

PICKENS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
April 14, 2025
222 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, SC 29671

IN ATTENDANCE - BOARD: William “Bill” Daniel
Randy Bowers
Troy Burton
Kenny McPeters
Jess Poirier
Brooke Newman
Rodney Herd
Dennis Bauknight
David Robinson
Paul Howland

ABSENT – BOARD: JB “Jan” Kelley

IN ATTENDANCE - STAFF: Billy Gibson

IN ATTENDANCE - GUESTS:

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 6:04 PM. R.Herd offered an invocation. Pledge of Allegiance led by Chief Gibson.

Minutes deferred.

Emergency Services Division report.....Billy Gibson

- Radio system continues to progress. Sassafras Tower
- Law Enforcement Operation plan is now live
- EMS / Fire plan was delayed
- FEMA reimbursement for Hurricane Helene is progress
- Planning underway for county wide exercise spring of 2025.
- Budget has passed first reading
- New EM Director interviewing is delayed due to recent calls
- Table Rock fire will qualify as a declared event ... eligible for reimbursement for FEMA
- Medic 1 rebuild ... working with county administrator and project management

Old Business

- 1% tax vote – B.Daniels thanked the committee for work completed on this project. County Council is not at this time proceeding. This committee should consider calling County Council for further consideration.
 - EMS – Medic 1 and 4 discussed
 - Rescue Subcommittee
R.Herd & J.Poirier Summarized Rescue ... Rescue was receptive to reporting through the Fire Chiefs.
 - Improvement of expenses. Do they need funding.
 - Must report to someone for reporting and accountability.
 - Training must be a priority.
 - Recruitment
 - Bay space may need to be reviewed, storage versus functional use.
 - Quarterly meeting were suggested.
- Funding for training should not be an issue (R.Bowers).

New Business - none

- Lake Coverage – No plan for the lakes at this time. Update for next month.
- EMS Week - May 18-24th
- County Council honors retired personnel at their meetings. If you have a recommended “person”, share such with Chief Gibson. (1st recommendation Joan Minihan)
- Table Rock Fire – Summary of the growth of the fire. Pinnacle burned 11 K acres as compared to this some 13K acres. This fire spread so much quicker. The rain stopped the growth allowing suppression. No significant injuries or property damage. First time for fire-suppressant used in the SE. New water tankers utilized. Community support was excellent (food supplies / water / socks / etc). The excess perishables have been dispersed to others in need. Pickens County airport received significant income and managed the fuel dispersion. Lesson learned – Need to quickly engage more manpower. Unification of teams: better communication & coordination between the local, state and federal command-centers. Radio communication was a slight challenge ... teams had to speak clearly to prevent garble. AAR to come.
- Fire Services – Where should new fire stations go. 135 & 153 is a focus.
- Budget – County Council read the budget into record.

	New Requests	Funded (unconfirmed)
Fire	0	?
EMS	7 paramedic	?
	6 EMT	?
	1 Logistic Tech	?
E911	4 dispatcher	?
Logistics Technician	1 – part-time	?

- Comp Study Question – Check on Supervisor pay versus other positions. This could inhibit applications/applicants.

Round Table

Thanks for those who fought the fire. 10th May / 25th April

Greg Newton at Pickens County CTC is retiring this year. Ken Maloney will replace Greg.

P.Howland motioned we adjourn; second by T.Burton. Adjourned at 7:14. The next Board meeting is Monday, May 12th at 6:00 PM.