

*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, April 20, 2026, 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. Jim Darby welcomed everyone. Terry Creamer was absent.

David Phillips from Greene, Finney, Cauley, LLP was in attendance to review our 2025 Audit (see attached). He said that we have received a copy of the 2025 Financial Statements, the Management Letter and the power point that he was presenting in our packet for the meeting. The Financial Statements belong to the District and they gave us an unmodified opinion, which is good. It means we have no obvious inaccuracies, and our information is reasonably correct. Their office recommends for organizations with a 12/31-year end that we have eighty to ninety percent fund balance to be considered in good financial standing. For 2026 we have seventy-eight percent. This means we have flexibility in our finances. Our overall revenue for 2025 increased due to the growth in our area. We are also very conservative in our budgeting. We had an increase in expenses also due to Capital Outlay. We still came in under budget eight percent or about \$245,000.00. Our operational expenses increased due to COLA for all personnel. We had increases in our assets of land and vehicles. We made regular payments on all our debt. Effective next year, we will have to explain any significant variances in your budgeted versus actual spent on the notes of the audit. Overall, there were no issues or complaints to report, and the staff was once again great to work with this year. John Jennings thanked Jennifer Adams and Chief for all their hard work.

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

The Financial Reports were presented and reviewed. Jimmy Brashier motioned to accept the Financial Reports as presented. Bubba Bagwell seconded it. All were in favor. Jennifer Adams said that LGIP closed out the month of February earning \$36,092.47 in interest at an Average Interest Rate (365) of 3.8605%. She said that there will be more information in New Business about an investment offer from Southern First.

Deputy Chief Finley started his report stating the call volume for March was 357, bringing the total for 2026 to 1,000. He said the hose that was approved has been ordered and received. We had to put new steer tires on Rescue 80. Engine 80A is back from Spartan after its preventative maintenance. Engine 77 and Engine 77A are currently at Spartan for their preventative maintenance.

Chief Harbert started his Chief's report by telling everyone that we received a call from Sue Cleveland Elementary thanking our crew of James Martel, Jordan Little and Robbie Lockhart for attending their career day. As of right now, we have not heard anything from the group doing the fire study, but we know they are continuing to work on it. In your packet was information that was sent to the State Legislation Appropriation Funding by Representative Huff on our behalf asking for funding to help us upgrade our station generators. It is \$200,000.00 and Chief will keep us updated on it. Last month, we received information regarding adjustments made to our FILOT payment. After emailing our Council Representatives and talking to the County Administrator, Joe Kernell, it was determined that we were owed \$68,000.00 of those funds back. We did lose two businesses for about \$70,000.00. We have now received those, and we will continue to monitor our future FILOT payments. We did find out that if FILOTs are renegotiated, our portion should not change, but we will have to monitor this to make sure that we get the correct amounts. New Quint 76 is at Spartan waiting to get the equipment mounted on it. We will have our training on May 5<sup>th</sup> through May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Fire Marshal report was in your packet. The green highlighted business is new.

## Old Business

- I. We have not actually received the invoice for Quint 76, but it should be here any day. The original amount was \$1,742,819.00. We paid \$179,381.00 for the equipment. We still owe \$1,563,438.00. Jimmy Brashier motioned to use \$1,563,438.00 from the LGIP New Apparatus Account to pay the invoice when it arrives. Bubba Bagwell seconded it. All were in favor.

## New Business

- I. Our attorney, Brad Love, recommended that we adopt a reimbursement resolution that will allow us to seek financing for all or part of the cost of the new quint or tanker that we have on order. This will allow us to seek financing if the USDA loan does not get approval. We have supplied them with extra information and are waiting to see if we pass the pre-approval process. Jimmy Brashier motioned to approve the resolution as recommended by Brad Love. Bubba Bagwell seconded it. All were in favor.
- II. Deputy Chief Finley said that we found a leak in the upstairs bathrooms at Headquarters. It is under the showers, and we will have to replace the tile floors. This was not an expected expense, and it is unbudgeted. In your packets, there were quotes for the repairs. Deputy Chief Finley recommended that we use Productive Builders for repairs at \$14,800.00 for each one; totaling \$29,600.00 for both. Chief Harbert recommends that we use money from the LGIP CIP Account. Jimmy Brashier motioned to approve using \$29,600.00 from the LGIP CIP Account to repair the bathrooms at Headquarters at the recommendation of Deputy Chief Finley. Bubba Bagwell seconded it. All were in favor.
- III. For a while now LGIP has had the best interest rate over the options we have had in our area. We must have our money secure in the investments, and they must be available and not tied up in CD's. Southern First has been trying over the past year to get our business back. LGIP rate has been slowly falling over the past six months. In your packet, there was a proposal from Southern First Bank by Matt Kneeland to try to meet or exceed the rate of LGIP. It says that if we move our Reserve Fund of \$1,500,000.00 back to them, they will guarantee us a rate of 4.11% until February 2027. If we move all our funds back to them, they will guarantee us a rate of 4.25% or a quarter percent higher than LGIP until February 2027. This will lock the rate in, but our funds will not be locked in, and we can use them at any time. John Jennings asked if we had it in writing from the bank. Chief Harbert said that he will make sure it is in writing before we move the money. Bubba Bagwell said the extra money will help offset the money we are losing from the FILOT changes. Chief Harbert said they have been trying over the last year to get our business back. And now they have offered an option that is better than LGIP. Chief Harbert said that we will leave the required balance at LGIP to keep the account open. Southern First knows that if they do not honor the agreement that we will move the money back out to the best investment option of the District. John Jennings motioned to move all our funds to the account at Southern First that will earn a minimum of 4.25% through February 2027. Bubba Bagwell seconded it. Lynn Ballard asked if had made sure that the money would not be locked in and would be fluid. Chief Harbert said yes and that would be part of the written agreement. All were in favor as along as we have everything in writing from the bank.
- IV. Chief Harbert said that in your packet was a copy of the new uniform policy for the Employee Handbook. The changes have been highlighted in yellow. It reviews our new uniforms and when you can and cannot wear them. There is a description of all Classes A-C and you can wear everything including the Chore Coats. John Jennings asked if the Chore Coat was approved for the current safety standards to be used for extrication scenes. Chief Harbert said that the Chore Coats meet the NFPA requirements for abrasion resistance and could be used on extrication scenes with bunker pants, gloves and

eye protection. Chief Harbert said they would only be used on non-firefighting scenes and extrication scenes. John Jennings said that we just bought bunker gear and we need to make sure the guys are using the safest thing available on duty. We need to make sure they are approved and meet all requirements for the guidelines. Chief Harbert said the coats meet the requirements for extrication scenes and could be worn while that is taking place, otherwise the coats will be used in the stations and while clean-up is taking place on fire scenes in the winter. John Jennings just said we need to keep safety as our priority. John Jennings motioned to accept the new uniform policy as presented. Jimmy Brashier 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, Administrative Specialist

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer L. Adams", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.