

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. Notice of this meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted online, at 8305 Augusta Road, Pelzer, and made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Minutes for a Regular Meeting on Monday, June 9, 2025, 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. Jim Darby thanked all of our visitors in attendance today. Jim Darby recognized Lynn Ballard to share information he had. Lynn Ballard told the Board that legislation had been introduced to expand all Boards of Special Purpose Districts to seven people.

Jim Darby asked if everyone had time to review the minutes from the May Regular Meeting. Jimmy Brashier motioned to accept the minutes. Terry Creamer seconded it. All were in favor.

The Financial Reports were presented and reviewed. Jennifer Adams said that LGIP closed out the month of May earning \$38,813.80 in interest at an Average Interest Rate (365) of 4.4907%. It is still currently earning the best rates compared to others. Our Audit is not complete due to Greenville County not being able to provide updated information to Greene, Finney Cauley, LLP to verify our tax collections for the Auditor and Treasurer. The audit cannot be finalized until after these numbers are verified. This is an issue for all departments needing this information and they will come to present to the Board once the information has been received. The dates for the State SPD Conference will be October 15th -October 17th at the Kingston Plantation at Myrtle Beach. Please check these dates and let Jennifer know if you are going to go so she can reserve the rooms once they become available. John Jennings motioned to accept the Financial Reports. Bubba Bagwell seconded it. All were in favor.

Chief Finley started the Chief's report by reminding everyone that Family Day is June 21st at Headquarters from 4pm until 6pm. Chief Finley said we have closed on the property at 8408, 8410 and 8412 Augusta Road. We are waiting on the title and the survey so we can get everything put into one address. The Phase II Environmental work is being completed now for the property at 40 Old Augusta Road. We still have June 20th as an anticipated closing date. ISO came in on June 6th for a new survey. Our last survey was completed in 2017. We have provided all the information they requested. They said this is the last review we will have under the current guidelines. The results may take several months to receive and Chief Finley will forward it to everyone when it is received. Chief Finley said once again this month he had someone from the public walk in to personally thank us for the care of his mother by the crew from Engine 78 on B-shift of Engineer John Friar and Master Firefighter Leland Bonds. He said they treated his mother with great care and professionalism. We also received a letter from Corporal Clark from South Carolina Highway Patrol thanking our department for our professionalism on a scene that he responded to (see attached).

Deputy Chief Harbert started his report with the call volume. There were 313 calls in May and the total year to date is 1,607. Quint 76 is currently in service and an appointment has been made to fix the aerial cradle. Spartan is also waiting on parts for some other repairs that need to be made. Highwater 80 is back in service. Squad 76 and Brush 75 both went to the Manic Mechanic for repairs and have been returned and are back in service. Platform 77 is having engine communication issues and has been sent to Spartan for diagnostics. Engine 74 has been sent to Spartan for the annual preventative maintenance. The ice machine at Station 76 had to be replaced after it was attempted to be repaired. Station 76 had two bay doors stop working. They could not be repaired and had to be replaced. Since three of the four door openers have broken in the past six months, we decided to replace the three remaining door openers. Best Overhead Door gave the best price to replace all three at the same time.

New Business

- I. Chief Finley said that we put a new line item in the 2025 Budget for Health and Wellness. We have a committee that has evaluated the equipment at all of the stations. They have made a list of the items needed to have all of the same basic equipment at each station. There were three quotes presented in your packets. This will be an ongoing project throughout the year. Freedom Fitness gave the best quote on the items listed we need to purchase. Bubba Bagwell motioned to approve the recommendation to purchase the equipment as presented and recommended by the committee. John Jennings seconded it. All were in favor.
- II. Jimmy Brashier motioned to go into Executive Session for Personnel – Employment, Compensation, Promotion, Demotion, or Discipline. Bubba Bagwell seconded it. John Jennings motioned to come out of Executive Session. Jimmy Brashier Seconded it. All were in favor. No motions were made after Executive Session. John Jennings motioned to adjourn. Bubba Bagwell seconded it. All were in favor.

Minutes recorded by:

Jennifer L. Adams, Administrative Specialist



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Minutes for a Workshop on Friday, June 13, 2025, at 10:30 am at 8305 Augusta Road, Pelzer, SC 29669.

Jim Darby called the workshop to order. Bubba Bagwell was absent. Rhonda Watson from McGriff Insurance Services was present to discuss employee insurance. This workshop was for information purposes only. No action was taken.

Minutes recorded by: 
Jennifer L. Adams, Administrative Specialist

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. Notice of this meeting date, time, place and agenda was posted online, at 8305 Augusta Road, Pelzer, and made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Minutes for a Special Meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 5:00 pm at 8305 Augusta Road, Pelzer, SC 29669.

Jim Darby called the meeting to order and asked Bubba Bagwell to pray. Jim Darby thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. There were a lot of employees and community members present. John Wofford from McGriff Insurance was also present for questions. Jim Darby told everyone that there would be an opportunity for questions, but he wanted to open the meeting with an explanation of what had taken place the last few weeks.

New Business

- I. Health Insurance – Our health insurance renewal is effective August 1 every year. This year we received an increase on both plans. One plan was over 50% increase and the other was over 40% increase. With what we are currently paying that would be about a \$200,000.00 increase for this year and another \$350,000.00 plus for next year. We usually hear about our renewal in late May and have our open enrollment in July. Since we received the renewal, we have been going through the process of shopping the current census with other carriers. This does take time and we had to wait for their reply. John Wofford from McGriff explained that we have had a lot of high claims with Blue Cross Blue Shield over the last twelve months. He explained that we had a 205% loss ratio over the last year with Blue Cross Blue Shield and they were not willing to negotiate our price increases. This means that for every dollar we pay Blue Cross Blue Shield, they are spending \$2.05 out in claims. They are a business that is for profit. They have determined that the only way to continue doing business with us was the large price increase. We are now a large group, which means over fifty people, and the rates are determined by claims. There is nothing we can do about that. McGriff shopped our current census with five major companies. United Healthcare was the only company that offered to give us a quote. There were a lot of questions about the different options that offer insurance including the State Health Plan. These questions were all addressed. There were questions about the financial state of the department and why the District would not use other monies to cover the increase since we appear to be liquid. There were questions about the recent purchase of property we made. There were questions about the current budget and how FILOT changes could affect our District directly. There were questions about the way the renewal had been handled. In the conclusion it was stated that the guys should feel like they can come to anyone and ask questions about current issues that are being discussed. The current Board is doing their best to be transparent in everything they do. Their goal is to do what is best for everyone from the employees to the constituents in the District. The goal is to try to keep everyone happy, but in some cases that is not possible. The Board has had time to review the information from United Healthcare and look at the different options available for the health insurance. They have also had a workshop with McGriff to answer questions they had about the renewal and other insurance options. John Jennings motioned to change the health insurance to United Healthcare. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor. Bubba Bagwell motioned to offer the EJ9N plan and the Surest FA7000 plans from United Healthcare. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor. Jimmy Brashier motioned to have the District pay 80% of

the premiums for the Surest Plan and the employee pay the remainder of the premiums on each plan. John Jennings seconded it. All were in favor. John Jennings motioned to adjourn. Bubba Bagwell seconded it. All were in favor.

Minutes recorded by:

Jennifer L. Adams, Administrative Specialist

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jennifer L. Adams", written over a horizontal line.