

UPPER HOMINY VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MARCH 20, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

JAMES NETHERTON

OTHERS PRESENT: Chief Shane Prestwood

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

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

Treasurer's report as of February 28, 2025 was given by Treasurer Israel; copy attached. Motion to approve was made by Glenn Howell, Jr. Harold McCarson seconded the motion; motion passed.

Financials as of February 28, 2025 were reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Solar Initiative: The project is completed and has been turned on last week. We have a two-way meter so we can sell power back to Haywood EMC.

NEW BUSINESS:

Information Sharing:

1. Grants:
 - a. Duke Energy Grant: we have applied but haven't heard from them.
 - b. Turnout Gear: we have applied for a turnout gear grant for 20 sets of turnout gear (approx. \$98,000). It's a 100% grant and would provide gear for our full-time employees with a second set for them to use while their primary set is being cleaned.
2. The air compressor that was installed when the building was built died and had to be replaced. Sara Howel made the motion to give the old compressor to the gentleman who installed it to get rid of it. Scott McJunkin seconded the motion; motion passed.
3. Chief Prestwood spoke to Pierce and they stated we can push the new truck out to 2029 or 2030.
4. Keep Andrea Blankenship's son, Andrew, in your thought and prayers.

Handbook: Changes brought up in the work session were presented.

1. Vacation and sick leave accruals were discussed.
2. Conflict of Interest and timeclock policies are to come.

3. The motion to accept the changes presented was made by Elise Israel. Allen Rash seconded the motion; motion passed.

Budget: We have received the projected budget numbers. The final budget is due to the County on April 18th. There is a meeting with the County manager and Budgeting on 4/23, a work session with the Board of Commissioners on 4/29. The Commissioner's meeting for the public hearing on the budget is 5/20 with the Commissioner meeting to vote on the budget on 6/3. The projected budget before Helene would have been \$1,571,986 and post Helene \$1,563,548; we lost \$25,438 (mostly in tax revenue) due to Helene. We have the possibility of going up on the tax rate. We are at .19 now but it's suggested we increase .015 to .205. The Chief will prepare multiple budgets to be presented at the next Board meeting.

USDA Grant: Elise Israel suggested looking into a USDA grant; the grant was featured in an article in the latest (March 2025) issue the HEMC's Carolina Country magazine. She will get Chief Prestwood the information.

No further business.

Due to the budget needing to be turned in to the County the day after the next Board meeting, we will have the next Board meeting a week early. The next meeting will be the Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm. Motion to adjourn made by Glenn Howell, Jr.; Elise Israel seconded the motion; meeting adjourned at 20:42.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian Warren, Secretary