



Rural Fire Commission

624 Wilson St
Chester, South Carolina 29706

July 24th, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Gene Hudson and opened in prayer by Williams at 5:37pm.

Commission Members Present: Martin, Jordan, Hudson, Willimas, Collins and McNeil

Departments Present: Richburg,

Special Guests: Brian Hester, County Administrator

Motion by Collins, second by Martin to approve agenda, motion passed.

Motion by Jordan, second by Collins to approve the minutes, motion passed.

Citizens Comments: none

Special Guest: Mr. Hester spoke about the direction of the fire office. He stated that combining fire and ems was not his goal at this time. His goal is to make the fire service better in the county. He spoke with Katie from Luck Stone about the property they are donating to the county for a training center, the property is ours they are just ironing out the details. (15 acres located off highway 9)

Fire Coordinators report: All capitol items requested by the individual fire departments were approved.

Old Business: New fire apparatus- T. Melton stated that Richburg spoke about the new apparatus that was ordered and the truck will not fit their needs at this time. They have decided to decline the truck at this time. They we able to find a 1995 KME at forestry and are requesting insurance be provided for it by the county. Motion by Jordan, 2nd by Martin to provide requested insurance, motion passed. T

The truck meant for Richburg is out for placement into another fire department. Kell and Jay spoke about it last week. Initially Lewis turned down the truck but decided to accept the apparatus with the caveat that they be able to keep unit 610. They will need additional apparatus to place in their new substation, which is currently in the works. Martin motioned, McNeil seconds for Lewis Fire to receive one of the new pumpers and retain unit 610 with the understanding that one of their pumpers could be used as a county reserve should it be needed. Motion passed (Mr. Williams abstained from voting on the matter)

West Chester Incentives- M. Brewer- turned them into HR on July 17th, just waiting for them to process the paperwork.

New Business: A. Martin read a brief history of the fire service (see attached).



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J. Williams- Chief Lopez from Great Falls was very vocal at the chief's meeting about the conditions of the fire department. The problems are not going to be fixed overnight. The town and fire department need to provide the commission with a plan and budget on how they are going to go forward. R. Collins gave a brief history of the Great Falls Fire department. We need to have a meeting with the mayor and chief about expectations. The equipment in the firehouse was not taken care of properly for many years. A motion was made by Williams, seconded by Collins, to send a letter requesting a meeting with the Chief, Mayor, and Mr. Hester to discuss their issues and concerns. Motion passed.

A brief discussion was held regarding the quarterly expense reports that are submitted to the County by each fire department. Mr. Williams felt that it was a double duty for some of the departments since they are also audited by the county. Mr. Hester stated he likes the report and it just helps with accountability.

Williams motions, Martin seconds to adjourn meeting, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 18:47.