

*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, September 8, 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 with prayer. John Jennings was absent.

Jim Darby asked if everyone had time to review the minutes from the August meetings. Bubba Bagwell motioned to accept the minutes. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor.

The Financial Reports were presented and reviewed. Jennifer Adams said that LGIP closed out the month of August earning \$30,949.41 in interest at an Average Interest Rate (365) of 4.4572%. Jennifer Adams told everyone that we had submitted the pre-application for the USDA loan. It is going through the review process and as of right now, they have not asked for any more information. She will pass along any updates she receives. Jimmy Brashier motioned to accept the Financial Reports as presented. Bubba Bagwell seconded it. All were in favor.

Deputy Chief Finley started the Chief's report by stating that we have an Aerial Ops class this September 24<sup>th</sup> – September 26<sup>th</sup> at HQ. There were 264 calls in August and the total year to date is 2,482. The repairs to the aerial cradle on Quint 76 have been completed. Engine 78 is having the preventative maintenance done on it at Spartan. Platform 77 is having electrical issues. Spartan is working with Pierce to try to resolve the problem.

Chief Harbert started his report stating that we went to the Greenville County Finance Committee requesting to continue our current millage of 42.5 mills. The Finance Committee approved it. It will be sent to the full County Council for approval. We do not foresee any problems with this process since there is no request for an increase.

#### Old Business

- I. In May of 2023 the Board voted to purchase the new Engine 75 for \$874,177.00. We have purchased and paid \$113,130.97 for equipment that we have already received. We now need to pay the balance of \$761,046.03 when the truck arrives from the funds in the New Apparatus Account in LGIP. We are expecting this truck to arrive within the next month. Bubba Bagwell motioned to use \$761,046.03 from the New Apparatus Account in LGIP to pay the balance for the new Engine 75 when it arrives and we are invoiced for it as approved in May 2023. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor.

#### New Business

- I. Chief Harbert told everyone in their packet there was information from Southern First Bank about a new credit card program that we qualify for (see attached). We have not been able to replace the credit cards with Arthur State Bank due to the fact they want us to make a large deposit with their bank in order to replace cards or increase the credit limits. We currently only have two credit cards with them with a total of \$7,500.00 credit. Southern First has a new unsecured credit card program that we qualify for due to our current relationship with the bank. We propose to have a total credit limit of \$50,000.00 with seven cards. The following is the recommendations for the new cards: Fire Chief - \$10,000.00, Deputy Chief of Operations \$10,000.00, Chairman of the Board - \$10,000.00, Administrative Specialist (District Card) - \$5,000.00, District Chiefs - \$2,000.00. This would allow

the District Chiefs to make purchases on the weekends if needed and the District Card would be sent with people that go out of town for classes and training for meals and incidentals. The new cards would follow our current credit card policy and we would have the same internal controls we currently have with the Arthur State Bank cards. The Arthur State Bank Cards would be cancelled and the Southern First Cards would replace them. We would also start to phase out the use of the Purchasing Account cards also. Bubba Bagwell clarified that each District Chief would receive a card. Chief Harbert said yes to avoid having to transfer cards continuously. Jimmy Brashier motioned to accept the proposed change to Southern First Credit Cards as presented. Terry Creamer seconded it. All were in favor. Jennifer Adams said that she had paperwork for everyone to sign before they left.

- II. Chief Harbert said that as the new Interim Fire Chief, he had a department meeting last week with all of the members. One of his goals was to establish where we are going in the future. To do this, he felt we needed to update our Mission Statement. Chief Harbert reviewed this in the meeting with everyone and he feels there was a good response from everyone. In your packet, Chief Harbert included the current Mission Statement and the new proposed one. We wear it on our shirts and it is on our trucks. There was good feedback from them and everyone seemed to like the new Mission Statement. Chief Harbert said he hopes it helps everyone move forward together. Terry Creamer motioned to accept the new mission statement. Bubba Bagwell seconded it. All were in favor.
- III. The property that we purchased in June still needs to have some clean up on it. Terry Creamer said there are a lot of tent dwellers in the area and the cleanup needs to be done so we have a clear view of the property. Terry Creamer requested quotes from several clean up services in the area. We received three back in writing. Burdette Grading was \$39,500.00, BRS Grading was \$32,000.00 and Big Country Tree Service for \$28,500.00 (See attached). Big Country Tree Service is in our Fire District. There is hardscape that needs to be removed from the property. This does not include the removal of the house. There is not an expiration on these quotes. It would take several weeks for the work to begin. We have \$547,713.15 currently in the LGIP CIP Account. Bubba Bagwell said that we purchased this property and we need to clean it up and maintain it. This would make it easier to do this. Jimmy Braisher verified that the low quote is the business that is in our Fire District. Bubba Bagwell motioned to accept the quote from Big Country Tree Service for \$28,500.00 using money from the LGIP CIP Account to clean the property at 8410 Augusta Road. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor.
- IV. Chief Harbert said that was a preliminary FY2026 Budget in your packets. Nothing is set in stone. This is for everyone to review over the next month and come back with input and questions next month. He is going to review the major changes with everyone. On the income side, we are still waiting on new millage rate from the reassessment. That is the main reason we cannot complete the budget right now. We have a rough idea of the Tax Levy amount, but we want to wait until we get confirmation of the new millage rate and the new value of a mill before we finalize anything. We did add an Income Account at the recommendation of the auditor called Allocated Monies to allow us to show income coming from the LGIP Account for next year. On the Expense Account, we have added increases in the accounts that have or will go over this year due to cost increases like power and natural gas. We did not put a payroll number in yet due to the fact that we are still finalizing promotions and we are waiting to see what the income will be for next year. For Capital Expenses for 2026, there will be an increase in the price of Bunker Gear for

next year. We will also have to show the Expense for the new Quint 76. Once we get more information, we can have a Budget Workshop if needed. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have.

V. Jimmy Brashier motioned to go into Executive Session for Personnel concerning Employment, Compensation, Promoting, Demoting or Discipline. Bubba Bagwell seconded it. All were in favor. Bubba Bagwell motioned to come out of Executive Session. Terry Creamer seconded it. All were in favor. Bubba Bagwell motioned to accept Issue I. Terry Creamer seconded it. All were in favor. Terry Creamer motioned to accept Issue II. Bubba Bagwell seconded it. All were in favor. Terry Creamer motioned to accept Issue III. Bubba Bagwell seconded it. All were in favor. Bubba Bagwell motioned to adjourn. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor.

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