

SHELDON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT

5 Fire Station Lane
Sheldon, SC 29941

BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 21, 2023

REGULAR MEETING

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Seno

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 BOARD MEETING. BOARD MEMBERS REVIEWED minutes from meeting of October 19, 2023 **MOTION** by Robert Smalls to approve minutes of October 19, 2023 **SECOND** by George Williams. **MINUTES APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSSION

Old Business:

Parking Lot - SFD is still waiting on the County to let us know when that can be completed.

Overtime - Currently SFD is about \$7000 over budget. George Williams asked why so much overtime. Chief Jones stated that it is due mostly to having two openings and having to cover the shifts. One of the openings is due to one of our members out on leave due to an accident. He is currently on a 90 day leave without pay. Chief is not sure if he will return to duty after the 90 day period.

Audit - The audit for June 2023 was just completed and I will have your copy at the next meeting.

V-Safe Grant - It was supposed to be open in November. As soon as we can, we will submit our application. That is the state grant that awards SFD \$30,000 if approved.

Budget - Chief Jones will begin working on the 2024-2025 Budget in January. He will have a preliminary budget ready for review at the February meeting. Mr. Smalls inquired about the 8% raise. Chief stated that is what he will figure in the new budget but is not sure it will even be that much. Will have to wait on CPI to come in and adjust the COLA accordingly. Chief will change the longevity to a merit raise. It will be the same amount or a little more than the current longevity and will be based on member evaluations. Members must score so much to receive their merit raise.

New Business:

5-Year Master Plan - SFD is in the 3rd year of our current Master Plan. Chief wants to address some issues as soon as the Budget is complete. Chief is interested in purchasing another Squad and Tanker, and possibly hire more members. The applications we receive are from the West Coast and people are not going relocate here for \$34,000 per year.

1% Firefighter's Fund - George Williams inquired about the 1% Fund and possibly purchasing Class A Uniforms for the Firefighters. Mr. Smalls inquired about Board Member recognition for their time as Board Members. Chief stated that the fund is strictly for the Firefighters and any plaques or recognition to the Board would have to come out of the department budget. The fund can be used to purchase an ice machine, recliners, training equipment, special uniforms, sweat suits, etc. They cannot purchase fire gear or ISO required items. The department has sponsored ball teams in the past with the 1% Fund, but they no longer allow the funds to be used for that. After the department member's approved items for purchase, it is submitted to the state committee for approval too.

Treasurer's Report - SFD has drawn \$800,000 to date with \$853,328 left to draw and \$9776.25 left in Debt Service. SFD is on average is spending \$31,000 per week and has \$36,000 per week available. Current checkbook balance is \$315,218. There is approximately \$313,415 in the Cash on Hand Fund balance. The fund is a little less at the end of June 2023 due to a prepayment for insurance in the current fiscal year. That will balance out at the end of June 2024. 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: 866 Calls to date; last year at this time was 947.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED by Chairman Wayne Blankenship at 7:21 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: February 15, 2024