

PICKENS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
February 8, 2022
222 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, SC 29671

IN ATTENDANCE - BOARD: Richard (Kenny) McPeters
Dennis Bauknight
Hub Smith
Scott Childress
Randy Bowers
Paul Howland
Troy Burton
Bill Daniel
Brooke Newman
JB Kelley

ABSENT – BOARD: Tracie Barnette
Rodney Herd

IN ATTENDANCE - STAFF: Billy Gibson, Dir. of Emer. Services

IN ATTENDANCE - GUESTS: Rocky Odeman

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 6:01 PM.

Randy Bowers offered the invocation.

Members introduced themselves.

Vice Chairman nominations: Hub Smith who politely declined, and Bill Daniel, who accepted the nomination. All voted in favor. Bill Daniel is appointed Vice Chairman. Other officers will continue: Kenny McPeters Chairman and Paul Howland Secretary.

Randy Bowers motioned “officers remain in place, and that each ‘even year’ offices will be elected at the first meeting of that year”. Troy Burton seconds the motion. JB Kelley third the motion. Discussion ensued. Two-year term helps provide stability and complete projects. Motion passed.

JB Kelley motioned to accept the January meeting minutes without amendment. Paul Howland seconds. Minutes were approved.

TOPIC (per B.Gibson's distributed agenda):

- Emergency Services Division Update
 - ARPA funds approved for the County
 - 2023 budget
 - 1. Personnel
 - Requested funding for full time personnel.
 - E911 – no requests
 - EMS – requesting funding for new team, 1 new trainer (current trainer is part-time, primarily serves our team in other capacity), and 3rd FTO (Field Training Officer). New team licensed as EMT. Seeking to get to EMS basic. This further assists with water-level rescue as needed. Seeking to expand training in Fire teams. These justify the trainer.
 - New EMS Director accepted the offer and is starting this month.
 - Deputy Director position to be posted shortly
 - 2. Equipment purchases
 - Holly Springs
 - Dacusville – new truck for Y2022 is in use
 - Pumpkintown – equipment ordered prior to tight supply
 - EMS – 2 ambulances scheduled for replacement in 2023
 - Miscellaneous – Lifts and Stair-chairs are needed
 - ARPA Funding may be used to meet equipment needs
 - Addressing growth
 - 1. Need to add to Medic 4 (now Clemson University covers workload). Norris addition could help cover Medic 4 (Clemson) while assisting at Liberty and other areas.
 - 2. Possibly Easley or Dacusville (@ Hwy 135/183 intersection)
 - 3. Suggestions / Questions
 - Call back plan for in-county
 - 24-hour teams
 - Upgrade Radios – RFP for the “study” of the upgrade. Engaging the vendor this month. 60-day lead-time for the review & analysis ... this could be covered by ARPA funds.
 - Unified Dispatch centralizing the coordination of efforts is still in discussion (County Council)
 - Emergency Services – 3 recent examples illustrate excellent service
 - Emergency Management – rescue boat still on order
 - Rescue Squad
 - 1. Rescue 6 continues to be poor
 - 2. Rescue 7 & 8 seem to be stable and responding to calls
 - Fire Boat will be taken in trade for the new Boat. This new boat is to be housed at Keowee Springs.
 - Fire Station Expansions
 - 1. Croswell area under consideration
 - 2. Shady Grove area still under consideration
 - 3. Rocky Bottom under consideration

ARPA money may be possible for expansion
- Fire Fee

- Short history of Fire Fee in the county
 1. Residential rates were accepted
 2. Commercial rates caused a single complaint – this was the item being addressed in the last County Council Meeting
- Final recommendation was delivered to the County Council in January
 1. No action yet taken
 2. County Council is trying to ‘make whole’ those that paid over the recommended limit
 3. County Council offered their appreciation for our work via B.Gibson

B.Daniel requested the B.Gibson offer goals and/or challenges this board can address. Land acquisitions discussions have occurred with The Vineyards and Shady Grove, no others. Feedback is needed for other locations.

The next advisory board meeting will be at 6 PM on March 8th at 222 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, SC 29671.

D.Baulknight motioned to adjourn the meeting. P.Howland seconded. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

Minutes taken by P.Howland, Secretary.