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 –June 16, 2020**

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

Commissioners Present: Griffiths, Primeau, Turner, Graves and Chamberlain

Visitors Present: Chief Shirley

Secretary Report

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

Motion to accept as submitted by: K Graves

Second by: D Chamberlain

Vote to accept was unanimous.

Financial Reports

1. Treasurer B Griffiths reported that the station has collected this year to date $13,348.34 more than last year. B Griffiths reported that we had approximately $448,000 in the reserve account with South State Bank, Chief Shirley reminded the commission that between June and October 2020, $200,000 will be needed for operations and other anticipated expenditures.

2. The third and final reading of the station’s 2020/2021 budget at the county council is scheduled for 6/16.

3. Grant activity and consideration meetings have been postponed due to the corona virus.

4. Keowee Key community partnership total donations remain low. The partnership now has 18 members. The fall meeting has been cancelled due to Covid19. Suggestions were offered for a more aggressive engagement with the communities served by station 17, but gatherings are not possible at this time due to the virus.

**Current Business**

**Grants**

At the February meeting Chief Shirley reported that the AFG FEMA grant opened on February 6th. And that he submitted requests for grants for the following:

1. Fire Hose- to replace old worn/failed hoses.

2. 10 Air packs- to replace the county air packs that will be out of service in 24 months.

3. A regional grant to replace the brush truck.

Due to the virus any meetings or actions on said requests have been postponed.

**Personnel**

Chief Shirley spoke favorably about Ally Burchett, a new volunteer. L Primeau asked about manning the substation to support the Duke contract for next year. Chief Shirley assured the commission that the facility will have full coverage by January 1, 2021.

**Fire Equipment Status**

Chief Shirley reported that the new Fire Truck R172 that arrived 5/18/2020 is performing well and that the staff has been pleased with it as it has been on a few calls already. The new truck has had a few minor warranty issues that are being addressed and fixed. Chief anticipates selling the old truck 172 between $20,000 and $25,000.

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**Dock Permit status**

No progress has been made on the dock modification/extension permit request due the pandemic.

**Fire wise Activities**

Al the Waterford communities (Waterford, Waterford Pointe, Waterford Ridge) held a spring fire wise event in April and reported that it was larger than the normal amount of potential wildfire fuel removed. Keowee Key held a U-haul chipping day June 16. They had a great turnout of 149 residents who brought 218 loads of material to the chipping area. The number of loads was 60% higher than the last U-Haul Day in February.

**Medical helicopter Pad**

No progress at this time due to the pandemic.

9/11 Memorial

Chief Shirley reported that the construction of the 9/11 memorial in Walhalla was shut down due to the pandemic, but is scheduled to start up again in the first week of July with a 4-5 week completion plan.

**Additional New Business**

In February, 2020, the commission examined the projected income and expenses for the next ten years taking into consideration the anticipated increases in all categories including salaries and benefits, equipment replacement and maintenance of all property and equipment. The commission discussed the anticipated decline of sufficient income to fund those increases at the current tax rate of 14.5 mils which has not changed in over 16 years. A millage change would ultimately be required to balance the budget or cuts in service would be necessary. The commission agreed to continue discussion on this topic at the next meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and so passed at 4:30PM

Respectfully submitted by John M. Turner, Secretary