

SHELDON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT

5 Fire Station Lane
Sheldon, SC 29941

BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2023

REGULAR MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gregory Gilbert, Robert Smalls, Rudy Glover, John Seno, Sheri Phillips

MEMBERS ABSENT: Wayne Blankenship and George Williams

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

GUEST PRESENT: None

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Gregory Gilbert at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No Public Comments

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF August 17, 2023 BOARD MEETING. BOARD MEMBERS REVIEWED minutes from meeting of August 17, 2023. **MOTION** by Rudy Glover to approve minutes of August 17, 2023 **SECOND** by Robert Smalls . **MINUTES APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSSION

Old Business:

Paving of SFD's Parking Lot - The County is working on getting this completed. They may pave it or concrete it. I am still waiting to hear from them. This will be the County's share toward the new building since EMS did not put forth any funds the help with the construction.

New Business:

Overtime - Costs are very high. We have about \$18,000 in overtime in the first quarter of our budget. This is due to one member who is out due to an injury. We also have had four members leave and have four new members. The more experienced members need to cover shifts for members in training while they are in class. We have a minimum man on duty policy, which is four per shift (two at Station 41; two at Station 40). One member left and went to Jasper County, another went in to Pest Control business, one was hired at a lumber yard with a much hire salary, and another retired because his wife did not want him working shift hours. We are well within our budget except for overtime. We may need to use a portion of our cash on hand fund balance to cover overtime but will address that issue when it arises.

Volunteers - SFD has 50% volunteers, but their attendance has not been great. It has dropped off a lot.

Audit - SFD's audit is in the process of completion. The CPA meets with us in December to finalize.

2024/2025 Budget - Chief Jones has already begun working on the next FY Budget to include and increase in the base pay. In order to increase the base pay, the entire pay scale would have to change. Looking into increased the base pay by 8% across the board. That would increase the starting pay for a recruit from \$34,000 to around \$37,000 annual. Surrounding departments are starting pay in the \$40,000 plus range. Other district tax mil bring in much more tax income compared to our district. There will be a tax increase if we are able to get this approved by County Council. There should not be any increase in Operations next FY.

Christmas/Award Banquet - It will be December 9th, 6:00 p.m. at the Bull Point Clubhouse.

V-Safe Grant - On Monday, the application process will open to apply for this grant through the State for \$30,000. This year we will apply for much needed bunker gear. We were quoted for 8 sets of gear to include a jacket and pants is \$32,000.

1% Firefighter Fund - There is a set price per person for dinners. They have become very strict on where you can spend those funds.

Treasurer's Report - SFD has drawn \$400,000 to date with \$1,253,328 left to draw and \$123,471 left in Debt Service. SFD is on average is spending \$31,000 per week and has \$35,000 per week available. Current checkbook balance is \$240,539 . There is approximately \$326,172 in the Cash on Hand Fund balance. After the Board Members review, **MOTION** made by Robert Smalls to approve the Treasurer's Report. **SECOND** by Rudy Glover. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Vehicle Maintenance: Up to Date

Fire Marshall Inspections: Up to Date

Training Report: Up to date.

Call Summary: 684 Calls through September 2023 - 63% is Medical Calls. This is down 93 calls from last year at this time.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED by Gregory Gilbert at 7:17 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: December 21, 2023