

PICKENS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

June 12, 2023

222 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, SC 29671

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

ABSENT – BOARD: Tracie Barnette
Randy Bowers
Brooke Newman

IN ATTENDANCE - STAFF: Billy Gibson
John Odum

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.

R.Herd offered an invocation.

May minutes omitted until next meeting.

Fair Tax

Mr. Roper reviewed the need to have the "fair tax" on the election ballot for Y2024. Recommendation timing could be now or in November. Consider the pros and cons of the timing. Talk to your Councilmen about the better timing.

Would the county be able to help us market the "fair tax" to the community. Mr. Roper confirmed the county will assist in marketing this idea.

This board is concerned about County Council not supporting the "fair tax". County Council needs to support this before presenting to the citizens.

Up for election Y2024

Mr. A.Saitta

Dr. H.Wilson

Chairman Mr. C.Bowers

V.Chairman Mr. R.Costner

Up for election Y2026

Ms. C.C.Linvill

Mr. C.Lollis

We can meet with the County Council, up to 2 of them, to discuss the "fair tax" option. Maybe the Chairman and V.Chairman could be gathered.

Can we get yearly attendance at the parks in the county? Mr. Roper confirmed we can. Billy will obtain the data for the parks and boaters.

Any suggested budget items in the Fair Tax that should be changed. R.Herd suggesting finding a “swap” to fund an EMS Training Officer.

Objective – Put together the common points to present to County Council and all others. The committee will meet (20-Jun @ 6 PM). B.Gibson will invite the greater committee.

Radio Study: County Council voted to pay for the county’s new radio system. This board did not recommend or review the radio system. T.Burton recommended a system that allows communication between all required users as opposed to multiple communication systems/networks. County Council approved \$10.4 million. The UHF system will be selected. New towers will be installed. Using existing towers. And obtaining an additional tower (from Duke).

Emergency Management: Hazard mitigation plan for the county completed. Training completed for radiological monitoring.

Fire: Lake signage on docks are being added for Keowee Springs, The Reserve and The Vineyards. Working with HOA’s. Not every dock just key locations so reports can be called in and identified quickly.

EMS: New Director, Meredith Teske will begin 3-Jul-2023.

Additional items:

1. Working on new subdivision addressing.
2. Working on transitioning Liberty PD dispatch to the county. This will insure smooth transitions and proper response. Transition is to the Sheriffs office; however, temporarily moving to EMS Center. Targeting Jul-2023 start-date.
3. Difficulty: Splitting lots to smaller lots for additional homes. This is slowing down the 911 addressing process.

Personnel – Improvement from last month.

- Fire – three (3) openings
- EMS Personnel – four (4) openings (12-hour slots)

New Business

Board members who’s terms are expiring this year: P.Howland, T.Barnett, H.Smith, and D.Bauknight. P.Howland, H.Smith and D.Bauknight are willing to serve another term.

Dr. D.Schwerin: New training for the crews on new life-saving drugs. Three separate drugs are being introduced. Training process has been approved over the past 2 years (guidelines and EMS protocol has been the greatest improvement). Second, the Protocol App implementation. Third, the training with hands-on simulation has improved. However, the actual training should continue to be improved. This will upgrade our skills. The crews are excited about the research that could be done.

Training center picnic (during training week). We will be serving team-members. Donations from at least 4 members and community organizations: R.Bowers, R.Herd, C.Huff, Lifenet & Spartan Fire and Emergency.

R.Herd – We may get a Fire Training officer but not an EMS Training officer? It seems odd. We need a person who can be dual role.

T.Burton motioned we adjourn. H.Smith second. The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, July 18th.