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 November 17, 2020**

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

Commissioners Present: Primeau, Turner, Graves and Chamberlain

Visitors Present: Chief Shirley and Jason White, CPA

 Secretary Report

Minutes from the September 22, 2020 meeting were submitted by Commissioner J Turner.

Motion was made to accept the minutes by J Turner

Second by: D Chamberlain

Vote to accept was unanimous.

 Financial Reports

1. Jason White of Payne, White & Schmultz, public accountants, submitted the annual auditor’s financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. Mr. White commented that the Keowee Fire Department received another good report and remains in good standing in accordance with accepted accounting principles. He stated that the preparation of the financial statement was in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and conforms to the guidelines required by all municipalities. Several copies of the report were provided and Jason White, representing the Keowee Fire Commission, shall provide the report to the Oconee County Commission and their accounting office.

2. Chief Shirley reported that as of October 30, 2020, the station has collected $6,583.59 more this year than was collected by the same date last year. Total assets, including cash on hand as of 10/30/2020 was $483,762.92.

3. Chief Shirley stated there were a couple of unanticipated expenses which included some building maintenance issues. He recommended that we consider budgeting increases for building maintenance in the preparation of future annual budgets. He also pointed that our radios are primarily analog devices while the county is switching over to digital to increase the range of important emergency communications from the county emergency dispatchers. Chief Shirley asked the county communications committee for a digital repeater to be placed on the Salem water tower and new digital radios to be provided. The county has agreed to place the repeater on the tower with the goal of installation by the end of February.

L Primeau reported that the CD at South State Bank that expired on 9/20/2020 was rolled over at a rate of .75% for 13 months.

**District Millage Rate Amendment**

Chief Shirley reported that he had prepared an article to be distributed to all the district neighborhoods including the Keowee Key Scuttlebutt paper providing information about the request of a millage increase from 14.5 to 17.5 and to provide some history and background for the amendment proposal. There will be a public announcement in December of a public hearing on the subject scheduled on January 19, 2021. If the amendment is approved by the county council after three readings, the increase could be included in the county tax collection in September.

 Chief Shirley responded that the new annual budget and future budgets should be based on the 17.5 rate and the plan to build the reserve account to cover the anticipated increase in staffing costs and also to replace worn out capital equipment like L-17 and other critical equipment.

**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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