

**MINUTES
TAYLORS FIRE & SEWER DISTRICT
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
BUDGET WORKSHOP
MAY 29, 2024**

A special called meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held at the District Office in the Board Room, 3335 Wade Hampton Blvd., Taylors, South Carolina at 3:00 pm.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeff Hannah, Commission Chairman
Ken Carter, Commission Vice Chairman/Treasurer
Paul Bowen, Commission Secretary

STAFF PRESENT

Bobby Baker, Fire Chief	Ricky Burgess, Battalion Chief
Shane Bagwell, Deputy Chief	Hunter Perry, Captain
Marty Dixon, Assistant Chief	Ronnie Myers, Lieutenant
Todd Jennings, Fire Marshal	Brad Guin, Lieutenant
Matt Mosley, Mechanic	Matt Trotter, Firefighter
Alicia Jenkins, Administrative Data Coordinator	Justin Mintz, Firefighter
Stephanie Hackler, Senior Accounting & HR Specialist	Cole Compton, Firefighter

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jaime Daniel

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hannah at 3:04 pm.

Chairman Hannah stated that the media outlets who requested notification of this special called budget workshop meeting were notified via door posting, email, website, Facebook, and X. He then struck the approval of the purchase of the new ladder apparatus from the agenda.

Vice Chairman/Treasurer Carter read aloud the attached Resolution No. 2024-1, a Resolution to exempt the purchase of a new ladder fire apparatus from the Procurement Policy and Procedures of the Taylors Fire and Sewer District. With no discussion, Secretary Bowen made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-1. Vice Chairman/Treasurer Carter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Secretary Bowen made a motion to go into executive session as per SC Code of Law Sections 30-4-70(a)(1) and 30-4-70(a)(2) for discussion of compensation of employees and Commissioners and other employment related issues; and for possible discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements related to the proposed sale, swap or purchase of property by the District. Vice Chairman/Treasurer Carter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The Board entered executive session at 3:10 pm.

Secretary Bowen made a motion to exit executive session. Vice Chairman/Treasurer Carter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The Board exited executive session at 4:30 pm. No action was taken during executive session.

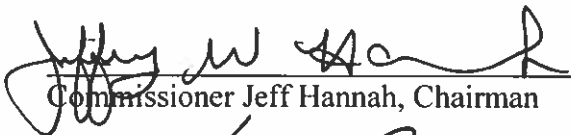
Chairman Hannah recognized Mrs. Jaime Daniel to present a draft of the FY 2025 Budget. The FY 2024 (2023 Tax Year) tax rate millage for the Fire Department is 81.0 and the proposed tax rate millage for FY 2025 (2024 Tax Year) is 85.0. The proposed percentage increase in the operating millage rate between FY 2024 and FY 2025 is 5.71%. The overall proposed millage increase is 4.94%. The total budgeted revenues

and expenditures for FY 2024 was \$8,261,000 and the proposed total for FY 2025 is \$9,025,000. The increase is primarily due to increased personnel costs, training/certification, safety, maintenance, occupancy, reserves, and capital expenditures. In reference to the tax payer impact, according to the 2024 tax year proposed millage, the homeowner of a home valued at \$100,000 would pay approximately \$340 in property taxes for annual fire protection, which is an increase of \$16.00 (or 4.0 mils) from the 2023 tax year. Fire Chief Baker then briefly expounded upon details of the Department's proposed capital expenditures and a brief discussion ensued. Vice Chairman/Treasurer Carter made a motion to accept the proposed FY 2025 Budget as presented and instructed staff to make public notification for the associated Public Hearing scheduled for a date to be determined. Secretary Bowen seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Under public comment, Lieutenant Myers asked for the projected finish date for the New Station/Headquarters. The Board answered that the projected finish date would be around October 31, 2024. Lieutenant Myers then asked if the Department could recoup funds for any days that the New Station/Headquarters is not finished after October 31, 2024. Senior Accounting & HR Specialist Hackler stated that there is a grace period on the finish date as well as the 'not to exceed amounts' for the New Station/Headquarters. She went on to state that the Department has not yet been updated on the profit share that Lieutenant Myers was referring to; however, the Department will not know actuals until closer to the finish date. Lastly, Lieutenant Myers inquired about metered water projections at the New Station/Headquarters. Fire Chief Baker indicated the best way to project metered water is to get a good guestimate. Senior Accounting & HR Specialist Hackler shared that the projection was included in the budget as best as possible.

