

Minutes for the Regular Meeting on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 12:00 pm at 8305 Augusta Road Pelzer, SC 29669.

Jim Darby called the meeting to order and asked Bubba Bagwell to open the meeting with prayer. The meeting began with the election of officers for 2024. It was all completed by secret ballot. The first ballot was for nominations for Chairman. There were three nominations: Jimmy Brashier, Jim Darby and John Jennings. After the vote, there was a tie between Jimmy Brashier and Jim Darby for Chairman. The final vote for Chairman was for Jim Darby. The second ballot was for Vice Chairman. There were two nominations: John Jennings and Jimmy Brashier. The final vote for Vice Chairman was Jimmy Brashier.

Chief Sutherland asked that the agenda be amended to include an Executive Session: Personnel - Employment, Compensation, Promoting, Demoting, or Discipline. John Jennings motioned to amend the agenda. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor.

Chairman Darby asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes. John Jennings motioned to approve the January minutes. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor.

The Financial Reports were presented and reviewed. Lynn Ballard from the audience asked Chairman Darby if he could ask a question. Chairman Darby allowed the question from the floor. He asked if South Greenville was prepared for the radio upgrade cost that would be coming up this year. Chief Sutherland said that yes, we had budgeted to cover to cost of the upgrades, and with Greenville County covering some of the cost it was be less than originally planned. Bubba Bagwell motioned to approve the Financial Reports. John Jennings seconded it. All were in favor.

Chief Sutherland started the staff report by updating everyone that the annual gear order was sized on February 7th and 8th and the order is in the process of being finalized and ordered. The nozzles and hose that were approved last meeting have been ordered. The two F-250s have also been ordered and should be arriving in May. In the last Greenville County SPD meeting there was some discussion about annexation and ways to stop it. We have reached out to Teresa Cawley, our Financial Advisor, and have a phone conference with her on Wednesday morning at 9 am to discuss debt that could deter annexation and get more information about that potential process. We also know that incorporation can stop it, but the fire department would not be the ones to do that. It would have to be a citizen group from the community. In our next meeting, we hope to have information to give from Teresa.

Assistant Chief Finley said that we have Engine 77A currently having the PM being completed as well as some brake issues fixed. Engine 73 is at WW Williams having some warranty work done on the transmission. Our call volume for January was 267. This is on track for us to have around 3,200 calls again this year.

Jennifer Adams said that when she called to do a wire transfer from Southern First to LGIP when our tax money came in, Southern First offered to give us a new account with an interest rate comparable to the interest rate we have with LGIP. When we moved our money last year, Southern First could not offer us an account like this. They gave us no guarantee or term for the rate only that it would be comparable with LGIP, but the rate they offered was a little less. LGIP was 5.6% and they offered 5.25%. John Jennings said they were not offering as good as we have at LGIP and we really do not know how long it will last. He said they are not offering us what we can currently get. John Jennings motioned to leave our money in LGIP to earn the best available interest rates. Bubba Bagwell seconded it. All were in favor.

Fire Mashal Horn went to a Trench Class in Florida last week. He gave a summary of the class and said it completely changes the way you handle trench rescues. He is hoping to get ERT to host the class in Greenville County sometime soon and if so, get some more of our people in it. He said that it was completely new way of doing trench rescue that we need to be doing in our area.

Communication Supervisor Jessica Phillips said that on February 5th we started the migration from ER to ESO. There are seven people on the committee and they have begun working on transferring information

over. The go live date on the new system is May 1st. There will be training for everyone starting soon to get ready.

New Business

- I. Chief Sutherland gave his review of 2023 (see attached). He reviewed the 2023 budget. Our income was good, but we always budget for our income to be conservative. We received more in bank interest than expected, but that money is going back into New Apparatus line item to help us pay for trucks. We went over on some expenses, but we were also under on a lot of expenses. Buildings and Grounds went way over, but we had to fix the things that were broken. We did up Building and Grounds for 2024. We also did not put a FEMA grant in the 2024 Budget because we are not likely to get one. Chief Sutherland also reviewed the updated Balance Sheet. He reviewed the completed projects from the 2023 CIP, the planned and started projects from the 2024 CIP and the planned projects for 2025 CIP. He also told everyone there was an updated Fleet Sheet for everyone to review and let him know if they have any questions. Assistant Chief Finley reviewed the calls for 2023 going down to 3,200 and they also went down overall in dispatch. Chief Finley thinks that this is due to a decline in medical calls from COVID.
- II. There was a quote in the packet from Safe Industries, who is the sole vendor for our air packs due to the warranty, for our annual flow test. There was a line item in the budget for the test and we must do them every year. Jimmy Brashier motioned to accept the quote from Safe Industries for the annual flow test. Bubba Bagwell seconded it. All were in favor.
- III. Chief Sutherland included in the packet the information for the cost of the upgrade to make his Tahoe mirror Battalion 80 so it can be used as Battalion 76 when we add that officer later this year. It is mostly for the cost of the cabinet to hold the bunker gear and air pack. It also includes the light bar and striping to make the cars look the same. This was included in the 2024 Budget. Jimmy Brashier motioned to accept Chief Sutherland's recommendation. Bubba Bagwell seconded it. All were in favor. Terry Creamer asked if the cabinet would be transferable in the future. Chief Sutherland said yes that it would be.
- IV. Jimmy Brashier motioned to go int to Executive Session for Personnel. John Jennings seconded it. All were in favor. John Jennings motioned to come out of Executive Session. Terry Creamer seconded it. No motions were made after Executive Session. John Jennings motioned to adjourn. Terry Creamer seconded it. All were in favor.

Minutes recorded by:
Jennifer Adams, Administrative Specialist

