

**CHARLTON COUNTY FIRE BOARD
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2021
BOC CONFERENCE ROOM
6:00 P.M.**

10/25/2021 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Those present were: President Lee Gowen, along with Fire Board members Jesse Crews, Kip Taylor, Orival Thompson, and Mike Harris; Fire Chief C. L. Lewis, Assistant Chief Williard Turner, County Administrator Hampton Raulerson; Secretary Jenifer Nobles; HR Clerk Becky Harden; and visitors as recorded hereafter.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Gowen led the Invocation and Pledge to the Flag.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Crews made motion to adopt the October 25, 2021 Agenda. Motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

4. DISCUSS SUPPORT FIREFIGHTERS

The Board discussed support firefighters. State grants can not pay support people, unless they are certified, therefore support personnel will not receive the \$300.00.

New term for certified volunteers is suppression firefighters.

Chief Lewis reported that a minimum of 24 hours of training is required for continuing certification. A total of 95 hours is required for registered suppression fire fighters.

Medical runs were discussed. Dispatch was discussed. The Board asked that the Sheriff and training officer be invited to next Fire Board meeting to discuss dispatched medical runs.

Mr. Crews made motion to leave fire run pay the same - \$20.00 per run for suppression firefighters and support firefighters, and recommend same to the BOC for their approval. Motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

5. DISCUSS TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

The Board discussed training requirements. Chief Lewis is certified to teach required training to the volunteers.

Mr. Crews made motion to require the level of training to become suppression firefighters. Motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Thompson asked for schedule of training for the 95 hours.

Mr. Raulerson informed the Fire Board and Department that all volunteers will receive ARPA Premium pay, of \$2,000.00 not to exceed \$13.00 per run.

Chuck Edwards discussed morale of the department, Covers for the trucks are badly needed at Folkston and St. George. New hose and equipment is needed on trucks because they have sat out in the weather for so long.

Chuck Edward stated" that all citizens should get the help they need when they call, On some calls, the fire department doesn't get toned out for medical runs".

Brian Rauls stated there is a breakdown in communication at the top - Fire Chief, County Administrator, and Fire Board.

Mr. Crews talked to Chief Lewis. "You wanted this job, go to Dispatch (Sheriff's Dept) and get this straightened out with dispatched calls. The firefighters are looking for leadership, if something happens y'all need to be toned out".

Amanda Lafferty stated that she has worked dispatch before. The Sheriff's Department will do dispatching their way.

Gary Tippins stated "I will vouch for C. L. You won't find anyone any better. He needs more support. Ms. Amanda has been trying to help with fire run data and is doing the best she can!"

Ms. Amanda stated "backstabbing is going on and Chief Lewis can't control the Sheriff's Department. People need to look after each other".

Mr. Crews agreed we can't tell them how to do their jobs.

Mr. Gowen stated if there is something we can do, people and businesses will help pay, if it will help!

Mr. Thompson asked to go on record to say that Chief Lewis has never come before the Board that we don't support the fire department.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF REQUIRED)

None.

7. ADJOURN

Mr. Crews made motion that meeting be adjourned at 7:00 p.m. Motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.