

The Heron

January 22, 2014



Newberry County on Lake Greenwood

Newberry County Council

The first council meeting of 2014 was initiated with election of chairman, Henry Livingstone, and vice chairman, Kirksey Koon. Other members of council include:

- John Caldwell,
- Les Hipp,
- Steve Stockman,
- Scott Cain,
- and our councilman, Bill Waldrop.

The most significant item on the agenda was a Financial Audit Report for the county as of the end of the fiscal year June 30, 2013 by David Enzastiga of Rish and Enzastiga, CPA's. Audited financial statements were presented to council. In summary, the firm gave the best possible opinion/assessment of county fiscal status. Highlights of the report are:

- \$40,640,000 in net assets
- \$15M equity after liabilities
- 2013 revenue = \$22.3M
- 2013 expenses = \$19.4M

The council approved a budget calendar for 2014/2015. The Finance Committee will begin work on the budget in work sessions on April 17 and April 21. Anyone with issues/requests affecting the budget should get in early on the process.

County Council approved a quarterly appropriation of \$5,625 for the library. They also awarded contracts for Courthouse Interior Demolition, Newberry Square Exterior and old library renovations. In each case lowest bids received the contracts. The spread between low bid and high bid was significant ranging from a quarter to a half of the high bid. That's the value of the bid process. The risk is that low bidder isn't necessarily going to do a quality job and this county has a bad track record for quality of contract work.

Of note, the question as to whether the county was required to provide healthcare to volunteer firefighters under the Affordable Care Act was resolved in that first responders are exempt.

Fire Department

As of January 11, 2014, The Chappells Fire and Rescue Department has undergone some changes in personnel and facilities. Chief Tony Johnson has stepped aside from Fire Chief and is now Chief of Emergency Medical Services. The department firefighters voted Mike Engemann as the new Fire Chief. Tony's mobile number is 803-940-1115. Mike's mobile number is 803-944-0047.

There is one new volunteer firefighter, certified as an interior firefighter. There are only eight firefighters in the department. Training demands and restrictions deter volunteers. The average fire department volunteer is over the age of 60.

Department Training is every second and third Monday of the month. The business meeting is every first Monday of the month, 7PM to 9PM, and anyone is welcome to attend.

Newberry County has yet to fund a pump for the fire boat. In the interim, the estimate for the pump has gone from eighteen thousand to twenty thousand dollars. Department volunteers are working on alterations that will ready the boat for when the pump is funded.

The radio system has been upgraded with a new repeater and tower. Also, a generator is planned to provide power backup. Currently, the generator is pending engineering designs. Station 10, Chappells, Fire Station is now an official Newberry weather station.

The fire department is reimbursed when it responds to HAZ-MAT calls. For example it was recently called out for an event involving Ammonia-Nitrate. Chappells has been reimbursed \$3,500 for three trucks on a HAZ-MAT scene. There is a three to six month interval for reimbursement.

Carolina Healthcare has donated a laptop computer and a significant amount of office supplies.

President's Message

by Cort Nagle

Several months ago one of our residents had a serious medical emergency, not trauma, and called 911 for help.

The call was booked by 911 and it took over an hour for the ambulance and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to arrive for transport and then more than another thirty minutes to arrive at the hospital. Obviously, this time interval is outside the "Golden Hour" that Emergency Room (ER) Doctors assert is critical in all medical emergencies.

Knowing that the fire station is just ten minutes away, I felt compelled to investigate the slow response. Tony Johnson, Emergency Response Chief, explained the 911 call was routed to him (the only EMT now serving at that station) and he was out of town. With no response from Chappells EMS the call was redirected to Newberry. The closest Newberry Ambulance Team was over thirty minutes away when they responded. This was the best that could be done at the time. Unfortunately, this was a blood clot/stroke emergency where every delayed minute of treatment counted.

I suspect that response times to this far edge of Newberry County are unlikely to improve. Therefore, I suggest that you remain on the 911 call to confirm that Chappells has been dispatched or if alternative response is necessary determine who and how long. If anticipated response time is an hour or more, you or a neighbor may need to drive the patient to an Emergency Room. I recommend Self Memorial ER in Greenwood. They have a higher level of care than either Newberry or Laurens. This is particularly relevant for strokes, heart attacks, and other related ABC (airway, breathing, circulation) issues.

Of course the solution to this issue would be for Chappells to get more trained EMTs living in our area and/or to arrange mutual aid agreements with the Laurens ambulance in Cross Hill. The county needs to work through any cost or political concerns.

Cort Nagle, POA President

POA Board Meetings: 2014

Chappells Fire House

March 13	-7:00 P.M.
June 12	-7:00 P.M.
September 11	-7:00 P.M.
December 11	-7:00 P.M.

Treasurer's Report by Ed LaRoche

Balance as of August 30, 2013

\$15,224.50

Deposits

Dues	100.00
Total	100.00

Disbursements

Mower Fuel	105.60
Fire Ant Treatment	218.68
SSB Road—Mowing	825.00
Yearly Insurance..	
Auto Owners	857.00
Edith Greisser Memorial	100.00
POA Website Annual Cost	86.40
Stamps and Lanscaping	110.53
Landscape Materials	143.25
Lanscaping-5 crepe myrtles	
Dale Taylor	625.00
Lanscaping—	
mulch & pump parts	<u>122.49</u>
Total	\$3,193.95

Balance as of November 29, 2013

\$12,130.55

NEW MEMBER FORM

If you are not now a member and would like to join your neighbors in making Summerset/Windmill a great community please fill out this form and send with a check for \$100 to Summerset Bay/Windmill POA, PO Box 6025,

Chappells, SC 29037

NAME:

DEVELOPMENT:

Lot # or local address:

Mailing Address if different:

Telephone No.

Check Enclosed