

## **SHELDON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT**

5 Fire Station Lane  
Sheldon, SC 29941

### **BOARD MEETING**

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**MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2024**

**REGULAR MEETING**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Adrain Scott (Out of Town)

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

**GUEST PRESENT:** None

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No Public Comments

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF October 16, 2024 BOARD MEETING. BOARD MEMBERS REVIEWED** minutes from meeting of October 16, 2024. **MOTION** by Robert Smalls to approve minutes of October 16, 2024 **SECOND** by George Williams. **MINUTES APPROVED.**

### **DISCUSSION**

#### ***Old Business:***

**Driveway/Parking:** The county is in the process of getting the site surveyed. The funds have already been allocated to complete the project. It will take some time before they get started.

**Apparatus Maintenance:** SFD has had a lot of vehicle maintenance this fiscal year so far. Most of the repairs have been very expensive.

**Grants:** SFD has applied the FEMA Grant and will hear from them in January sometime. The intent to file the V-Safe Grant was completed and that will be open to apply in January 2025.

#### ***New Business:***

**Budget FY 2025-2026:** Budget planning will begin in January 2025 and Chief will have the Budget for the Board to review in February's meeting. The County Council Budget Presentation is April 15th.

**Audit FY 2023-2024:** The Board was given a copy of the June 2024 Financial Report for their review. Last year's budget was \$1,765,470; Expenditures was \$1,714,709; Under Budget \$50,761; Total Cash on Hand Fund Balance \$1,086,895. The Country requires SFD to keep 25% of the budget in COH funds for emergencies, which is approximately \$211,480 of our current Fund Balance.



**New Squad Purchase:** Part of our capital in the Five Year Plan was to purchase 3 vehicles; a tanker, administrative vehicle, and a squad. Chief would like to request permission at this time from the Board to work with the County to purchase a new Squad out of the Fund Balance. The apparatus cost would be approximately \$230,537; Radio \$10,400; Total \$240,937. That would leave \$840,922 in the Fund Balance after the purchase of a new squad. This vehicle will be a diesel instead of gas. This will be good to run medical calls and it has a pump on it, which is good for brush fires. This would be an addition to the fleet. The only replacement would be the administrative vehicle. The Tanker purchase will be an addition to the fleet also. This will help bring the ISO from a 4 to a 3. Personnel will also need to be hired as we add to the fleet over the next 5 years. The ISO rating is what controls the insurance rates. A ISO rating of 4 is excellent for a rural area. Water is 50% of their grading system. If we had public water like we do in Lobeco, our rating would be better. This district would be a ISO class 2 or 3. It has been discussed by the county to add water lines to extend past Lobeco, but Chief is not sure how long that will take to happen. The water in Lobeco was supplied by grants due to bad wells. The County may be able to receive more lot grants to extend water lines past Gardens Corner. There is maybe 50+ city fire hydrants in Dale now all the way to Witsell and to Kinloch and ends where you access the boat landing. Watering all the farmland contributed to making a lot of the wells go dry in this area. As our calls increase, we will have to increase our fleet and man power. With all that being said, Chief would like the Boards permission to purchase a new squad at this time out of the Cash on Hand Fund balance for a total of \$240,937, which includes the radio. The sooner this is ordered the better the price. Once ordered it will take 10 to 12 months to build.

**MOTION** made by George Williams to approve the purchase of a new squad for a total of \$240.937, **SECOND** by Robert Smalls. **MOTION APPROVED.**

**New Alarm System:** Chief showed the Board how the new alarm system works and how it sounds now when they get a call.

**Christmas Party:** The Christmas party is this Saturday at 6:00 p.m. at Bull Point.

**Treasurer's Report -** SFD budget is \$1,871,379 in operations. SFD has drawn \$800,000 to date with \$1,071,379 left to draw and \$124,746 left in Debt Service. SFD is on average is spending \$34,000 per week and has \$37,000 per week available. Current checkbook balance is \$347,323. There is approximately \$403,566 in last year's Cash on Hand Fund balance. After the Board Members review, **MOTION** made by George Williams 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:** 1040 Calls through November 2024 - 60% is Medical Calls. SFD is up 174 calls from last year.

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED** by Board Chairman Wayne Blankenship at 7:22 p.m.

**MINUTES APPROVED:** Approved 02/20/2025