

PICKENS COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

December 8, 2025

222 McDaniel Avenue, Pickens, SC 29671

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

ABSENT – BOARD: Dennis Bauknight
Randy Bowers

IN ATTENDANCE - STAFF: Billy Gibson

IN ATTENDANCE - GUESTS: Dr. Daniel Schwerin

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 6:01 PM. JB Kelley offered the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

New Board Members: Joe Burgett and Jim Shelton introduced to members not present at the October meeting.

Minutes from November: Motion to accept the minutes by JB Kelley, second by Joe Burgett. **Unanimously approved.**

Recommendations for County Counsel

1. New Rescue Squad Plan – Attached.
 - a. Summary: Rescue Squad has been their own entity without accountability and, at times, ineffective.
 - b. Justification: PCEMS Board has worked with the Rescue Squads and Chief Gibson to develop an acceptable plan to bring standards, accountability and supervision.
2. E-911 Funding
 - a. Summary: Pickens County is one of the few SC counties that is not adding general funds to supplement the State Funding.
 - b. Justification: This system is the back-bone of PCEMS response. Without it, there is no response. Funding is needed to support the system, equipment and personnel. We are operating based on the good-graces of employees to keep this system going.

Emergency Services Division reportBilly Gibson

1. Emergency Management continuing to work on FEMA reimbursement from Table Rock Fire & Helene response.
2. Working on the new building continues. Projected completion date May 2026.
3. Working with Public Works division on Rocky Bottom Rd culvert & bridge replacement
4. Developing expansion plan for the airport to accommodate more hangar space. This is a public/private project.

5. Coordinating with vehicle maintenance division for ambulance fleet repairs as required. Note – relying on a third party if towing is required for our newest ambulances.
6. Assisted SWU forensic science class with a controlled burn to demonstrate phase of fire and give practical investigative experience.
7. Coordinated with County Public Works to develop and implement emergency response plan for bridge & culvert replacement for Rocky Bottom Road.
8. FY 27 budgets for all departments have been submitted to finance. Individual department heads will meet with budget committee to review and give details.
9. Lane Wood has moved into an EMS role to assist with behavioral health patients. Seeking to increase access to “Narcan” for the community.
10. Chief Gibson summarized some of the programs D. Schwerin has brought to enhance county responsiveness.

Old Business

11. Rescue Squads: “Rescue Squad Proposal Plan”, draft 12/1/2025 was reviewed. Rescue will need to be more county-wide; Chief Gibson discussed how they will be called to assist. Updated the definition of “county employee” to show the limitation is like for like work; therefore, EMS and Fire employees of the county cannot participate with Rescue. With this change, D.Robinson motioned to recommend this plan and second by T.Burton. **Unanimously approved.**
12. Chief Gibson summarized the county budget process.
13. Several County Council Members have asked about how we communicate with them. A summary will be submitted to County Council for all future recommendations from this board.

New Business

- E-911 Budget: \$550K budget each year. The E-911 director explained how this budget is exceedingly tight. Example, any IT work is covered by 1 person: 24/7 coverage. Chairman Bill Daniels recommends E-911 be given priority status for next funding cycle as State Funding is inadequate and E-911 is the backbone of the county response. This is to bring E-911 to SLED standards in personnel and equipment. Second by J. Poirier. **Unanimously approved.**
- Capital Expenditure of Equipment: Rodney Herd summarized his observations regarding a new vehicle purchased. His concern, Pickens County may be purchasing inadequate equipment. This will be an agenda item for next month’s meeting.

Round Table

- Brook Newman: wished us well as she will be departing the board.
- J.Poirier: Breakfast with Santa, Saturday Dec13th, you are welcome to attend.

T.Burton motioned we adjourn; second by JB Kelly. Unanimously approved. Adjourned at 7:25. The next Board meeting is Monday, January 12th at 6:00 PM.