Fire Chief Baker then briefly updated the Board on the new ladder apparatus that is currently being produced. He also requested the Board's approval on purchasing two items not included in the current FY 2024 Budget. Those two items consisted of a mower for the terrain near the retention pond at the New Station/Headquarters, as well as a lift that will assist in cleaning windows and changing light bulbs in the New Station/Headquarters. Chairman Hannah asked if the funds were available for the two items. Senior Accounting & HR Specialist Hackler stated the funds are available in the current FY 2024 Budget. Vice Chairman/Treasurer Carter made a motion to accept the proposal from Fire Chief Baker in regard to the lift and the Kubota mower with the addition of a bucket. Secretary Bowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Without any further business, Vice Chairman/Treasurer Carter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Secretary Bowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:09 pm.


Commissioner Jeff Hannah, Chairman

9/10/2024
Date Minutes Approved


Commissioner Ken Carter, Vice Chairman/Treasurer


Commissioner Paul Bowen, Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE TAYLORS FIRE AND SEWER DISTRICT COMMISSION (THE "COMMISSION") EXEMPTING FROM THE TAYLORS FIRE AND SEWER DISTRICT'S PROCUREMENT POLICY THE PURCHASE OF A LADDER TRUCK.

WHEREAS, it is the belief of the District staff that the District should place an order to purchase a ladder truck as soon as possible (the "Ladder Truck Procurement");

WHEREAS, the Procurement Policy (the "Policy") of the Taylors Fire and Sewer District (the "District") provides that the Commission, upon recommendation of the Purchasing Director, may exempt by resolution specific items from the Policy when the Commission finds that such exemption is in the interest of the District; and

WHEREAS, the Policy, like most other procurement policies within South Carolina, allows the District to utilize co-operative purchasing programs; and

WHEREAS, fire engines and ladder trucks are specialized pieces of equipment that are vital to the safe and efficient operation of the District's fire suppression obligations; and

WHEREAS, many manufacturers of this type of specialized equipment sell their equipment through exclusive dealer arrangements; and

WHEREAS, many manufacturers of this type of specialized equipment also participate in co-operative purchasing programs; and

WHEREAS, in the past the District has purchased fire engines and ladder trucks from local exclusive dealers of manufacturers of this equipment who have participated in co-operative purchasing programs; and

WHEREAS, District staff obtained proposals from the exclusive dealers for two manufacturers of ladder trucks who participate in a well-established, national co-operative purchasing program (Sourcewell); and

WHEREAS, District staff obtained a proposal from the exclusive dealer for another manufacturer of ladder trucks who does not participate in the co-operative purchasing program referenced above; and

WHEREAS, the time it takes to take possession of a fire engine or ladder truck after an order is made has gotten increasingly longer, and currently is forty plus months out; and

WHEREAS, given the length of time it takes to obtain a ladder truck, given the importance of ladder trucks to the District's operation and the safety of the District's fire fighters, given the fact that exclusive dealers are only allowed to sell these ladders trucks, and given that the District has obtained pricing from two exclusive dealers of manufacturers who participate in a national co-operative purchasing program (as well an exclusive dealers of a manufacturer who does not participate in this program), the Purchasing Director has recommended that the Commission exempt the Ladder Truck Procurement from the Policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission of the District, as follows:

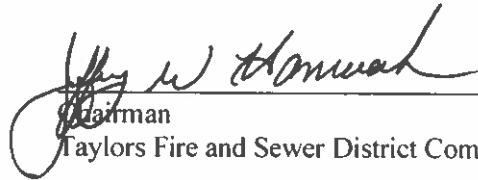
Section 1. For the reasons set forth above, the Commission finds that it is in the best interest of the District to exempt the Ladder Truck Procurement from the Policy.

Section 2. The Commission hereby exempts the Ladder Truck Procurement from the Policy.

Section 3. This Resolution does not apply to any future purchases, including any future ladder trucks or fire engines.

Done in meeting duly assembled this 29th day of May, 2024.

**TAYLORS FIRE AND SEWER DISTRICT,
SOUTH CAROLINA**



Chairman
Taylors Fire and Sewer District Commission

ATTEST:



Secretary