. John Jennings, Sabrina Bedingfield and Jimmy Brashier were in favor of the motion. Donnie Freeman was against it. Jim Darby thanked everyone for their input in the discussion.
- II. Jennifer Adams asked everyone if they had any questions or issues with the Anti-Fraud Policy that was presented last month. There were no changes made. Jimmy Brashier motioned to approve the policy as presented. John Jennings seconded it. All were in favor.

III. Jimmy Brashier motioned to go into Executive Session. Sabrina Bedingfield seconded it. All were in favor. Sabrina Bedingfield motioned to come out of Executive Session. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor. No motions were made after Executive Session. Sabrina Bedingfield motioned to adjourn. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor.

Minutes recorded by:
Jennifer L. Adams, Administrative Specialist

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer L. Adams", written over a horizontal line.