

PICKENS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

April 13, 2026

222 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, SC 29671

IN ATTENDANCE - BOARD: William "Bill" Daniel
Troy Burton
Dennis Bauknight
David Robinson
JB "Jan" Kelley (Virtual)
Joe Burgett
Jess Poirier
Jim Shelton
Paul Howland

ABSENT – BOARD: Kenny McPeters
Randy Bowers
Rodney Herd

IN ATTENDANCE - STAFF: Chief Gibson

IN ATTENDANCE - GUESTS: NONE

Agendas, bearing date, time and location of meeting were emailed to Board members and news media and a copy was posted on the county website and bulletin board at the Administration facility.

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM. Mr. D.Bauknight offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Corrections were added to the March minutes. Following corrections, D.Bauknight motioned to approve the minutes and seconded by T.Burton. Motion passed unanimously, **9 votes**.

Emergency Services Division report Chief Gibson

1. Personnel:
 - o Director of Emergency Management departed Michael Brown (starts 3-May)
 - o Deputy Director of Emergency Management departed Katie Corbin
2. Radio System – Implementation continues. No updated this month on Sassafras Mountain.
3. Lake Patrol is being organized. Not confirmed at this time.
4. Communications Center Transition: Transition to the new building will start in June with full operations in July.

Old Business

1. FY27 budget – In process. County Council 1st reading completed. Additional funding above 911 funding-fee remains a request. Chief Gibson reviewed the 911 funding-fee via phone services and its decline over the past years: 2024 ~ 23M & 2025 ~ 17M (\$490K allocated to Pickens County).
2. ISO Rating – No Change (Equipment should be a strength. Water represents 40%, which is somewhat outside Pickens County control. Communication is the remaining section. Awaiting results.)
3. Medic 1 Awaiting demolition permit. Bid yet to be issued. Location finalized: Catherine Street.
4. Special Operations Group: Most are coordinated by County employees. However, Spec Ops members are treated as volunteers.
5. Prior year Goals Reviewed
 - a. Medic renovations – certain centers still require updates.
 - b. Expansion of Fire services – Areas not currently being serviced. Continue to work with Rocky Bottom community.
 - c. E911 Staffing & Funding – Technical support remains underfunded.
 - d. Logistic Technician for Emergency Management – needed.

- e. Compensation Study for retention of trained staff
- 6. Current year Goals – Consider the following:
 - a. Additional New Medic and Fire stations – No updates or changes on these recommendations.
 - i. Fire - (1st) Rocky Bottom, (2nd) 183/135 intersection, & (3rd) nine-times.
 - ii. Medic - east of Easley
 - b. E911 Staffing & its technical support adequately funded
 - c. Adequate staffing for Emergency Management, per state guidelines. Pickens County should hav 8 Emergency personnel; currently have 3. **Pickens is short 5 team-members.**
 - d. Penny Tax – Reviewed the past actions and the desire to pursue this.

New Business – Congratulations are report by J.Poirier ...

State EMS Symposium: Dietrich Easter won the Jack Niels Educator of the Year award. Randy Bowers won the Warren D. McBride LifeTime Achievement award.

Round Table – Commex drill is in April (Pickens did well).

Mr. D.Robinson motioned for adjournment; second by Ms. J.Poirier. Unanimously approved, **9 Votes**. Adjourned at 7:09. The next Board meeting is Monday, May 11th PM.