

Pace Fire Rescue District
Regular Meeting
February 27, 2023

1. Meeting Called to Order

- a. Commissioner Jonathan Page was absent from the meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence

4. Public Form

- a. Acknowledged – Allen Hatfield @ 5739 Pine Ridge Avenue, Pace, FL
- b. Mr. Hatfield started out with concerns about the population growth in the county's north end and not enough firefighters. He is also concerned with the traffic along Highway 90 in front of Pea Ridge Station 3 and not having an emergency light at that location. Chief Whitfield explained that it has been brought up to D.O.T. had conducted a study which concluded a traffic light was not needed at that time. They are also discussing widening Highway 90 at which time more lights will be put in.

5. Minutes from the previous meeting

- a. Motion to approve 1st made by Vice-Chair Nick Gradia and 2nd by Secretary Daniel Mills.
- b. Motion approved.

6. Financial Report (Written report attached)

- a. Motion to approve 1st made by Secretary Daniel Mills and 2nd by Vice-Chair Nick Gradia.
- b. Motion approved.

7. Chief's Report (Written report attached)

- a. Chief Whitfield informed the board that he ordered "Class A" uniforms for everyone from a donation from Pace Assembly of God.

8. Annual Report 2022

- a. The report was included so Treasure Jankowski had information on what was accomplished in 2022.

9. Advance Life Support License Update

- a. Advanced Life Support license has been renewed.

10. Station 4 Information

- a. Discussion was held on the three options that Chief Whitfield presented: Prefab Modular, Portable, and constructed building.
- b. Treasurer Jankowski's concerns:
Prefab Modular – where are they built? Chief Whitfield said the company he has the information from is out of state. Treasurer Jankowski wants to keep the funds here locally because if we order from the area, we must consider the shipping time.
Portable – doesn't have a long-life span, and they start looking bad after a while.
The constructed building – Have we signed anything yet and how long will construction take? Chief Whitfield said, "we haven't signed anything". Vice-Chairman Nick Gradia explained a new construct would take two or more years.
Treasurer Jankowski asked Chief Whitfield, if he would continue to look for more land for the fire department to grow. Chief Whitfield assured Treasurer Jankowski that he is always looking for more land.
- c. Vice-Chairman Gradia addressed all concerns adding the time frame for each one. Prefab Modular– up to a year, Portable would be quicker, and the constructed building would be up to 2 years or longer. He also mentioned, whichever was chosen, we must have the staff to crew the station. Hiring is still an issue, and he doesn't see it getting any better soon. He also mentioned that we could make design changes to fit our needs with the Prefab Modular. He has seen Prefab; and the bunk areas, kitchen, living room and bathrooms are roomy. Vice-Chairman Gradia agreed with Treasurer Jankowski to keep the contractors local but no one locally builds the Prefab Modulares. The Board's responsibility is to Pace Fire Department and the community to decide on Station 4.
- d. Secretary Mills agreed with Vice-Chairman Gradia about the Prefab Modular being sturdier and it would be quicker to have onsite. We would need to work on hiring more personnel to fill Station 4's needs. Chief Whitfield said, "he could take one from each shift, and that would cover Station 4". Secretary Mills said "we would need to discuss the funds that will be used for this project. We could just use the impact fees that have been generated and the fees collected in the future". He asked if there could be a "drive thru" attached to the building"? Chief Whitfield said, "no, because someone has already purchased the property behind the building." Then he asked, "maybe an easement?" Chief Whitfield said, "he would look into it".
- e. Motion to approve the Prefab proposal was 1st made by Secretary Daniel Mills and 2nd by Treasurer Jankowski.
- f. Motion approved.

11. L.O.S.T. Funds

- a. We will be getting \$100,000 each year up to \$500,000. We have the Squad on order. We might be able to purchase another apparatus with funds left.

12. KNOX Box Update

- a. Our med-vaults have come in, and we should be able to install them in a few weeks.

13 Hurricane IAN Reimbursement Update

- a. Our reimbursement check came in today from Hurricane IAN, which included reimbursement on repairs to our truck for around \$6,000. We are now working on reimbursement from Hurricane IDA. We might be able to pay off the Engine with both payments combined.

14. Add/Delete

- a. Vice-Chairman Gradia mentioned the Ohio train derailment incident. He asked how many railroads we had and if we were trained in that area. Chief Whitfield said “we train with Eastman and have two firefighters attending school in March. This training will be at Mississippi State College, and we must pay for their lodging.
- b. Vice-Chairman Gradia mentioned how the mileage rate would need to raise to finish upcoming projects such as Station 4. He said getting started on the “budget discussions” so we have a “path” already in plan for when the public starts asking why the mileage rate is being raised.

15. Motion to Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn 1st made by Treasurer Bob Jankowski and 2nd by Secretary Daniel Mills.
- b. Meeting adjourned.

Approved this 17th day of April 2023.



Dean Anderson, Chairman