



GLASSY MOUNTAIN FIRE SERVICE AREA

2015 Highway 11
Landrum, South Carolina 29356
Business (864) 895-4306 Fax (864) 895-4748
Website: www.gmfd.net

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting March 18, 2024 – Meeting Held at Headquarters and via Microsoft Teams

Commissioners in attendance: James White, Patrick Frye, Andrea Martin, Bob Coseo, Stuart Safft, Patrick Walker

Commissioners absent: Shawn McDonald

Staff in attendance: Chief Robert Staples, Kelley Murphy, Chaplain Shaver, Captain Timblin, Ali Palmer, Allen Pruitt

Public in attendance: None

- I. **Call to Order** – Comm. White called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm
- II. **Invocation** given by Chaplain Shaver
- III. **Consent Items:**
 - **Minutes:** No Comment.
 - **Financial:** Comm. Coseo reported in addition to the provided report that a new bank account was being opened for the Glassy Mountain Fire Service Area due to fraudulent e-check activity. After consulting with bank managers, a new account was the best course of action. The existing account will remain active until all outstanding checks are cleared and automated scheduled payments have been moved to the new account. The authorized signers for the new account are also being updated and will include Chief Staples, Comm. White, Comm. Coseo, and Comm. Martin.
 - **Operational Report:** Chief Staples reported in addition to his formal reports the following:
 - i. The Assistance to Firefighters' Grant Application has been submitted. Awards will begin in July of 2024 and will continue for several months.
 - ii. The Operation's Plan for 2024 has been updated and is included in the agenda packet for further review.
 - iii. Stott's Ford has not received VINs for the recently purchased Quick Response Vehicles. Production delays do not allow for estimates in arrival times for the new vehicles.
 - iv. A member from Spartan Fire & Emergency Apparatus informed us that the cost of new engines has more than doubled since our purchase of Engine 34 in 2016. The lead time on a new engine purchase is approximately 40 months.
 - v. In response to the board's concern over lengthy response times of ambulances to our area, Inquiries were made to Greenville County regarding the transportation of patients by our department. There are no ordinances preventing us from doing so; however, costs for personnel and other related costs are being compiled.

Approval: Comm. Martin made a motion to approve the Consent Items. Comm. Coseo seconded. All Approved.

IV. **New Business:**

- **Building Improvements:** Chief Staples informed the board that estimates were being gathered to replace the flooring at Headquarters. The 2023 Bond allowed for building improvements,



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most of which were completed in 2023. The remaining improvements will be determined by the costs of other Bond expenses.

I. Committee Reports:

- **Personnel Committee** – Comm. Walker reported that the Personnel Committee met on March 7 at the request of Chief Staples to discuss several items. **After a brief discussion, Comm. Walker recommended that the rank of Lieutenant be reinstated. Comm. Coseo seconded the motion. All Approved. Comm. Walker also recommended that the Chief’s request to carry over up to 80 hours per year be granted, with the combination of annual leave and carryover annual leave not to exceed 280 each year. Martin seconded. All approved.** Also discussed was the reassignment of “Captain” to “Battalion Chief,” which Comm. Walker did not support. No action was recommended at this time. An additional pay scale adjustment was also considered by the personnel committee; however, this discussion was tabled. The committee also requested a report on accrued leave liabilities.
- **Finance Committee** – No Report.
- **Policy and Procedures** – No Report.
- **Communications Committee** – No Report.
- **Strategic Planning Committee** – No Report.

II. **Public Commentary:** Chaplain Shaver spoke in favor of the Battalion Chief designation, which he said should be considered as a valuable retention device.

III. **Commissioner Commentary:** None.

IV. **Meeting adjourned at 5:31 PM**

Respectfully Submitted:

James White, Board Chairman

Kelley Murphy, Admin Manager

The Commission’s next scheduled regular meeting will be Monday, April 15, 2024, at Headquarters and via Microsoft Teams, beginning at 4:30 PM.

The GMFSA publishes the agenda for this meeting on its HQ Bulletin Board outside the main public entrance, on the GMFSA’s web site, and on the Greenville County Administrative bulletin board at the University Center location.