

UPPER HOMINY VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
APRIL 10, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT:

DAVID LIVINGOOD, CHAIRMAN
GLENN HOWELL, JR., VICE-CHAIRMAN
BRIAN WARREN, SECRETARY
ALLEN RASH
HAROLD MCCARSON
SARA HOWELL
SCOTT MCJUNKIN

MEMBERS ABSENT:

JAMES NETHERTON
ELISE ISRAEL, TREASURER

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief Shane Prestwood

Meeting called to order at 19:00 hours by Chairman Livingood. Prayer was by Allen Rash.

Minutes from the March 20, 2025 meeting were read by Brian Warren, Secretary. Motion to approve, made by Sara Howell. Glenn Howell, Jr. seconded the motion, motion passed.

Treasurer's report as of March 31, 2025 was given by Secretary Warren in Treasurer Israel's absence; copy attached. Motion to approve was made by Glenn Howell, Jr. Scott McJunkin seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financials as of March 31, 2025 were reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Information Sharing:

1. New truck: no action at this time.
2. Andrea's son: the tumor is too big to take out; they are trying to shrink it with Chemotherapy.
3. USDA Grant: ongoing.

NEW BUSINESS:

Information Sharing:

1. Grants:
 - a. The turnout gear grant has been submitted.
 - b. We are waiting on the Duke grant. EMS Director Taylor Jones will talk to Duke about it.
 - c. NCOSFM Grant: NCOSFM has \$10,000,000 to give to fire departments in the Western third of the state. Any department is eligible to apply if they are non-profit and serve a population less than 12,000. The money can be used 1) to pay for damages or recoup expenses as a result of Helene, 2) purchase equipment and 3) capital improvement to cover emergency response. We will be applying for capital improvement money for future emergency response such as a whole building generator and radios. The grant opens April 21st.
2. Coming back from a call a lady claims she was run out of the road by one of our vehicles and hit a mailbox.

3. One of our neighbors has complained about the lighting around the building. We comply with Buncombe County's lighting ordinance.

Handbook:

1. Vacation and sick leave: probationary guidelines on the accrual of vacation leave have been added.
2. Time Clock policy: the current policy has been updated including anyone who misses a clock in/out will email the chief officers and Andrea. Andrea will ensure the correction has been entered. Any early or late clock in/out require an explanation. Allen Rash made the motion to approve the vacation/sick leave policy and the time clock policy. Glenn Howell, Jr. seconded the motion, motion passed.
3. Conflict of Interest policy: ongoing.

Budget: Chief Prestwood presented four budgets. The County Manager suggested looking at 1.4 cent to 1.6 cent increase in our tax rate. The County suggests that department should only keep 15% (1.8 month's expenses) in reserve. After the revaluation, the County wants to do a county-wide flat tax. Chief Prestwood suggests going up 1.6 cents on the tax rate. Glenn Howell, Jr. made the motion to request a 1.6 cent tax increase. Scott McJunkin seconded the motion; motion passed.

No further business.

The next meeting will be the Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn made by Sara Howell. Harold McCarson seconded the motion; meeting adjourned at 20:42.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian Warren, Secretary