

SALEM FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

April 1, 2025

Commissioners Present: Frank Cardis, Denice Carpenter, Charles Freshour, Ben Gerrald, and Tim Hanke.

Frank called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Frank stated that the minutes for the previous meeting had been distributed. Ben made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes. Denice was 2nd. Motion passes.

Treasurer's Report – Tim stated that all monies in all accounts is \$947,310.24. Tim asked about the account page showing that we have a CD at Hurricane Creek. He stated that the CD he just did was at First Horizon. Laura stated that we do have a CD at Hurricane Creek, and the one at First Horizon wasn't showing on the statement yet.

Chief's Report – Gil stated that we had 104 runs last month, 24 firefighters, and 4 applicants. We also had 309 man hours of training. Gil said that they wrecked the Humvee. He met with the insurance adjuster, and it is probably totaled. The tank tore loose, even though we mounted it like they said to. We had 3 workman's comp claims that day: two from the wreck, and Stewart got 2nd degree burns at the 2 house fires. We also damaged quite a bit of equipment that day; several pieces of hose. Frank stated that Chief had contacted him about the wreck, and he probably assumed that he would inform the other board members. He apologized for not doing so. Tim asked how the Cadet Program was going. Gil said that he doesn't know; he doesn't deal with that. Adam Johnson said that Jackson is heading that up, and they have 5 Cadets right now. Tim said that he has heard good things about the Cadets, and that the newest one is very enthusiastic and energetic. Gil stated that one of our Captains is moving to the other side of the County. He asked if he could stay on, but the Officers decided it was too far, so they weren't bringing it to the Board. He made an offer on a house off of East Polk Road, which is on the Southeast side of Bryant. Tim asked Gil who the Captain is. Gil said that it is Jakob. He will be turning his stuff in on the 17th. Denice made a motion to accept all reports. Charles was 2nd. Motion approved.

Old Business – New Station – Frank said that Adam Earhart questioned whether it was ok to send out the drawing to architects, since it was done by another architect. Frank told him that it was ok, since we paid for the drawing and own it. He did decide to white out the architect's name before posting it on the website, so other architects wouldn't think that they were stepping on someone else's toes. Laura said that she has already mailed out the original drawing to several firms, because she had not considered that it could be a problem with Polk Stanley Wilcox. Adam Earhart brought it to her attention, and she directed him to contact Frank. Laura asked if we have officially cut ties with Polk Stanley Wilcox. Frank said that they have the same ability as anyone else to submit a proposal. Tim asked if we need to change the date. Laura said that she has already sent out letters.

Laura's back-up – no change.

Radios – Frank said that we have an invoice for the radios. The amount it shows is more than the quoted amount, but it is still less than the approved amount. Ben said that he thought the total amount allowed was \$59,000: up to \$29,000 for 6 radios approved in November, and \$30,000 in January. Ben said that they should honor the quote that they gave us of \$4,500 per radio. This invoice shows \$112 more per radio, times a dozen is a little over \$1,000. That gets us back under \$59,000. Frank asked Gil if he knows what the discrepancy is between the \$4,500... Gil said that he has never seen that invoice. Gil said that he just called him and ordered the radios with the quote that he had seen. Laura said that she assumed Gil had placed it on her desk. She said it was on her desk when she came into her office. Gil said that he has not seen that bill. Frank said that it shows that the radios are \$4,612.50. It is not a huge difference, but still more. Ben said that is more than a \$1,000 difference on a dozen of them. Gil said that we will just have to call and see, because this is the first time he has seen this. Tim asked if we have paid it yet. Frank said that the check was printed and just has Tim's signature on it. Tim suggested holding off on paying it until we get this straightened out. Stewart asked if the difference was simply tax. Frank said that since we are tax exempt, if it was tax, we would need to call them and have it removed. Ben asked Chief if he wanted to deal with it, or if he wanted Laura to. Gil said that he didn't care; he didn't know that there was a discrepancy. He stated that he has the original quote on his email still. Ben asked if he would forward that to Laura so she can deal with it. Gil said that he would.

Tim pointed out that on the final page shows that we are on track to exceed our projected interest. He said that we can't predict interest rates, but he thinks that we will be closer to \$20,000.

