

Minutes for the Regular Meeting on Monday, September 9, 2024, at 12:00 pm at 8305 Augusta Road Pelzer, SC 29669.

Jim Darby called the meeting to order. Jimmy Brashier was absent. Bubba Bagwell opened with prayer.

Chairman Darby recognized Battalion Chief King, Battalion Chief Blakely, Lieutenant Klink, Captain Nations and Master Firefighter Goodman with signed proclamations from the South Greenville Fire District Board of Commissioners for their professionalism and bravery during deployment to the coast for Hurricane Debby to assist with rescue efforts. South Greenville Fire District is proud and thankful to have such well trained and professional employees that represent our department in events like this.

Chairman Darby asked if everyone had reviewed the August minutes. Bubba Bagwell motioned to accept the minutes. John Jennings seconded it. All were in favor.

The Financial Reports for August were presented and reviewed. Terry Creamer motioned to accept the Financial Reports. Bubba Bagwell seconded it. All were in favor.

Chief Sutherland reminded everyone about the department pictures that will be taken on September 16th, 17th, and 19th from 8:00 am until 9:30 am. The Commissioners need to wear their black polo shirts. The SPD conference is October 16th through 18th. We will give more information out to those attending when we get closer to the dates. We are hosting a Pump Ops class later this month. There was also a flyer included in your packet about our coat drive we are doing in conjunction with LEO Santa.

Assistant Chief Finley said Engine 76A is still being repaired. We are waiting on Hale Pump parts for Engine 75. We are working on the CIP replacement for Water Tender 74. It is currently taking twenty-four to thirty-six months for tender replacements and we hope to have something ready for the Board to vote on next month. The call volume for August was 288, bringing the year-to-date total to 2,177.

Jennifer Adams said that LGIP earned \$28,557.84 in interest with an Average Interest Rate (365) of 5.4833% for the month of August. She also reminded the ones that are attending the SPD Conference that are riding with Chief Sutherland or Assistant Chief Finley that we have an Officers' Meeting that morning and it will be around lunch time before we leave to head to the conference.

Old Business

- I. Chief Sutherland said that we had a Teams meeting that ended up becoming a conference call due to technical difficulties with Brad Love, Andy Smith and Patti Walker from UDSA. Patti Walker reviewed what we wanted to do for our project and gave us a list of information and a review of the process to get a USDA loan. The loan will be for Engine 75 and some stand-alone equipment. We will purchase the equipment once we know that the loan is approved and reimburse the department the money to avoid price increases on the equipment. We may be coming to ask the Board to do that purchase prior to the completion of the loan. We will be moving forward in the process and keep the Board updated as we move forward.

- II. Chief Sutherland said that we were not sure if we actually owned the property for Station 79 if we were no longer using it as a fire station. We had Meg Scoopmire, a Real Estate Attorney with Haynsworth, Sinkler, Boyd, review the deeds on the property for us. She said that we owned the property. Chief Sutherland contacted Frank Hammond to sell the property for us but Frank Hammond said he did not think we owned the property and produced paperwork claiming so. Chief Sutherland then reached back out to Ms. Scoopmire, but had to wait until she returned from vacation for a response. Once she returned, she went back and researched to confirm that we do indeed own the property. We purchased a piece of property to expand the original station property after the original deed was signed and this rescinded the previous deed that gave the property back to the family. We have reached back out to Frank Hammond and he is working on getting us an idea for an asking price with comps to support the price.

New Business

- I. Chief Sutherland included in your packet several sheets for you to review with information about the 2024 Budget, 2024 spending Year-to-Date, a recommended 2025 Budget and a recommended 2025 Pay Scale (see attached). Chief Sutherland started by reviewing the 2024 Budget and year-to-date spending. The income for dispatch is still short because Gantt pays quarterly and they still owe for the rest of the year. He also reminded that we only spend what we take in for Extrinsic Income and Training Income. We do have several burns set up over the next few months. The expenses are through the end of August and shows what we have left to spend for the last four months of the year. We have discussed Building and Grounds for this year already and there needs to be some repairs to the roof at Station 77 and several air conditioners replaced possibly before next year. Hospitalization Insurance Expense was hit with a high increase this year. Our Vehicle Repairs for this year have already gone over and we still have a few trucks to do the annual service on. We have been working on the 2025 Budget for several months. We are very conservative when doing our budgeting. The income portion includes an increase for dispatch with the new contracts with Gantt and Piedmont Fire Departments. The Extrinsic Income is based on the income from this year and we will only spend what we bring in. The Interest Income is based on the interest from Southern First Accounts. Our tax levy is a conservative number we estimated based on what we have received so far this year and are expecting to receive the rest of this year. We have the USDA loan listed as income, but will show the truck and equipment as Capital Purchases in Expenses. This is a new GASB requirement for auditing purposes. On the Expenses, we did increase Building and Grounds. We also split out the expense for Commissioners for the SPD Conferences, Meals and Uniforms this year. We did increase New Fire Equipment due to some things that we need to purchase. We did increase Hospitality Expense due to the number of and cost of retiree dinners we have had this year. Under Personnel, we added Class A uniforms which has been paid by One Percent Fund in the past. It also includes Employee Screening to cover the cost of New Hire Screenings for new employees. We still are not sure about

Hospitalization Insurance. We hope to have a better idea about it by next meeting. Payroll Expense includes three new firefighters for the second half of the year, an eight percent cost of living raise for everyone starting January, which is reflected in the new Pay Scale, adding three District Chiefs in July, a staff position for either a training officer or mechanic (yet to be determined), \$1,500 for EMT's and Paramedics and a \$1,000 end of year bonus. The truck payment associated with the USDA loan is highlighted because we do not know that amount yet, but we wanted to put a number in there so we kept the number from the loan from 2024. We did increase Vehicle Repairs to a more realistic number of \$250,000 based on what we expect to spend for this year after all the repairs and services for the year. The Capital Expense items for the year include Brush 80 upfit, Car 80 and Car 80A replacement, and Special Operations Hazmat Trailer. This will repurpose the current Car 80 to Brush 80 and Car 80A to Squad 76. Chief Sutherland asked the Commissioners to take this version of the 2025 Budget to review and make changes to for the month and come back with any questions, changes and/or suggestions at the October meeting. Bubba Bagwell motioned to adjourn. Terry Creamer seconded it. All were in favor.

Minutes recorded by: 
Jennifer L. Adams, Administrative Specialist