



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 6.

DATE OF MEETING: August 5, 2013

REQUESTED BY: Glenda Pridgen, Administrative Assistant

SHORT TITLE: Approval of Minutes: Continued Regular June 17; 2013 Meeting-June 26, 2013; Regular and Closed Session-July 8, 2013.

BACKGROUND: N/A.

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED: Review and approve the minutes.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2013

The Pender County Board of Commissioners continued its June 17, 2013 regular session on Wednesday, June 26, 2013, at the Public Assembly Room, 805 S. Walker St., Burgaw, NC 28425.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman George Brown, presiding; Vice Chairman Fred McCoy; and Commissioners Jimmy Tate and David Williams.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Chester Ward.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Mickey Duvall, County Manager and Clerk to the Board; Trey Thurman, County Attorney; Glenda Pridgen, Deputy Clerk to the Board; other staff and members of the Press and public.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and thanked and welcomed all.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Williams offered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

EMS Director Woody Sullivan delivered a presentation entitled "Pender EMS & Fire, Inc.," and explained each category. The presentation included: What is the Purpose-Increase Coverage, Drop ISO Rating, Additional Fire Stations, Increase Financial Accountability, Decrease Response Times, Eliminate Redundancies of Services, Continuing to Work with Volunteers, Increasing Paid Staff; Accountability-Board of Directors; Eliminate Redundancies of Services-Being One Company Eliminates the Chain of Command, Equipment, Training, Bulk Purchase; ISO Ratings-More Stations Mean a Lower ISO Rating, Decrease Response Time; and How are we Funded-Tax Rate, Exploring Fee Per Structure.

Discussion included: Location of potential career base station; cross-training medical and fire; Sloop Point and Hampstead crossover districts; ISO decrease offset tax increase; goal is to drop ISO rates; exploring fee per structure for future funding; year one has to be Ad Valorem; possible location for future Long Creek substation; fire station key component of recruiting industry; Surf City debt; departments working together; and things will be available to Board of Commissioners that weren't available before.

The following citizens spoke:

Chris May – Impressed with the folks working on this; commends Mr. Sullivan; main concern is saving lives; it will be good to have EMS close by; and doesn't mind paying a little bit more money for safety. Mr. May also distributed a letter to the Board with suggestions on it.

Al Sidbury – Not completely sold; taking from the have's and giving to the have not's; doesn't feel comfortable; Olde Point people scared it is taking away from them and giving to Sloop Point; not

willing to pay extra 3.5¢; recommend it is postponed until next year; doesn't see where Long Creek fits in; meeting should have been in Hampstead; and people don't know about it.

Mr. Brown intervened that this is for the entire county, not just the east side, and it is not an east side issue.

Tony Musolino – Thinks Mr. Sullivan's idea is great but it is a dream; no fixed plan; no Board of Directors; 3.5¢ tax increase; people don't know about it; people this concerns are from Hampstead; where will the 3.5¢ go; why the meeting is not being held where the people are affected; most people over there don't know about it; presentation should be presented over there before the Board says yes or no.

Jim Higgs – Not against consolidation; his concerns are equality and fairness of citizens; why are there differences in proposed rates in different districts; EMS tax; Scotts Hill going to New Hanover; is fire tax on real estate or vehicle?

Al Freimark – Doesn't agree with this; rush to judgment; Union County has fee basis; raise taxes; 70% of tax base comes from east side; going from 5¢ to 8.5¢; most people don't realize what is going on; take meeting to that side of County that will be affected by 3.5¢ increase; discussion of 70% tax base. Mr. Freimark also distributed some statistical information.

Mr. Tate asked if there have been any individual or group meetings on the east side and Mr. Williams said no large scale meeting that he knows of. Mr. Williams said the Board challenged the fire departments to figure out a better way of operating.

Mike Meares – Yields his time; his questions have been answered.

Ken Just – Informational meetings should have been held in Hampstead; not against consolidation; not a whole lot of people know what this is about; need to see what we are getting for the increase; Hampstead and Scotts Hill Fire Departments; too many questions not being answered; Surf City debt service; where does Long Creek fit in at all; conceptually great idea but going too fast. Mr. Just asked if Mr. Thurman had seen the contract. Mr. Thurman said there is a draft contract but the corporation is still being formed. He said there are some changes in the contract but it is basically the same contract as we have now.

Matt Curran – Lives in Sloop Point; Sloop Point Fire Department already at 6 ISO; what is Sloop Point going to get out of it. Mr. Williams said you have to maintain the rate you have. Mr. Curran said he is not against the merger.

Mr. Tate said he will respect his fellow commissioners, but he has heard things tonight he didn't know. He said he thought there had been meetings and he respects the people that showed up tonight.

Mr. Brown's comments included: People have been calling and complaining for years; a plan has been put in place to alleviate the complaints; apologizes to people that feel like they are supporting other communities; respect people that oppose this; he believes in this plan and is supporting it; fire departments are going to need paid personnel; he has been waiting for six years for a plan; fire

contracts have not been fine tuned for years; this is a solution; and he appreciates Board members coming in tonight.

Mr. Williams' comments included: People have been complaining for years; this forces our hand tonight; he supports this; he has been living it and breathing it for years; if we don't do it tonight, it is not going anywhere; and it won't last another year.

