KEOWEE FIRE COMMISSION

115 Maintenance Road

**Salem, SC 29676**

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*Commissioners: Karen Graves. Don Chamberlain, Bill Griffiths, Leo Primeau, John Turner*

**Keowee Fire Commission Meeting January 19, 2021**

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Primeau called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Primeau, Turner, Griffiths and Chamberlain

Visitors Present: Chief Shirley, John Elliott and Steve MacLeod

Secretary Report

Minutes from the November 17, 2020 meeting were submitted by Commissioner J Turner.

Motion was made to accept the minutes by J Turner

Seconded by D Chamberlain

Vote to accept was unanimous.

**District millage Increase Amendment**

L Primeau made the case for the increase in the “not to exceed” millage rate from the current 14.5% to 17.5%, The current rate was established 16 years ago. The financial projections for the next 3-5 years are indicating a deficit which would deplete our reserves. This is partially due to the lack of volunteers necessitating more part time staff, higher building and equipment maintenance costs, payroll, staffing requirements of the substation, pension and utility costs inflation. He stated that the current level of service required has expanded with higher population and abundantly more structures in our coverage area. Our station needs to replace the 20 year old ladder truck, a sizable but critical capital investment, while maintaining a fiscally responsible reserve account.

Questions and comments were requested.

D Chamberlain made a motion that the commission approve a millage increase from 14.5% but not to exceed 17.5%. J Turner second the motion. The vote will result in the increase with the County Council.

The motion passed unanimously with a verbal yes vote provided from Karen Graves Chairman Leo Primeau. The request will be submitted to the county council for their consideration and public comments.

**Financial Report**

B Griffiths reported that the CD, currently $51,616.70, at South State Bank was renewed at the rate of .75% expiring on October 15, 2021.

Total current assets including cash on hand for operating expenses and all reserves as of 12/31/ 2020 were $523,458.61

The total revenues collected this year to date is $24,129.25 more than last year.

**Grant**

The AFG FEMA grant opened January 4 and will close Feb. 12. Chief Shirley stated that grant requests submitted are:

Fire Hose- to replace old worn/failed hoses

Radios- switching hand radios and the Polaris to digital

**Donations**

The station received $1850. in donations mostly in memory of former commissioner Bob Malone.

**Station Activity**

The station had 27 calls during December mostly involving medical services rendered.

**Personnel Status**

The substation is being staffed 24/7 in compliance with Duke contract.

**Equipment Status**

R-172 is currently in discussion with a small town in PA on purchasing it. The commission approved the sale for the $15K.

**Dock Permit/Extension**

Kroger Marine has agreed to take action to move the permit along thru the process required by the Corps of Engineers and Duke Energy.

**9/11 Memorial**

Chief Shirley reported that the project is 90% complete.

**New Business**

Chief Shirley submitted his 2021 goals/objectives/training for the station:

* Continue to make safety of our staff and those we serve our top priority
* Continue to foster a positive work environment and high morale among staff
* Focus on improving our water response, dive training, and lake familiarization with newer staff and ensuring that we have at least 1 rescue diver on each shift
* Apply for the AFG FEMA grant with a focus on communications and replacement of fire hose.
* Construct a medical helicopter landing zone at KFD in order to provide better patient care and better training opportunities for our staff and other stations.
* Continue to maintain our solid relationships with other fire stations, county and state officials.
* Conduct multi-station training with Salem and Rescue 22.
* Operate within our defined budget and continue to work through the process of obtaining a revenue increase for the district.
* Start-up the apparatus committee to establish our path to replacing the Ladder 17
* Conduct annual training burn in the fall of 2021
* Continue on shift training with a different topic each week.

L Primeau added a Commission goal this year to be supportive in the process to create a scenario of fiscal stability for the next 5-7 years so that the Keowee Fire Department can achieve both overall short term and long term goals while maintaining the level of service that our communities and Fire/EMS partners expect.

**Firewise Activity**

Keowee Key has a U-Haul event scheduled for Feb. 16.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,

John Turner, Secretary

**Grant Activity**

We were notified that we did not receive the AFG Grant for the 2019 award year.

**Sale of Engine 172**

No reasonable offers have been received.

**KKCP Donations**

No Donations in October, but a KK resident gave $250 in November.

**Previous Months Calls**

23 calls were made which included 18 EMS calls and one for fire.

**Personnel Status**

We had three staff members test positive for Covid-19 during October, but currently have zero members affected. The new county fire chief is Larry Greer, previously a Firefighter instructor for several years. L Primeau stressed that the substation must be staffed 24/7 by 1/1/2021 to meet the Duke contract requirement.

**Equipment Status**

The station replaced tires on the 2500 pickup truck at the substation and new tires were put on the Tundra along with a new fuel pump. E-172 was currently in the shop for warranty work. E-17, the first engine at KFD, has depreciated off the County inventory and KFD will be receiving the title in the near future.

**Firewise Activities**

Keowee Key had an October U-Haul Firewise event with 96 participants and 122 loads delivered to the chipping site. In November, after the Zeta storm, 108 residents participated bringing 150 loads to the chipping site. Eleven dump truck loads were removed from Waterford Point at their November Firewise event.

**New Business**

Due to Covid-19 crisis the annual KFD Christmas party was cancelled, however, the commission approved $50. gift cards to be given to each staff member in recognition of the holidays.

There will be no commission meeting in December.

The next meeting will be on January 19. 2021 at 3:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Turner, Secretary

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