

Minutes for a Regular Meeting on Monday, April 10, 2023, at 12:00 pm at 8305 Augusta Road Pelzer, SC 29669.

Sabrina Bedingfield asked John Jennings to open with prayer. Donnie Freeman was absent.

Everyone reviewed the minutes. John Jennings motioned to approve the minutes with changes. Jimmy Brashier 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. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor.

Chief Sutherland started the staff reports; The Greenville County SPD meeting is April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Belmont Fire Department. Please let Jennifer know by the end of the day if you plan to attend. The State SPD Training on May 18<sup>th</sup> is in Columbia and we will probably leave Headquarters around 7:00 am if you want to ride together. The New Rescue 80 has been put in service. We will have a Dedication Service for it and the new Training Tower on April 19, 2023, at 10:00 am at the Training Tower. Old Rescue 80 is at Anderson Brothers in Piedmont for repairs. In the packets there was a thank you letter from Jim Johnson, the President of Pierce, for our recent truck purchase. We did our lighting and efficiency upgrade this year at Headquarters. All of the bay lights have been changed out to LED's. We also put up cord reels in the first three bays. Our portable radios will be coming up for an upgrade in the next few years. The Greenville County Fire Chiefs, Association is working with Greenville County to try to get funding for all departments. If they do not help cover the cost, it will be an estimated cost of \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00. Both of the new Tahoes are here and were placed in service last Tuesday. Car 80 had some codes and we are in the process of getting them fixed. It has to do with the rear air conditioning controls. April 9<sup>th</sup> – April 16<sup>th</sup> is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. We will be highlighting our Telecommunicators this week. Chief Sutherland thanked our Community Risk Reduction Team, that includes Terry Thomas, Jessica Phillips, Paul Horn, Jeremy Lathem, Ethan Schroll, and Kadance Kidd, on being recognized as a Fire Safe South Carolina Community. They will be in the next meeting to give a review of their Community Risk Reduction Program. We will be hosting a Pump Ops I Class for the South Carolina Fire Academy April 24<sup>th</sup> through April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Assistant Chief Finley said we ran 290 calls in March. That brings the total for the year to 770. Quint 78 air compressor parts are here and the parts for Platform 77 are here. We will send them to Spartan to be fixed after ladder testing is completed at the end of this week.

Chief Sutherland brought up that he had to order a larger fire proof safe for to have in place to keep fire investigation information. We still have a small amount of money in the account at The Commercial Bank of \$1,764.24 so that we can keep our safe deposit box there. We have to have two people to go in the box in order to get anything and it only contains our vehicle titles. Chief Sutherland recommended moving the items in the safe deposit box to our new safe and closing that account with them. We have not used it in several years except to pay for the safe deposit box. John Jennings motioned to close the safe deposit box and the account at The Commercial Bank as Chief Sutherland recommended. Jimmy Braisher seconded it. All were in favor. Chief Sutherland also told everyone that Family Fun Day will be on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Headquarters 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend. It will be similar to last year's event.

#### Old Business

- I. Chief Sutherland said that we are still looking in to different ways to offer retiree insurance that was introduced by John Jennings at the last meeting. We have looked into the State Health Plan that would allow retirees to remain on the plan, but there are some negatives to joining that plan. We would have to pay more money and would be losing benefits. The rates are mandated by the state for what you have to pay as an employer and employee. We are looking for a different option. Greenville County is self-insured and we cannot join them. If we go to the State Health Plan, we will also have to have money in the bank so that we would be able to cover future premiums. We are not sure

how much that would be yet and are still gathering information about the process. Chief Sutherland and Assistant Chief Finley attended Legislative Day in Columbia last week. State Legislators are aware of the issue and are working on a solution, but it is a process. It has been looked at for years by the State, but it will be expensive and no one wants to pay for it, so State Legislation can not get anything done. Chief Sutherland will keep everyone informed as we get more information.

#### New Business

- I. Chief Sutherland said that the staff has been discussing the liquidation of fixed assets since our new trucks have been coming in and being put in service. We are looking for permission to liquidate the following items with the recommended services: Old Rescue 80 will be placed with Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus once it is repaired and they will help set a price. Haz-Mat 78 has a slipping transmission and after some inquiries to fixing, Chief Sutherland thinks that it is best to sell it as is. We will sell it with Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus for about \$15,000.00. The Special Operations trailer and Gator are going to be repurposed. We will list the old Brush 73 on GovDeals.com because it is a pickup truck and this will allow others to purchase it. Old Engine 77 will be sold with Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus after all of the others have been sold. John Jennings motioned to allow Chief Sutherland to liquidate the recommended trucks by the recommended sellers. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor.
- II. Assistant Chief Finley said that the Truck Committee which includes Adam Garrison, Aaron Gasque, and Garrett Ricketts has finished the specs for the new Engine 75. They used recommendations from the guys that are stationed at Station 75 to make changes that will help in that area. This is actually the first time that South Greenville Fire District has built a truck that is specific for that area. The truck has more water on it as well as other things to help it respond to the calls in that area. There is a chance if the truck is approved today, it will be able to get in a Build My Pierce slot before the new emissions guidelines go into effect and will only take twenty-five to twenty-seven months to complete. The cost for the truck and equipment is \$874,177.00 using HGAC pricing (See Attached). John Jennings motioned to purchase the truck as presented. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor.
- III. The furniture in the training room has been used since this side of the building was completed in 2007. We will be using the training room more with our new training tower. Fire Marshal Horn has found new furniture that would be better for the learning environment. The money to pay for it would come from the Training Facility fund in the Capital Account. The cost for ten tables and thirty chairs including shipping and taxes is \$11,391.45 from Uline (See Attached). Jimmy Brashier motioned to accept the quote as presented for the tables and chairs for the Training Room. John Jennings seconded it. All were in favor. John Jennings motioned to adjourn. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor.

Minutes recorded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer L. Adams, Administrative Specialist