

PICKENS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

March 9, 2026

222 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, SC 29671

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

ABSENT – BOARD: NONE

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 6:03 PM. Mr. JB Kelley offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Corrections were added to the February minutes. Following corrections, R.Bowers motioned to approve the minutes and seconded by JB Kelley. Motion passed unanimously, **12 votes**.

Emergency Services Division report Chief Gibson

1. Personnel:
 - o Director of Emergency Management departed
 - o Deputy Director of Emergency Management departed
 - o A contract employee has been hired temporarily.
2. Sassafras Mountain approval is at the State Capitol at this time.
3. Radio System
 - o The Sassafras Mountain tower is the final step.
 - o Individual departs have been issued necessary. For new equipment, additional or repair, will be covered by the individual departments.
4. HazMat Vehicle – In construction.
5. Rescue Boat will be funding in FY2027. Order is expected after July 1st.
6. Mobile command unit is anticipated in FY2028.

Old Business

1. Rescue Squads: Rescue has 3 new members. Rescue 7 has 1 new member. Rescue 6 meeting is scheduled.
2. FY27 budget – In process. Not yet with County Council. Scheduled County Counsel for April Meeting.
3. Communications Center Transition: A new Committee is working on the function for the center and developing the SOGs. One focus is to ensure expedient resolutions. Currently, Pickens County has 31 dispatchers. Synchronizing existing protocols may be a challenge. The new Center is scheduled for completion May 2026.

4. ISO Rating – Equipment should be a strength. Water represents 40%, which is somewhat outside Pickens County control. Communication is the remaining section. Awaiting results.
5. Medic 1 is going out to bid this month. Location is yet to be determined: Ann Street/Rescue 7 or Catherine Street. Rescue 7 location is not preferred: example, traffic considerations and the septic would need to be upgraded.
6. Prior year Goals
 - a. Medic renovations – 50% are completed/in-process ... remaining centers
 - 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
 - e. Compensation Study for retention of trained staff
7. Current year Goals – Consider the following:
 - a. The board endorses Medic 1 constructed on the Catherine Street location.
 - b. Additional New Medic and Fire stations
 - i. Fire - (1st) Rocky Bottom, (2nd) 183/135 intersection, & (3rd) nine-times.
 - ii. Medic - east of Easley
 - c. E911 Staffing & its technical support adequately funded
 - d. Those serving and coordinating in Special Operations need to be properly compensated for such additional duties and training.
 - e. Adequate staffing for Emergency Management, per state guidelines.
 - f. Penny Tax – Revisit this option
 - g. Recognition of Long-term Service Employees

New Business - None

Round Table – Commex drill is in April (Pickens opted out). Pinnacle Award – John is submitted. No updates from the team.

Mr. Troy Burton motioned for adjournment; second by Kenny McPeters. Unanimously approved, **11 Votes** (R.Herd lost connection at Round Table). Adjourned at 7:09. The next Board meeting is Monday, April 13th PM.