

SHELDON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT

5 Fire Station Lane
Sheldon, SC 29941

BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2022

REGULAR MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne Blankenship, Gregory Gilbert, Robert Smalls, George Williams, Sheri Phillips, Rudy Glover, John Seno

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Chief Buddy Jones, Asst. Chief Dale Glass, Jody Ward Administrative Assistant

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Wayne Blankenship at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No Public Comments

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF February 17, 2022 and March 31, 2022 BOARD MEETINGS. BOARD MEMBERS REVIEWED minutes from meeting of February 17, 2022 and March 31, 2022. **MOTION** by George Williams to approve minutes of February 17, 2022 and March 31, 2022. **SECOND** by Robert Smalls. **MINUTES APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSSION

Old Business:

Grants - SFD is still waiting to hear if we were approved for the FEMA Grant. Usually hear from them in September or October. SFD has also applied for the Firehouse Subs Grant for a battery powered extrication tool. Should hear within a couple of months if we are approved or not.

Building Construction - Engineer has signed off on the slab. Construction should begin on Phase 2 within the next two to three weeks. Steel will take 22-30 weeks to on the order. Landscaper will replace the dead palm tree this week.

Bay Doors at Station 41 - The first damaged door has been repaired except for the glass panels, and SFD is waiting a parts for the second door damage. Sheri Phillips wanted to know how the doors were damaged. Chief Jones stated that the second door was damaged by the door remotes getting put in the wrong trucks and when a call went out the one door was open when 1st truck was pulling out the 2nd truck hit the remote and the door came down as truck one was exiting the bay. In general, the men were not paying attention.

New Business:

Dispatch Appreciation Week - SFD had funds available in Fire Prevention and water bottles were purchased for all Dispatchers for appreciation for all they do for our Fire District.

COVID-19 Stimulus Funds - Beaufort County has received stimulus funds to distribute to all County Employees including EMS and Fire Districts. The most funds available per employee is a maximum of \$3000 depending on the time you worked and was employed during COVID. These funds have been distributed to all SFD employees. The County also covered all taxes and retirement fund, so there is no expense to the Department.

Prepared by Jody Ward
Administrative Assistant

MINUTES Board Meetings 2022

Budget Hearing - The meeting went well. SFD will be going up 2.1 Mills. 2022-2023 included to a 5% payroll increase on the pay scale. To adjust our pay scale, SFD has eliminated Firefighter Senior A, B, and C and added Senior Engineer. Now a Firefighter II will have to meet all the requirements of the old rank Senior A, B, and C to promote to a Senior Engineer. This allowed SFD to increase the starting pay for a Firefighter Recruit to \$33,020. After the budget hearing, the county also wants all county employees, including EMS and Fire Districts, to receive a 5% pay raise effective immediately as long as our upcoming budget can sustain this increase throughout the upcoming Fiscal Year 2022-2023. With this increase effective prior to the new Fiscal Year, any expense that SFD incurs, the county will reimburse the Department through June 30, 2022 for the 5% increase only to included taxes and retirement. All SFD employees will get a 5% raise now plus longevity in July.

I did not include myself (Chief Jones) and Assistant Chief Glass in the 5% raise in SFD's budget. This was discussed with Chief Jones and Assistant Chief Glass and they will only receive longevity since it was not included in the budget for the two of them to receive the 5% raise. Chief Jones discussed this with Assistant Chief Glass and neither one of them has a problem with not receiving the 5% raise. Assistant Chief Glass confirmed that he did not have a problem with it either. Chief Jones reviewed the Budget packet with the Board Members, which they approved on March 31, 2022. Milledge Value for the new budget is \$41,009, which is an estimated projected mil value.

Treasurer's Report - SFD has drawn \$1,200,000 to date with \$347,680 left to draw with \$0 left in Dept. Service. SFD is on average is spending \$28,000 per week and has \$33,226 per week available. Current checkbook balance is \$391,802. There is currently \$411,765 in the Cash on Hand Fund balance. After the Board Members review, **MOTION** made by George Williams to approve the Treasurer's Report. **SECOND** by Robert Smalls. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Vehicle Maintenance: Up to Date

Fire Marshall Inspections: Up to Date

Training Report: Up to date.

Call Summary: 284 Calls through March 2022

ADJOURNMENT: **MOTION** to adjourn meeting by George Williams. **SECOND** by Rudy Glover. **MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING APPROVED.**

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chairman Wayne Blankenship at 7:35 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: June 16, 2022