

**CHARLTON COUNTY FIRE BOARD
MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022
RACEPOND FIRE STATION
6:00 P.M.**

1/24/2022 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Those present were: President Lee Gowen, along with Fire Board members Jesse Crews, Orival Thompson, Mike Harris, and Kip Taylor; Fire Chief C. L. Lewis, Assistant Chief Willard Turner, Secretary Jenifer Nobles; and visitors as recorded hereafter. Hampton Raulerson was absent.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Invocation and Pledge to the Flag was led by Mr. Gowen.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Crews made motion to adopt the January 24, 2022 Agenda. Motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Crews made motion to approve November 29, 201 Minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Harris, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Crews made motion to approve the Financial Report. Motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

6. GUESTS

None.

7. REPORTS: GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION: ROGER TODD

None.

8. REPORTS

Fire Chief Lewis reported that AFG application has been submitted. We are applying for \$290,000.00 truck, with 5% county portion of \$16,000.00. The application process has been approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Chief Lewis reported that he has started e mailing volunteers with updates of repair status and the day to day operations of the fire department. Mr. Lewis reported that 5 trucks are currently having issues. After discussion, the fire board asked Chief Lewis to find someone who can get trucks maintained and running,

Mr. Crews opened discussion stating that he is hearing that people are looking to join the fire department,

but applications are not being processed. He stated "things aren't going right". We need to make things happen. Stations are not in order, example Racepond station lights are not working effectively. I am disappointed." Something has to give.

Chief Lewis stated that he comes in early and goes home late. I am only one person. I have gone over applications and tried to contact applicants but they have failed to get back with me. I go on fire runs, have been working on AFG application and could not have met deadline without Amanda Lafferty's assistance. I have to have support, but feel some are working against me.

Georgia Forestry trucks were discussed. Mr. Thompson stated that officers are complaining about how the jobs are being done.

Mr. Turner suggested that truck repairs be done by outside vendor. The County shop employees are not that familiar with maintenance of fire trucks and pump repairs that are needed.

Mr. Gowen suggested that C. L. get estimates for truck repairs and get them on Hampton's desk for approval. He also suggested that meetings be held individually with officers and ask for some assistance.

Chief Lewis and the fire board appreciate the officers and volunteers who go on the fire runs and willing to volunteer.

Everyone agreed that we all need to work together not against each other, in order to have a successful volunteer fire department.

The Fire Board thanked Amanda Lafferty for her generosity and for preparing chili, pimento cheese, and banana pudding. Everyone was very appreciative.

9. FIRE RUN REPORTS BY TYPES (ENCLOSED IN HANDOUT)

Fire Run report was provided to the Board and becomes integral part of Minutes.

10. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK REPORT

The Fire Board agreed that meetings will be held every other 4th Monday at 6:00 p.m. and location will be discussed at each meeting. The next Fire Board meeting will be held Monday, March 28, 2022, at the Folkston Fire Station.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF REQUIRED)

None.

12. ADJOURN

Mr. Crews made motion that meeting be adjourned at 6:51 p.m. Motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.