

PICKENS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

January 8, 2024

222 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, SC 29671

IN ATTENDANCE - BOARD: Richard (Kenny) McPeters
William "Bill" Daniel
Dennis Bauknight
Troy Burton
JB "Jan" Kelley
David Robinson
Jess Poirier
Randy Bowers
Paul Howland
Brooke Newman

ABSENT – BOARD: Rodney Herd

IN ATTENDANCE - STAFF: Billy Gibson
John Odum

IN ATTENDANCE - GUESTS: None

Agendas, bearing date, time and location of meeting were emailed to Board members and news media and a copy was posted on the county website and bulletin board at the Administration facility.

Meeting called to order at 6:08. JB Kelley offered an invocation.

Introductions of new members. Minutes from December were approved. Motion by JB Kelley and second by D.Bauknight.

New Haz Mat truck ordered with a 2 ½ yr lead time.

2 new fire engines are at Fire Equipment Services shop for final preparations.

2 new ambulances should arrive around Q1Y2024.

EMS training officer (D.Easter) has been installed.

Working on lift-assist policy for EMS.

Transition for dispatchers from Liberty continues.

Held kick off meeting with firm to do the first step in programming the public safety building. All divisions completed a preliminary needs assessment questionnaire. We have a second meeting scheduled for Jan 15 & 16 to begin detailed work.

Compensation study continues.

Stair chairs have arrived and in service.

Beginning interview for new Deputy Emergency Management Director.

Old Business:

1. 1% Fair Tax – Looking for the date to present to County Council.
2. Radio System upgrade continues to move forward toward implementation.
3. Public Safety Building – short update
4. Board Attendance

5. Election of Officers

- a. Chairman Election – Randy Bowers motioned that Bill Daniels be nominated as the new Chairman. Paul Howland seconds. Kenny McPeters supports the nomination. All approved the nomination.
- b. Vice Chairman – JB Kelley nominated himself for Vice Chairman. Randy Bowers seconds. All approved the nomination.
- c. Secretary – Kenny Peters nominated Paul Howland. JB Kelley seconds. All approved the nomination.

New Business:

1. Rescue Squads

- a. Rescue 6 has a very low response record. There has been almost no improvement year over year.
- b. None of the Rescue Squads is likely compliant with Secretary of State of SC.
- c. JB Kelley motioned this board recommend to the County Administrator that all Rescue squads be integrated into Pickens County Fire Rescue, no longer recognize Rescue Squads as independent organizations supporting the county, and such funding of said entities be allocated to Emergency Services of Pickens. Paul Howland Seconds. All approved.
- d. NOTE – Each member cautiously considered this vote with sensitivity and appreciation for Rescue’s historic value delivered to Picken’s County.

Chief Gibson summarized how Pickens County provides support of good **mental health** for our personnel.

R.Bowers motioned we adjourn; second by D.Bauknight. The next Board meeting is Monday, February 12th.