

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

Jim Darby called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Chairman Darby asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes. Bubba Bagwell motioned to approve the June minutes. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor.

The Financial Reports for June were presented and reviewed. Terry Creamer motioned to approve them. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor. The July Financial Reports were presented and reviewed. Jimmy Brashier motioned to approve them. Bubba Bagwell seconded it. All were in favor.

Chief Sutherland told everyone that the staff was working on the FY 2025 Budget to present in September to the Board. If there are any known requests, please make them now. Chief told everyone for informational purposes that due to the amount of vehicle maintenance issues we have had so far this year, we have already spent \$168,000.00 out of \$125,000.00 that was budgeted for vehicle maintenance. We have made Budget for the year though, so we will continue to repair and service the vehicles as needs arise. Battalion 76 is working out very well as planned and designed. There have been multiple calls where both battalion vehicles were out on calls on different ends of the district at the same time. Car 80A air conditioning went out and has been dropped off at McCoy Ford in Honea Path for repair. The LGIP newsletter was included in your packet for your review. SC Task Force 6 was deployed on August 6 for Hurricane Debby. Captain Nations was present to give an update to the Board on their deployment. He first thanked the Commission Board for allowing our guys to go. The mobilization was successful. The first night there was a tornado that hit the area where some of our guys were located. There was also extreme flooding in the area. At one point they had to evacuate 47 people from one area. It was a success due to the fact that there were no injuries and everyone was rescued safely. This is the seventeenth year that we have set up in the school zones for the start of school. This year we started "Operation Fire Start" where we went to the schools for the first day of school to wish all the children a great first day with a fist bump and a fire safety bracelet. This was a huge success lead by Lieutenant Terry Thomas and our CRR Team.

Assistant Chief Finley said Engine 76A is currently at Spartan being checked out. Engine 75 had several water leaks that parts had to be ordered for and the intake heater had to be replaced. During radio programming Brush 74's battery died and had to be replaced. Engine 75A had to get a new water pump and belt. Station 73 had a blockage in the septic tank drain line. The pipe had to be repaired, but fortunately it was outside the station. Engine 77A had to have the coolant hoses and oil lines replaced and alignment done. Engine 80A started had some issues starting and ended up with batteries replaced and a new starter. Quint 76 had several issues with the motor and transmission. We received an LEPC grant we applied for to get 3 gas monitors and we now have gas monitors on all of our front-line engines. The calls for June were 257 and for July were 277. That brings the year-to-date total to 1,889.

Jennifer Adams said that LGIP earned \$31,199.94 in interest for the month of June with an Average Interest Rate of 5.516% and \$29,436.12 in interest for the month of July with an Average Interest Rate of 5.5009%. The Special Purpose District Conference will be October 16 through October 18, 2024 at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach, SC. Please let Jennifer know by August 16 if you will be attending, so that she can make reservations.

Old Business

- I. Chief Sutherland said that last year we discussed reprogramming the radios at a cost of about \$24,000.00. We thought that Greenville County would pick up and pay for part of the programming but we were not sure. They came last week to do the reprogramming. Everything went smoothly. We are expecting to pay \$12,946.45 after Greenville County pays their portion, but will not know for sure until we get the invoice. Jessica Phillips went in advance and did a lot of work so that we would not have issues when they were here. It helped everything go smoothly when they were doing the work.

New Business

- I. We have been hearing about the annexation protection we can get using 1926b with a USDA Guaranteed or Direct Loan. After discussions with Teresa Cawley and Brad Love, a guaranteed loan would be a loan for the new Engine 75 and equipment. It would have to be for \$1,000,000.00. It would be for the life of the equipment it was paying for. The Direct Loan would be for a longer term like 40 years and for a building and property. It would not only have to be approved by the Board it would also have to go through County Council and have a referendum. Teresa Cawley is retiring at the end of August and Andy Smith with First Tryon will be taking over all of Teresa's accounts. There is a lot of work to get these types of loans because the USDA is backing them. You can not get the protection from the annexation until the loan has closed and the equipment is in use, so the best thing for us to do is a loan to pay for new Engine 75 and add equipment to make to total \$1,000,000.00. We are getting a list of equipment together that would outfit each engine to become more self-sustainable on multiple types of calls. This would include some extrication equipment and smaller tools. This will allow them to have some equipment to handle small stuff in house instead of having to call the rescue truck for most calls. Bubba Bagwell motioned to proceed with a USDA Guaranteed Loan for Engine 75 and equipment with First Tryon. Terry Creamer seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- II. Now that all of the radios have been reprogrammed, we as a county fire service can work towards having automatic alerting integrated with them. This will allow the dispatcher time to get information from the caller while the trucks are being toned out by computer. It sends out all the stations at one time so it reduces dispatch times. When we moved to the 800 MHz system, we had to use a pager hooked up to an amplifier at each station to alert the shift personnel. By adding mobile radios with power supplies to each of our stations (see attached), we can go onto the County Purvis system for station alerting. Jimmy Brashier motioned to accept the quote as presented. Terry Creamer seconded it. Jim Darby clarified that the dispatchers would still be putting in the calls. This would allow them to stay on the phone with the initial caller.

- III. Old Station 79 in Moonville looks bad. We need to decide what we want to do with it. John Jennings asked if we were going to remodel it or add to it. Chief Sutherland said if we are it will be several years from now. We do not know if we really need a station there at that location. We have talked about making it a museum, staff offices, or a station for a truck company. The problem is we are land locked and we do not know if we can get more property around it or not. The building is very small and there is not any land to expand at that location. Jimmy Brashier motioned to table the topic until we can get more information from a realtor about the property. John Jennings seconded it. All were in favor.

Minutes recorded by:
Jennifer L. Adams, Administrative Specialist

