

SHELDON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF April 18, 2019

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Wayne Blankenship, Chief Buddy Jones, Asst. Chief Glass, Jody Ward Admin Asst., Gregory Gilbert, John Seno, Robert Smalls, George Williams, Donnie Phillips

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 7:05 p.m.

REVIEWED minutes from meeting dated February 21, 2019. **Motion** by Robert Smalls to approve minutes from February 21, 2019. **Second** by Donnie Phillips. **Approved.**

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comment.

DISCUSSION

Old Business:

Station Renovations - Building Codes -Chief Jones said the County wants sprinkler system in old building with the bays as well. We are appealing it now and waiting to hear back from them. One of the issues is not having a public water system out here. If we have to add the sprinkler systems, I would guess it would cost around \$200,000 more. We need a bond and they are getting bids now for that. Financing should be funded in two weeks into the County account just for the construction of this building.

Health Insurance - We have been enrolled and will be effective May 1st. Everyone should have already received their insurance cards. Donnie asked if it was state. Chief responded, yes it is the state PEBA.

New Business:

Air Packs - The new 23 air packs are in. Valves will be put on next week and they will be put in service. Next year we will have to buy another lot of them and we will be good for another 15 years.

Dumpster - Request for a new dumpster at Station 40. Lobeco dump is open 6 days a week and only 4 days in Sheldon. Dale received a quote from Pro Disposal for \$75 per month with it being emptied one time a week. We did put one of the pick up trucks at Lobeco so they can haul the trash to the dump during shift changes. Wayne suggested they can continue to haul the trash to the dump which is right down the road and costs nothing. Rudy Glover mentioned that this dump near Station 40 will be closed eventually because they want a central spot, which may be 10 years. **Motion** was made by George Williams to hold off on the dumpster for Station 40 for later. **Second** by Rudy Glover. **Motion Approved to NOT provide a dumpster at Station 40.**

Budget - Chief Jones has been talking on the phone and emailing back and fourth discussing 2% COLA this year in Bluffton, Lady's Island, Beaufort, and Burton. We did not add a 2% COLA in our budget this year. We have run the numbers to show what it would be with the 2% COLA. It would be a \$21,164 increase in the budget to include a 2% COLA. It would increase the budget to \$1,463,100 for personnel and operations. The millage would be raised 1.43 mils in taxes to meet this. Keep in mind the debt service is going up .92 mil. We will still make the state cap limitation with a total increase of 3.89% for personnel and operations. When presenting my budget to the County, I need to be as consistent as possible. Would the board like for me to include the 2% COLA in the budget? Daufuskie is the only station not including it because they cannot afford it. Total millage would be 42.18, which includes debt service. The budget also includes hiring a firefighter recruit. Donnie asked about tax increase to homeowners. Chief stated for every mil increase it is \$4 per \$100,000 increase to the homeowner. We cannot compete with Bluffton. Their mil value is almost \$700,000 per mil. They can afford to pay their men more. **Motion** by Rudy Glover to approve the 2% COLA with a total budget of \$1,463,100 in personnel and operations and a debt service of \$156,762. **Second** by Robert Smalls. **Approved.** (Budget hearing is April 29th at 2:00 p.m.)

Treasurer's Report - Budget Review: Total budget is \$1,408,269, Total drawn to date \$1,050,000, balance to draw is \$358,269, Check book balance is \$327,775, with \$290,513 Cash on Hand fund balance. We have \$358,069 to make it through the rest of this fiscal year and 11 weeks left in the budget. We have an average of \$36,260 per week. We are spending an average of \$24,000 per week. **Motion** to approve Treasurer's Report made by George Williams. **Second** by John Seno. **Approved.**

Chief's Report:

Total Calls To Date: 237 (63% of that is Medical)

Vehicle Maintenance: Up to date

Fire Marshall: All Inspections Up to Date

Training Report: 30.5 Total Hours (The men are doing much better on training)

COMMENTS: Wayne asked Dale if things are going better in the department as a whole. Dale responded "Yes, Sir." Chief Jones agreed.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn meeting by George Williams. **Second** by Gregory Gilbert. **Approved.**

MEETING ADJORNED 7:32 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: These minutes were approved June 20, 2019 by the Board Members.