

SHELDON TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT

5 Fire Station Lane

Sheldon, SC 29941

BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 15, 2024

REGULAR MEETING

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Seno

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

Guest: No Guests

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No Public Comments

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 21, 2023 BOARD MEETING. BOARD MEMBERS REVIEWED minutes from meeting of December 21, 2023. **MOTION** by George Williams to approve minutes of December 21, 2023. **SECOND** by Robert Smalls. **MINUTES APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSSION

Old Business:

Station Parking Lot - The County is still working on a plan to pave the driveway and parking area at Station 40 by the end of this fiscal year. Before that they will come and add some rock and level out the area at both stations.

Audit June 2023 - The board members received their copy of the June 2023 Audit. Page 12 shows a break down of expenses and available funds with the county. Please call Chief Jones if you have any questions.

Grants - SFD has applied for two grants. One through the V-Safe Grant and the other will be through FEMA. Both grants are for protective clothing.

Overtime - Sheri Phillips had a question about all the overtime. Chief Jones states it is due to being short handed and new hires who have to learn the area. Even though SFD has had a lot of overtime, over all salaries are down due to members who have left with higher salaries than the new hires. That will balance out in the budget in personnel. There is a person Chief Jones just interviewed and may hire next week with experience. Most of the new hires five have no experience and have to do training. SFD will have to cover their duty during the times they are in class.

New Business:

Budget 2024/2025 - Copy of SFD 2024/2025 Budget to Board Members. Next fiscal year Chief Jones has put a lot of emphasis on salary increases. Total Budget will be \$1,882,088 with debt service \$133,100. That is right at approximately \$100,000 increase from 2023/2024 Fiscal year. If there is no growth in our mil value SFD will be right at a 1.67 mil value increase. That will keep it within the state law cap. This will be an 8% salary increase for all personnel. SFD is continuing to bring up the base salary over the next few years. This is part of the reason SFD is losing members to other Departments. This will bring the base pay up to \$37,000 for a recruit. \$102,981 Increase in Personnel and \$14,827 in Operations. Total increase is \$117,808. SFD does not know what our millage rate at this time. The 2024/2025 Total Budget is \$2,016,378; total for Personnel is \$1,645,788 Operations is \$237,500; Debt Service is \$133,100; Once the millage rate is final and received by the County, SFD will call a special meeting if needed to review and approve any changes to the 2024/2025 Budget. Members voted to approved to vote on the budget; five approved; one opposed. After the Board Members review, **MOTION** to approve 2024/2025 Budget by Robert Smalls, **SECOND** by George Williams - **MOTION APPROVED.**

Treasurer's Report - SFD has drawn \$1,000,000 to date with \$765,470 left to draw with \$71,910 left in Dept. Service. SFD is on average is spending \$31,832 per week and has \$37,031 per week available. Current checkbook balance is \$262,943. There is currently \$313,415 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 Gregory Gilbert. **MOTION APPROVED.**

Vehicle Maintenance: Up to Date

Fire Marshall Inspections: Up to Date

Training Report: Up to date.

Call Summary: 102 Calls through January 2024

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

MEETING ADJOURNED by Commissioner Wayne Blankenship 7:20 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: April 18, 2024