Mr. McCoy's comments included: He sees lots of good things; we have to make sure it works; it is a good plan; Scotts Hill will have EMS; his concern is it happened so quickly.

Mr. Tate's comments included: For the last several months he has been hearing lots from fire departments; he has heard lots of issues; the past several weeks he has heard good things about this plan; and his vote is to help the citizens.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to implement the merger between Pender EMS by amending the budget ordinance to increase the ad valorem fire tax rate to 8.5 cents per \$100 valuation for the Sloop Point, Scotts Hill and Hampstead Fire Districts, as is reflected on the handout prepared by the Manager. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by a 4-0 vote. The handout is attached to these minutes and made a part of them by reference herein.

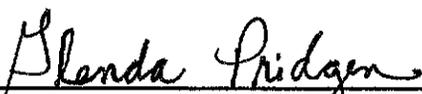
Mr. Thurman informed the Board concerning a call inquiring about purchasing the Old Topsail School property.

Mr. Robert Simon said the Board's decision was a good one and this will bring some jobs to Pender County.

ADJOURNMENT

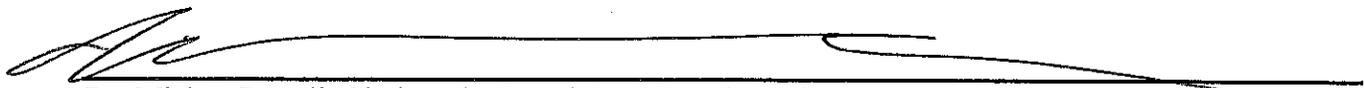
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Glenda Pridgen, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By:



Dr. Mickey Duvall, Clerk to the Board/Ann Coombs, Administrative Assistant

PENDER COUNTY FIRE DISTRICTS, FISCAL YEAR 13-14

FISCAL YEAR 13-14 Tax Values	FISCAL YEAR 13-14 Projected Total Tax Value	13-14 Value @ 96.0% Collection Rate	Proposed 2013-14 Tax Rate
Pender Central Fire	\$343,693,032	\$322,955	0.0700
Sloop Point Fire	\$894,973,158	\$865,917	0.0650
Maple Hill Fire	\$112,775,147	\$10,826	0.0700
Rocky Point Fire	\$514,888,702	\$493,381	0.0750
Long Creek Fire	\$287,939,790	\$277,642	0.1000
Shiloh Fire	\$135,195,358	\$12,979	0.1000
Penderlea Fire	\$227,830,949	\$21,872	0.0700
Atkinson Fire	\$204,271,348	\$19,610	0.0700
Hampstead Fire	\$1,220,483,508	\$117,166	0.0500
Scotts Hill Fire	\$235,656,049	\$22,823	0.0970
Northeast Pender Fire	\$236,081,080	\$22,664	0.0700
Pndlea Duplin	\$26,179,200	\$2,513	0.0470
TOTAL		\$ 110,853	0.012

Scotts Hill Substation Proposed Est. Tax Rev for FY 2013-14 Based on Tax-Coll Rate @ 96.0%
 \$ 27,448
 \$ 2,799,295

JUNE 10, 2013, PENDER COUNTY FIRE DISTRICTS, FISCAL YEAR 13-14 (PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION)

FISCAL YEAR 13-14 Tax Values	FISCAL YEAR 13-14 Projected Total Tax Value	13-14 Value @ 96.0% Collection Rate	Proposed 2013-14 Tax Rate
Pender Central Fire	\$343,693,032	\$322,955	0.0700
Sloop Point Fire	\$894,973,158	\$865,917	0.0650
Maple Hill Fire	\$112,775,147	\$10,826	0.0700
Rocky Point Fire	\$514,888,702	\$493,381	0.0750
Long Creek Fire	\$287,939,790	\$277,642	0.1000
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Scotts Hill Fire	\$235,656,049	\$22,823	0.0850
Northeast Pender Fire	\$236,081,080	\$22,664	0.0700
Pndlea Duplin	\$26,179,200	\$2,513	0.0470
TOTAL		\$ 192,295	

Scotts Hill Substation Proposed Est. Tax Rev for FY 2013-14 Based on Tax-Coll Rate @ 96.0%
 \$ 3,462,655

PENDER COUNTY FIRE DISTRICTS, FISCAL YEAR 13-14

Sloop Point Fire	\$894,973,158	\$865,917	0.0650
Long Creek Fire	\$287,939,790	\$277,642	0.1000
Hampstead Fire	\$1,220,483,508	\$117,166	0.0500
Scotts Hill Fire	\$235,656,049	\$22,823	0.0970
TOTAL		\$ 1,531,570	0.012

JUNE 10, 2013, PENDER COUNTY FIRE DISTRICTS, FISCAL YEAR 13-14 (PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION)

Sloop Point Fire	\$894,973,158	\$865,917	0.0850
Long Creek Fire	\$287,939,790	\$277,642	0.1000
Hampstead Fire	\$1,220,483,508	\$117,166	0.0850
Scotts Hill Fire	\$235,656,049	\$22,823	0.0850
TOTAL		\$ 2,194,590	

Scotts Hill Substation Proposed Est. Tax Rev for FY 2013-14 Based on Tax-Coll Rate @ 96.0%
 \$ 3,462,655