Tim said that once we get an architect and break ground, things will hopefully start to move pretty fast. He stated that he has been hearing talk about what we need to sell if we build the new station. He understands that we will probably sell station 1 the day after we move into the new one. He wanted to discuss the pros and cons of selling station 2. They just built a \$400,000 home right next to it, which increased our property value. Ultimately it will be a board decision, but he would like for everyone to think about what reasons we might keep it, and what reasons we might sell it. Gil said that when we designed this new station, it was done so we wouldn't need either of those stations. Tim asked about storage. Gil said that you are building an almost 10,000 square foot station. Tim said that we are paying very little to keep it, as far as utilities go. He said that he only sees 2 reasons to sell it: 1, if we are in dire need of money, or 2, if someone other than the department was going to profit from selling it. Gil said that he has already told the Board that the people that sold or gave the property to Salem Fire Department want first option on it. That is their grandson that built that house. Tim said that he just doesn't see a reason to sell it. Denise said that she thought the whole point of the location we chose for the new station was to combine stations 1 and 2, leaving no need for either of them. She said this area keeps getting annexed into the city, so we moved that direction to combine those 2 stations. That was the discussion when we first started this. Tim said that with the new home being built next door to station 2 will make our property go up in value every day. He said that unless we are desperate, he votes we keep that piece of property. Ben said that he is in favor of keeping the property at Station 2, but it will depend some on the value of the property. Is it worth more to us having it as a training and storage area, or is it worth more to us to sell it. Frank said that for investment purposes only, if the real estate prices are increasing at a level less than the interest rate that we would be paying, it would be foolish to hang on to a valuable asset. He said that there are too many moving pieces to that, and without having a timeline, it only makes sense for us to think through the need for keeping those. Frank said that it is really too early to decide anything. Tim said that he just thought we needed to be open to discussion. He said that our #1 asset is the firefighters. Our #2 asset is our apparatus and real estate. Ben said that Zillo claims it is worth \$550,000; if that were accurate he might be in favor of selling it. Gil said that is not accurate; maybe station 1. He said that he has had real estate agents say that we would get \$500,000 for this property. We have 3 acres on this corner, because of Salem Road. Tim said that we don't know how much we are going to have to put up. Frank said that we may need the capital for replacing an engine in the future. Tim said that even though the Board votes on it, we are family here, and he wants to hear everyone's opinion. Denise said that when Humvee was wrecked, she was told it was only insured for \$10,000. She said that she is wondering if our other vehicles are underinsured. She said that the \$10,000 for the Humvee doesn't even cover the equipment. Gil said that they won't let us take the tank and pump off, even though the tank is trashed, because it was bolted on there. Denise said that caught her by surprise; what if it was one of our big trucks. Ben said that Laura updated the big trucks to get them where they need to be, which is why our insurance went from \$12,000 to \$28,000, because we were underinsured. Ben said that we only paid \$2,500 for the Humvee. Gil said that we have \$20,000 in it. Denise said that is what concerned her, was they valued it at less than the equipment. Gil said that we were only allowed to take loose equipment off of it. Ben said there is a company that can help you get more, if it is underinsured. They charge a flat fee of \$500, but they might be able to get us another \$6 or \$8,000. Gil said that might be worth looking at, because we will have to replace the tools, like the chainsaw. Chance is supposed to get a quote for the AED. Ben asked what we paid for the skid. Gil said \$13,500; we paid more for that than the truck. Stewart said you can try to get more money from the insurance company, but it is already difficult for fire departments to get insured; we don't want to risk it. Laura said that she had presented the information to the Board and Officers, and no one questioned the value. Denise said that was before she was on the Board. Ben said that we can still keep it, and salvage our equipment. Gil said that he has already gotten calls from people wanting the Humvee. He said that we can keep the pump and reel, but the tank is trashed. The adjuster took a picture of the spec sheet, and will probably call, because Stewart mounted it per their specs. Stewart said that it didn't come loose, it broke. Tim asked if we have been having problems with the brakes on that. He asked what year it is. Ben said he thinks it is 1987 or 88. Adam said that it has been serviced, and the brakes were totally redone. Ben said that everybody still wants those; it's not destroyed. The front bumper took the brunt of it. Gil said that it was the bumper and the frame of the cloth top. There was some damage inside where it bent the seats. Tim asked if there was any permanent damage to the firefighters. Gil said no. Tim asked Stewart about his burn. Stewart said that he was fine. Tim asked why he filed a

workman's comp claim if he wasn't going to the doctor. Gil said he made them all file paperwork, just in case. Stewart said that Chad didn't have any complaints, except his lower back. Jackson had a cut on his hand. Gil said that the tank came up on top of them. Adam said that it stopped on the second bar up against their backs.

Charles made a motion to adjourn at 7:27. Denice was 2nd. Motion approved