

Minutes for a Public Hearing and a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2024, at 5:00 pm at 8305 Augusta Road, Pelzer, SC 29669.

Jim Darby asked Chief Finley to open the meeting with prayer.

Jim Darby opened the Public Hearing for the 2026 Budget. Copies of the 2026 Budget were available for everyone to review. He asked three times if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the 2026 Budget. There was no reply. He then asked three times if there was anyone present to speak against the 2026 Budget. There was no reply. Jimmy Brashier motioned to close the Public Hearing for the 2026 Budget. Terry Creamer seconded it. All were in favor.

Jim Darby opened the Regular Meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance. Jimmy Brashier motioned to approve the 2026 Budget as presented in the Public Hearing. John Jennings seconded it. All were in favor.

Jim Darby asked everyone if they had reviewed the minutes from both November meetings. Jimmy Brashier motioned to accept the minutes with a correction of removing a duplicated word in the first set of minutes. John Jennings seconded it. All were in favor.

The Financial Reports were presented and reviewed. Jimmy Brashier motioned to accept the Financial Reports as presented. Terry Creamer seconded it. All were in favor. Jennifer Adams said that LGIP closed out November earning \$20,526.75 in interest with an Average Interest Rate (365) of 4.1904%

Chief Finley said that in November we ran 270 calls bringing the year-to-date total to 3,307. Engine-77A went to Spartan for the annual service, preventative maintenance and pump test. Engine 75 and Engine 78 both had to have warranty repairs done to them at Spartan through Pierce. Fire Marshal 80 had to have the four tires replaced on it. We used Snider Tire through the SC State Contract pricing.

Chief Harbert began his report by saying that Highwater 80 has been transferred to Greenville County Emergency Management. We have provided them with everything they needed to complete the transfer. They will be coming to pick it up soon. The bunker gear that was voted on in the last meeting is here and been placed in service. The property that we purchased earlier this year has been combined into one lot and the new address is 8408 Augusta Road, Pelzer, SC 29669.

New Business

- I. Chief Harbert said that each month we have been putting \$10,000.00 from our Operating Funds into the CIP Account in LGIP. We also put the interest that we earn each month in LGIP directly into the New Apparatus Account. We have been doing this all year. Chief Harbert is recommending that we stop doing both of these month's transactions for right now. John Jennings asked would it reduce the interest that are currently getting from LGIP. Chief Harbert said that the money will remain in LGIP. We only have one account down there. The sub accounts are internal accounts that we have set up to be able to allocate our money for different projects. Once the money has been assigned to the subaccounts, there must be a motion to move it out of that account. This will give him the freedom to keep the money in the operating account and use it as needed. We have a short fall in the 2026 Budget and this will allow this money to stay in the Operating Account to help cover that short fall. John Jennings asked how we stood with County Council and if we are considering asking for a millage increase? Chief Harbert said that we have a conference call with Andy Smith forecasting increases in expenses based on the past few years and an update on the USDA Loan. The government shut down extended our original review period. If we have calculated it correctly, we think we should hear something around January 22, 2026. Andy is reaching out to try to get more information and the status for us. We may have to get financing from another source. That is why we passed that resolution in the last meeting. Terry Creamer motioned to stop putting \$10,000.00 in the CIP Account and stop putting the interest

earned in the New Apparatus Account in January. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor.

- II. Chief Harbert put money in the 2026 Budget for furniture purchases. We have some money left in the 2025 Buildings and Grounds category and Headquarters has about \$2,000.00 left in their Discretionary Fund from 2025. The chairs at Headquarters are some of the oldest at about ten years old. Headquarters needs six chairs to replace all of them. Chief Harbert put quotes in your packets from several vendors, but he recommended that we purchase the recliners from Fire Station Outfitters. They have the best warranty for the price. John Jennings motioned to purchase the recliners recommended by Chief Harbert from Fire Station Outfitters. Terry Creamer seconded it. All were in favor. John Jennings motioned to adjourn. Jimmy Brashier seconded it. All were in favor.

Minutes recorded by: 
Jennifer L. Adams, Administrative Specialist