

PICKENS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

July 18, 2023

222 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, SC 29671

IN ATTENDANCE - BOARD: Richard (Kenny) McPeters  
Bill Daniel  
Paul Howland  
Dennis Bauknight  
Troy Burton  
Hub Smith  
Brooke Newman  
Rodney Herd  
JB "Jan" Kelley

ABSENT – BOARD: Tracie Barnette  
Randy Bowers

IN ATTENDANCE - STAFF: Billy Gibson  
Meredith Teske

IN ATTENDANCE - GUESTS: Dr. Daniel Schwerin  
Mr. Ken Roper

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 6:05. B.Newman offered an invocation.

May T.Burton motioned to accept; second by B.Daniel. B.Daniel motion to accept; second by T.Burton. All approved. May & June minutes accepted.

Chief Gibson introduced Meredith Teske as the new EMS Director, effective July 1st. Meredith summarized her background and immediate actions: example, stair-chairs. Meredith is seeking recommendations for the use of limited funds in retaining employees.

EMS openings – 1 fulltime and 4 part-time (12-hour slots) openings.

R.Herd motioned we recommend to County Council “the approval of additional funds, as needed, for the purchase of two ambulances and twelve stair-chairs such that all items can be purchased in excess of the current fiscal year budget. Estimated funds required, \$160,000 (\$60K for the stair-chairs and \$100K for the ambulances).” Second by JB Kelley. Unanimously approved. Chief Gibson will deliver the urgent request to County Council.

R.Herd discussed a retention plan focused on a pay plan that rewards loyalty (a step plan). Lucas (CPR) devices, additional Cardiac Monitors, fully fund Eco-6, 24-72 schedule, and hire a Training Officer.

B.Newman recommends the budget process be amended such that all budget items, including those cut by administration, be show to county council.

Fair Tax

The "fair tax" idea was presented to a couple of council members. The members provided feedback to improve the plan. Should consider this on a 7-year cycle instead of 10-year. We should present this to County Council in September. Additionally, consider preparation for EMP disaster. R.Bowers is looking at the marketing of this plan.

Consider these details:

- marketing the plan will be short (4-6 months long)
- must have 3 readings to get on the ballot
- revamp the budget ... keep durable good items and reduce recurring purchases
- County Council will improve communication with this Board
- The plan must cover all 7 years, not year to year
- Keep the current recurring items in the budget and use the 1% for the additional/stretch needs, for improvements
- Seek input on what is needed from each department

T.Burton recommends we stay at the 1% (as opposed to 0.5% or other). JB Kelley summarized his discussion with others in the county and not one person has disagreed with the 1% idea.

Radio Study: Acquiring the number of radios needed.

Emergency Services Division Report: Request for Proposal being considered for a new logistics building for centralizing emergency management equipment.

Kenny was formally thanked for his work at the Saturday, 8-Jul Political rally in the City of Pickens.

Additional items:

1. Several damaged vehicles are in for repair.
2. One ambulance lost due to an at-fault accident.
3. A new fire-truck is scheduled for purchase.
4. Donated a couple vehicles.
5. The Vineyards fire boat is out for repair.

JB Kelley motioned we adjourn; second by P.Howland. The next Board meeting is Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.