

CHARLTON COUNTY FIRE BOARD REGULAR MINUTES

9/24/2024

6:00 PM

FIRESTATION 1

97 RAILROAD ST.

FOLKSTON, GA 31537

9/23/2024 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Present at the meeting was Mr. Lee Gowen, Mr. Mike Harris, Mr. Orival Thompson, Mr. Jesse Crews, Chief CL Lewis, County Administrator David Headley, HR/Finance Coordinator Rebecca Harden, and County Clerk Madeline Nettles.

Absent was Mr. Kip Taylor.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Invocation was led by Mr. Gowen.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Chief Lewis put forward 3 amendments to the agenda.

Mr. Crews made a motion to adopt the agenda with amendments as presented. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Crews made a motion to adopt both minutes presented.

Mr. Thompson seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Coordinator Harden confirmed the financial report and discussed possible budget amendments needed.

Mr. Crews made a motion to adopt the financial report. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. REPORTS: OWLR

No representatives present to report.

7. REPORTS: GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION: ROGER TODD

Roger Todd updated the KDPIs in the area. Folkston is 207, Moniac area is 507, and Fargo is 138.

There were 2 wildfires in August. One spanned 6/10ths of an acre and the other was 1/2 an acre.

Georgia Forestry finished their inspections last week.

They will be collecting seeds locally for the nursery in the next coming weeks.

All equipment is up and running except for one piece. All positions are currently filled with no vacancies. No one is currently loaned to other areas.

8. SPECIAL GUEST

No guests were present.

Fire Board took the time to introduce Interim County Administrator David Headley.

9. REPORTS:

a. Fire Truck in Service

The new fire truck is in service and has been placed at Station 4.

b. Report by members on a youth program

Skylar Harvey reported on the youth program. There are currently 7 junior firefighters. They are planning their annual fall festival at Station 4. They are also trying to organize a food drive for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

c. SOP/SOG review some needed changes

Chief Lewis reported on the proposed changes, which would closely model the county's current policies and state training requirements. Chief Lewis has met with the volunteer firefighters to discuss the proposed changes and had them voice their opinions.

Chief Lewis stated that there may be more changes that need to go before the board in the future. Mr. Thompson motioned to have Mr. Crews present the proposed changes to the Commissioners for their approval. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Classes

Mr. Bill Murray presented an update regarding the classes. They have completed the support training process and are waiting to test out with the state. They will begin the next phases. There are 6 remaining in the class, 3 of which intend to remain as support personnel. Only 1 of the 5 other students that dropped the classes has officially resigned. The others will have an opportunity to attend the next class.

e. Building reports

Mr. Chuck Edwards presented an update on the Fire Station building projects.

Work on clearing the land will be done at the GA Bend Station property over the next few weeks. The county is waiting on bids for the building itself to come in. Request for Bids on the building is currently being advertised.

The county is waiting on the doors for the Folkston Fire Station to be installed. They are also waiting on the fans and door motors, which complete the electrical project.

f. Discuss Replacement Radios

Truck radio bids were brought to Chief Lewis and previous County Administrator Hampton Raulerson. It was previously suggested that the department purchase the radios instead of lease them. They will need 21 truck radios and 15 handheld replacements in total.

If the radios are purchased, the funds would be pulled from 2020 SPLOST. If they are leased, the funds would have to come from the General Fund budget.

Mr. Gowen asked if there would be any services or warranty on the radios if they were bought. Chief Lewis confirmed that they would have a factory warranty.

Mr. Crews made a motion to propose the radio be purchased through 2020 SPLOST to the Commissioners for approval. Mr. Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

g. Amendment to the Agenda: Discuss Purchase of Fire Truck

Chief Lewis proposed that a new truck be purchased to replace the current Fire Chief Command truck. A truck has been located for \$91,214 but would require a skid unit be put on the back of the vehicle for an additional \$16,625. The vehicle would still need to be fitted with lights, decals, and radio system.

The previous county administrator Hampton Raulerson had suggested that funding could be pulled from LATCF, ARPA, and 2020 SPLOST. Chief Lewis stated that he would get with County Administrator Headley to discuss funding further.

Mr. Crews motioned to review the truck and present the recommendation to purchase the truck to the Commissioners, contingent on review from County Administrator Headley. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

h. Amendment to the Agenda: Discuss Dedication of Fire Truck for Karalynn

The dedication will take place on November 9th, 2024, at 5:00 PM at Station 5.

i. Amendment to the Agenda: Discuss Banquet

The annual banquet will take place on November 23rd, 2024, at 6:00 PM at Station 1.

10. PERSONNEL REPORT: WE HAVE 3 MORE NEW APPLICANTS

There are 9 applicants in various states of onboarding. All 9 applicants have expressed a desire to become a certified firefighter. There will be 5 assigned to Folkston, 3 to St. George, and 1 to the Georgia Bend. All are currently waiting medical clearance.

One probationary member has resigned since the last meeting of the fire board, due to time constraints.

Currently, the department has 36 volunteers. There are 2 district chiefs.

There are 16 volunteers at the Folkston Station, 3 at St. George, 1 at Racepond, 11 at the Georgia Bend, and 3 at Winokur. Of those volunteers, 21 are certified firefighters, 5 are support, 7 are firefighter trainees, and 3 are support trainees.

11. FIRE RUN REPORTS BY TYPES (ENCLOSED IN HANDOUT)

Chief Lewis presented the fire run report. Chief Lewis and Mr. Chuck Edwards confirmed that the medical calls that do not need fire response have lessened since the last meeting.

12. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT

No comments were made.

13. GUESTS

No comments were made.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF REQUIRED)

No executive session required.

15. ADJOURN

Next meeting will be November 25th at St. George Fire Station.

Mr. Thompson made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Motion to adjourn carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM.