

**DAUFUSKIE ISLAND FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' SPECIAL MEETING
December 12, 2012**

PRESENT:	CHUCK HENRY TOM DICKINSON MIKE BRYANT GEOF JENKINS	CHAIRMAN VICE CHAIRMAN COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER
ABSENT:	TOM BEAVOR PAT BEICHLER	COMMISSIONER COMMISSIONER
OTHERS:	EDWARD BOYS DONALD HUBBARD GINNY TEERLINK	CHIEF CAPTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

1. Beaufort County's Proposed New Charters for Fire Districts: The meeting began at 3:00 PM. There was discussion about Beaufort County's interest in new charters for all fire districts, about the manner in which fire districts would now be funded, about the expanded scope of responsibilities and about the jurisdiction of employees, and about the DIFD's current charter. There was discussion about considering retaining legal counsel to clarify issues and provide guidance.

2. Lease Agreement: Boys stated that a local developer had agreed to the lease agreement the DIFD had proposed for future land development if/as necessary.

The meeting concluded at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Ginny Teerlink on December 13, 2013

NOTES FROM THE DECEMBER 12, 2012 COMMISSIONERS MEETING:

1. Beaufort County's Proposed New Charters for Fire Districts: Henry opened the meeting at 3:00 PM and reported that the Beaufort County Governmental Committee had had two special televised meetings on November 8, 2012 and December 3, 2012 with County Attorney Josh Gruber, Deputy County Administrator Brian Hill and Bluffton Fire District Attorney Roberts Vaux attending with regard to developing new charters for the fire districts, that representatives from the Bluffton Fire District were in attendance because that fire district had been working to get a new charter for the past five years and that when Bluffton Fire District presented their draft of their proposed new charter to the County on November 8, 2012 Beaufort County Council came back with something different, that the DIFD was informed of that meeting.

Henry stated that he and Boys met with the Beaufort County Governmental Committee members and the fire chiefs of Lady's Island and Burton December 4, 2012, that the DIFD had received a draft of a new charter that the County asks it to review, that it appeared that the County wanted control of all the fire districts and one charter for all districts, that the charter would enable the County to hire/personnel, that the new charters would enable the County to pool all monies from all fire districts and apportion as they wished.

There was discussion among Boys and the commissioners about the issue of funding, that under our current charter tax dollars are returned directly to the DIFD and that with the propose new charter there would not be any guarantee of getting those tax dollars returned; about the issue of the jurisdiction of our firefighters currently being employees of the DIFD and with the proposed new charter they would be employees of Beaufort County; about the scope of the new proposed charter which expands the DIFD's responsibilities to rescue and EMS and its implications; that as formed as a Special Purpose District the DIFD needs to examine closely the language of the proposed new charter with regard to words like "agency", "district", "commissioners", and "board". Boys reviewed the DIFD's current charter approved on April 10, 1989.

There was discussion among Boys and the commissioners about the \$66,683 Beaufort County contributed to cover the DIFD's shortfall as reported in the 2012 audit, about whether the DIFD would be better served being part of the General Fund versus tax collection.

There was agreement among Boys and the commissioners that the DIFD should seek legal counsel, that the DIFD contact Attorney Roberts Vaux to ascertain his ability to provide counsel, that the DIFD develop three to five key issues to have him address and provide him with our past charters. The commissioners asked Chairman Henry to make the contact and advise next stems.

2. Heliport: Henry reported that developer Pete Lang was in agreement with the lease that Boys had sent to him which incorporated our changes.

The meeting concluded at 4:50 PM.

Respectively submitted by Ginny Teerlink on December 13, 2012.