

SHELDON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT
5 Fire Station Lane
Sheldon, SC 29941

BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2023

REGULAR MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne Blankenship, Gregory Gilbert, Robert Smalls, Sheri Phillips, Rudy Glover

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Seno, George Williams

STAFF PRESENT: Chief Buddy Jones, Asst. Chief Dale Glass

GUEST: Gerald Neal, Contractor

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No Public Comments

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF February 16, 2023. BOARD MEMBERS REVIEWED minutes from meeting of February 16, 2023. **MOTION** by Robert Smalls to approve minutes of February 16, 2023. **SECOND** by Rudy Glover. **MINUTES APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSSION

Old Business:

Construction Update: Mr. Neal stated that he is waiting on the Bay Door Contractor to repair one of the doors, and sprinkler to go over the heaters should have been in today. I am waiting to hear from them, as they will not answer my calls. Roof had some leaks due to rust and we repair it with silicone to stop the leak. Waiting on the metal to be complete so we can bring in the painter. Fire Alarm contractor should be here next Wednesday. Need to repair the gaps in the concrete and the standing water problem. Need to remove debris off empty lot. Once roof is complete they will remove the metal debris. Plumbing for ice maker will be done next week.

Apparatus Maintenance: It is about the same. Chief added \$20,000 to the budget with all the repairs over the last year.

ISO: We are still at a Class 4. SFD barely missed a Class 3. The biggest thing is water supply. As far as Insurance ratings, there is no difference between a class 4 and a class 3. Also, volunteers play a role in our grade. We score high with all our equipment, but the water is the issue.

New Business:

Budget Review: SFD received a mil value today. Budget review with Finance is May 8th. With the new value, SFD made modifications to the new budget. Went up a little and SFD will still drop the millage of our Budget. It is a reassessment year and you have to roll back millage. You can roll back millage and increase CPI. The Budget for Personnel and Operations is \$1,765,470; Debt Service is \$133,100; Total Budget is \$1,898,570. This would be 37.82 mills in Personnel and Operations; 2.85 in Dept Service; Last year mills was 40.31 in Personnel and Operations; The value would drop 2.9 in Personnel and Operations; and 1.35 in Debt Service. SFD's largest increase in the budget is health insurance and vehicle maintenance. **MOTION** to approve Budget Personnel and Operations \$1,765,470; and Debt Service \$133,100; total budget of \$1,898,570 - made by Robert Smalls, **SECOND** by Gregory Gilbert. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Engine 40: It is being repaired and is almost complete.

Final Payment to Contractor: When SFD contracted with the Contractor, the County let SFD piggyback on their Bond so SFD did not have to hire an attorney for the Bond, which can cost up to \$100,000. The County got a Bond for \$1,000,000. When the bids came in, it was \$1,081,000. So SFD knew there was going to be an additional expense over the \$1,000,000 in the beginning and would have to come out of the Fund Balance. With a change order of just over \$82,000 for things that were unforeseen and left out of the original bid. \$30,000+ was the pumphouse alone, and other things that needed to be done. Total balance due the contractor is \$163,310.07. There is \$1,499.95 left in the Bond Fund; \$46,000+ in impact fee fund which can only be used for certain things. SFD would need to use \$115,809.03 out of the Cash on Hand Fund balance. Total in that fund is \$428,000 plus an additional \$300,000 in funds held with the County. The contractor had to eat some of the cost that were around \$23,000. Also, the architect cut some things I did not know, for example, the electrical cord hose reels, the plywood for around the building, intercom door bell, etc. Sheri wanted to know how things can get cut without SFD's knowledge and if it was in the specs then why you didn't get it? Chief did not know but they did make changes to save money due to increase in material costs. SFD is not happy with the architect and how things were cut without SFD's input. Sheri voiced her concern that when you are contracted to do a job and they do not deliver, SFD should not have to pay for that. The Contractor stated those things were not completed because the Architect cut it out of the job. Sheri asked if the architect has been paid. Wayne stated you can rarely ever get money back from the architect. Chief state that SFD owes him around \$1,700 and the architect has not billed us in a long time. Wayne stated, if he does bill SFD, SFD is NOT to pay him. The architect controls the job and there is not much you can do. Some of the delays is due to the architect not having things included in the project in the first place.

Wayne and Chief did meet with the County Administrator to get permission to spend Cash on Hand Funds to pay the final bill to the Contractor. He did agree that is was ok to use the balance of the Bond; Impact Fee Fund; and Cash on Hand Fund. **MOTION** to approve final payment of \$163,310.07 which will be disbursed out of the aforementioned funds made by Rudy Glover. **SECOND** by Robert Smalls. Four Members approved, One Member Abstained; **MOTION APPROVED.**

Employee Openings - SFD currently has two firefighter positions available. One left due to his wife not wanting him to do shift work. One left because he is moving. SFD has run ads in two papers and online but we are not getting any applicants at this time. Most that do apply have no experience.

Treasurer's Report - SFD has drawn \$1,400,000 to date with \$253,328 left to draw with \$0 left in Dept. Service. SFD is on average is spending \$31,000 per week and has \$34,000 per week available. Current checkbook balance is \$341,802. There is currently \$428,358 in the Cash on Hand Fund balance. After the Board Members review, **MOTION** made by Gregory Gilbert 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: 78 Calls through March 2023

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

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chairman Wayne Blankenship at 7:33

MINUTES APPROVED: June 15, 2023