

PICKENS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD  
September 14, 2021  
222 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, SC 29671

IN ATTENDANCE - BOARD: Richard (Kenny) McPeters  
Charles (Hub) Smith  
Tracy Woodruff  
Tracie Barnett  
Paul Howland  
Troy Burton

ABSENT – BOARD: Johnson Link  
Jan Kelley  
Randy Bowers  
Dennis Bauknight

IN ATTENDANCE - STAFF: Billy Gibson, Director of Emergency Services

IN ATTENDANCE - GUESTS: Rock Odemann (Sunset/Vineyards)

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.

Kenny McPeters called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

Hub Smith offered the invocation.

The August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were reviewed (no discussion) and approved without objection.

TOPIC:

- 2023 Budget.
  - Ambulances – Some issues being addressed, nothing significant. 1 ambulance is on order.
  - Fire Engines – 2 are scheduled for replacement. Note: lead-time is 18 months; working with vendor to get “stock” trucks
- Rescue Squads.
  - County Council rejected “Boards” recommendation for a liaison between the Fire Chiefs & Rescue Squads
  - B.Gibson will seek to hold Rescue Squads accountable for:
    1. Equipment listed in the Rescue Squad Handbook
    2. Meeting basic level of proficiency/readiness
  - D.Lawson may be tasked with assisting in this effort

- T.Barnett summarized Rescue Squads ineffectiveness as determined 2 years ago. This Board recommended adjusting Rescue's structure at that time. Bottomline – No improvement to date.
- T.Burton wondered if County Council recalls a similar evaluation some 2 years ago.
- H.Smith reiterated the risk associated with Rescue ... driving risk.
- T.Woodruff questioned the reason for County Council's rejection of this Board's recommendation.
- K.McPeters agreed to follow-up with County Council to understand their reason(s).
- Fire Division.
  - Rocky Bottom – Focus on land & truck purchases (\$80K budget)
  - Roll over budget can also benefit these purchases (\$25K)
  - B.Gibson and H.Smith summarized the land in consideration
  - Personnel: 1 fulltime position and 7 part-time positions open
- Emergency Management
  - Rescue Boat – On order; under budget; to be stationed at Keowee Springs; current pontoon will be given in trade
- EMS
  - Personnel – Several part-time positions open; difficult to fill due to current socio-economic conditions; County Council opened more part-time positions to improve EMS reliability and flexibility
  - Pay adjustments – To help improve retention and recruiting
  - In September, Pickens' medics assisted Greenville county on a couple of calls
  - Helicopter Response – Excellent reliability regarding 24 hour response (B.Gibson elaborated with a story). 2 companies supporting Pickens: MedTrans (VFR only) and Air Methods/LifeNet10 (IFR rated). Air Methods can handle cardiac patients.
- B.Gibson summarized Covid conditions in Pickens.
- This Board to seek County Council approval for 4 positions: 2 open & 2 renewals.

The next advisory board meeting will be at 6 PM on October 12<sup>th</sup> at 222 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, SC 29671.

P.Howland called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. H.Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.

Minutes taken by Paul Howland, Secretary.