

Minutes for a Regular Meeting on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 12:00 pm at 8305 Augusta Road Pelzer, SC 29669.

Sabrina Bedingfield asked Jim Darby to open with prayer. Sabrina Bedingfield welcomed all of our guests.

Everyone reviewed the minutes. Jim Darby motioned to approve the minutes. John Jennings seconded it. All were in favor.

Everyone reviewed the Financial Statements. Jennifer Adams reviewed the Check Report. John Jennings motioned to approve the Financial Statements as presented. Jim Darby seconded it. All were in favor.

Chief Sutherland started the staff reports; The concrete at Headquarters and Station 74 has been completed. We now have the Certificate of Occupancy for the Training Tower. The two new Tahoes are still at Campbell Brown and will be there for a few more weeks. We have new Rescue 80 back and are finishing up putting the last of the equipment on it. We are hoping to do the Dedication Ceremony the week of April 4th through April 9th. Chief Sutherland will send out more information once everything is confirmed. Our department pictures will be Mach 22nd through March 24th. They will start each morning at 8:30 and end probably around 9:30 each morning. There will probably be a makeup day set up if you cannot be there. We had to have a tree cut down at Station 77. We will be sending the old Rescue 80 to get it fixed after the new Rescue 80 goes in service. We are worried that the parts will be hard to find since it is an American LaFrance. Anderson Brothers will be fixing it and they have recently fixed one, so they think they may know where to get most of the parts. Chief Sutherland has asked them to not paint the doors unless they absolutely have to so the paint color will not look different. Once all of the work is complete; we will list the truck with Brindlee Mountain for sale. We will ask them again for help setting the price.

Assistant Chief Finley said that Quint-78 parts for the air compressor are here. It will go to Spartan after the PM is completed on Platform 77. Engine 77 will need to go to Spartan for them to do research to try to find the best way to fix it. It will not run correctly in pump mode. The skid unit for the brush truck has been ordered and it has a delivery time of sixteen to twenty weeks. We have received everything from this year's gear order, but the coat and pants. John Jennings asked if they gave an estimated delivery time when it was ordered. Assistant Chief Finley said that they originally said three to six months. All of the SCBA testing is complete and all of them passed. The yearly aerial and ground ladder testing has been set up. It should be sometime in April or May. They will let us know for sure.

Fire Marshal Horn said that South Greenville Fire District is hosting five fire academy classes in February and March. He said that Deputy Fire Marshal Lathem is doing business inspections. While he is doing them, he is working on some address issues we have with several businesses.

Chief Sutherland said that Communications Supervisor Jessica Phillips asked him to report that everyone had completed their APCO-FIRE training. She also attended a County Wide training about Active Shooter Responses. The County is going to provide all PSAPs a radio that will keep everyone off the main channel the event is taking place on, but still have access to communicate with all jurisdictions. John Jennings asked if we have issued bullet proof vests to our guys, Chief Sutherland said that we have several on Battalion 80 and Quint 78. He is looking into plate carriers, but they are expensive.

Administrative Specialist Jennifer Adams said the onsite work for the Audit has been completed. It must be completed by the end of June, but she hopes it will be sooner. Once she gets the date, she will set up for them to come to the Commissioner's meeting for their review.

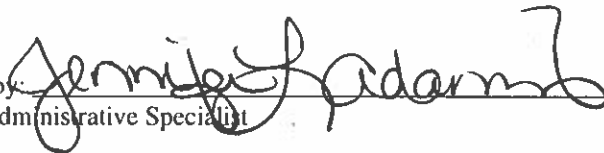
Assistant Chief Joel Finley said our call volume for February was 225 calls. That puts us at 480 for the year. We will also be hosting Fire Academy classes the week of March 27 through April 1.

New Business

- I. John Jennings said that he knows that we have discussed this previously, but with our guys being able to retire so young with their years of service we need to try to find a way

to provide health insurance to them. This will keep them from having to work just for health insurance once they retire. This would be for new retirees, not the ones that have already retired. He said we need to find a way for them to get it at a reduced price or something. He wanted to bring it up and plant the seed in everyone's mind to think about. Chief Sutherland said that all of the local departments as well as the South Carolina Firefighters' Association have been trying to fix this for the last ten to fifteen years. For some reason getting things done for firefighters in this state is not easy. Two years ago, they passed the Firefighter Cancer bill, but it has so many stipulations that it is hard to qualify for. Last year they finally recognized that PTSD is a real medical issue for firefighters. John Jennings said that he wants us to start pushing and trying to get something done. Chief Sutherland said that he knows that we cannot currently cover retirees on our Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance. The staff is looking into and researching the State Health Plan. We have reached out for a meeting with them and have looked at some of the information available on the website. He had Jennifer Adams compare the cost of the current insurance to the Employee and Employer to the cost of the State Health Plan for the Employee and Employer and this is much more costly. That State also dictates the price for both the employee and the employer. He has also been told there is an accounting rule guideline that says that we have to have money in the bank to cover the premiums for the future. Sabrina Bedingfield said that maybe we can start working on a First Responder plan that will include Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement Officers. Maybe we can get the State involved if we try to do it for all types of First Responders. Lynn Ballard said that now would be a good time to bring that up with the State Delegation. John Jennings asked if Chief Sutherland would bring it up at the next Greenville County Fire Chiefs' Association meeting. Chief Sutherland said if you want to include everyone, he will have to get in touch with the right people at those other agencies first to see if they were interested. He will also talk to the current President of the State Firefighters' Association to see if he will get involved. John Jennings and Sabrina Bedingfield told him to set up a meeting with them. Chief Sutherland said he would work on it. John Jennings motioned to adjourn. Jim Darby seconded it. All were in favor.

Minutes recorded by _____
Jennifer Adams, Administrative Specialist

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