

**Burton Fire District  
Commissioners Meeting  
April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Station 891**

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Gary Bright  
Commissioner Thomas Peeples  
Commissioner Cecil Lanier  
Commissioner Herbert Burnes  
Commissioner John Harris

Chief Rountree  
Deputy Chief Webb

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Bright @ 18:18

Commissioner Peeples motioned to accept the agenda as written.  
Commissioner Harris seconded.  
Motion approved.

Commissioner Harris motioned to accept the March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 minutes  
Commissioner Peeples seconded.  
Motion approved.

Commissioner Harris motioned to accept the January, February and March financial statements.  
Commissioner Lanier seconded.  
Motion approved.

No executive session needed.

**Old Business**

**Bids-** Two proposals were accepted for review at the last meeting. The proposal from EONE (FireLine) had 76 discrepancies. Chief Rountree met with the representative from FireLine and highlighted the differences. He apologized and stated that they would understand if they were not awarded the bid, and would like to do business again in the future.

Spartan Apparatus (Pierce) agreed to hold their price through the end of April. If their proposal was accepted, we would have until April 30<sup>th</sup> to sign the contract.

Chief Rountree submitted a letter to Bryan Hill, Deputy Administrator, to be put on the county finance meeting agenda to request \$100,000 from impact fees and \$216,000 from general fund for a down payment on the new pumper. The remaining amount will be financed. Our request will be on the agenda on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month at 1pm.

Palmetto State Bank quoted us \$250,000 for 7 years at 3.56% with the annual payment being the same as the note we just paid off in January. OSHKOSH also gave us four different plans, all 7 year notes, to choose from.

Chief Rountree asked for permission to accept the Spartan Apparatus bid pending approval from Beaufort County finance committee.

Commissioner Harris motioned to accept the Spartan Apparatus bid and authorize Chief to proceed with the purchase, pending approval of use of funds through the county finance committee.

Commissioner Peoples Seconded.

If the county does not approve, Chief Rountree will not move forward without having another commission meeting.

Vote unanimous. Motion Approved.

**FY 2013 Budget** – The County gave us an estimated mil value of \$73,000 last year. The actual was \$71,158 and are asking us to use a mil value of \$70,681 for our budget this year. County Council wants to see a flat budget as well as a 2% col budget.

0% budget: Total of \$103,550. Captain Thomas Cooper and Engineer Eric Chapman both have 25 years of service and are retiring before the end of this fiscal year. They will both be re-hired as Engineers with 0 years of experience.

Our retirement line item has a \$17,393 increase due to the retirement system rate increase. Workers compensation has doubled this year. We saw a \$73,000 increase. The broker shopped around for us and the next closest quote was \$80,000 more than what our current carrier quoted us. We had a rough year with injuries so we are taking steps to get guys back to work faster and hopefully not see such a large increase in the future. The budget shows a 5% increase in our liability insurance and fuel a \$39,000 increase calculated using \$4/gallon.

2% budget: exactly the same except 2% col raise.

At Monday's meeting at county finance, Chief will present both budgets on one sheet (provided in packet). All the fire departments will be presenting using the same format. County Council will point us in the direction they want us to take.

The state wide cap for cpi and growth this year is 4.16%. For us that would be 2033 mils which would generate \$167,000 if the county allows milage increases.

Commissioner Harris motioned to allow Chief Rountree to submit both budgets to County Finance.

Commissioner Burnes seconded.

After county council approves one (or neither) of the budgets, the commission will meet again to finalize approval.

Vote unanimous. Motion approved.

**ISO** - We received official notice that our ISO rating will go from a class 4 to a class 3 effective July 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. Copies were provided to the commission. Chief Webb will provide a breakdown, item by item list of details, in lamens terms.

Most Burton residents and businesses should see a reduction in their fire/casualty insurance policies. Dropping to a 3 is a huge accomplishment and puts the Burton Fire District in the upper percentile for insurance ratings. The inspection is broken into 3

categories and each worth a certain percentage to determine the rating. Ability of Communication = 10%, Fire Department (personnel, equipment and location) = 50%, and water supply = 40%.

**Contract money** – Attorney Fred Kuhn sent letters to the Town of Port Royal and City of Beaufort as reminders that payment was due on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Town sent a check for \$167,000. The City says theirs is on the way. Attorney Kuhn will verify the amounts and make sure the late penalties are included before they are deposited.

### **New Business**

**Vehicles** – Chief Rountree asked permission to sell the following vehicles:

- 2004 Dodge Ram
- 2004 Chevrolet Pick up
- 1998 Crown Victoria
- 1987 Tanker
- Generator
- Two Wave runners

They will be listed on government deals (govdeals.com). It would reduce the annual insurance amount roughly \$3,300. Most of these vehicles are used for transportation to and from classes. The employee will be reimbursed for mileage instead. Selling these vehicles will help lower our vehicle maintenance because we won't be keeping up with wear and tear on top of fuel.

Commissioner Harris motioned to allow Chief Rountree to see the listed vehicles.

Commissioner Peoples seconded.

Vote unanimous. Motion approved.

**Chief's Report** - None.

Commissioner Harris motioned to adjourn.

Commissioner Bright seconded.

Meeting adjourned 20:21