



Minutes

CORINTH-SHILOH SPECIAL PURPOSE TAX DISTRICT COMMISSION MEETING

February 19, 2026

6:00 PM

Commissioners:
Dr. William Howler, Jr
Mr. Monty Marcengill
Ms. Misty Morris
Mr. Wayne Smith
Mr. Richard Walton

The Corinth-Shiloh Fire Commission met at 6:04 p.m. at the Corinth-Shiloh Fire Department, 940 Old Clemson Highway, Seneca, SC. All five Commissioners, Chief Dave Shuerer, and Danny Delmarco were in attendance.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting, and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the Corinth-Shiloh Fire Department, 940 Old Clemson Highway, Seneca, SC, and on the department website [www.corinthshilohfd.com]. Notice was also made available to the newspaper, radio stations, television stations, concerned citizens, and interested parties upon request.

Members of the Press Present:

Dick Mangrum: 101.7 WGOG, staff of The Journal

Call to Order:

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Moment of Silence:

Chairman Smith asked for a moment of silence prior to the Invocation.

Invocation:

Mr. Smith gave the invocation.

Statement by the District:

Chairman Smith read the following statement on behalf of the Fire District: The Fire District does not discuss individual, personal, or personnel matters publicly, but we remain committed to transparency, professionalism, and providing reliable emergency services to the community.

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Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Smith entertained a motion to approve the minutes from previous meetings:

- December 2, 2025 Workshop
- December 2, 2025 Regular Meeting
- January 15, 2026 Regular Meeting

Mr. Walton moved that the meeting minutes be approved, seconded by Dr. Howiler. The minutes were approved by a 5-0 vote.

Fire Chief Report

Chief Schuerer reported that the department answered 85 calls in January. The Fire Marshall has performed approximately 10 fire inspections.

Staff Reports

None

Public Comments Session

Samuel Grey (by email read into the record):

“Good evening, Commissioners and thank you for allowing this letter during the open comments portion of this meeting.

My name is Samuel Gray, and I serve as the Vice President of the Corinth-Shiloh Volunteer Fire Department and write this letter as a summative representation of the sentiment among the volunteers. Our volunteer first responders care deeply about this department, this community, and the future of our newly established special protection fire district.

First, I want to acknowledge the significance of this moment in our department’s history. The establishment of the fire district and the allocation of tax dollars represent a major step forward. It reflects the trust our community has placed in us and a shared commitment to strengthening fire protection and emergency services. We are grateful for that trust, and we fully support the long-term vision that has guided this transition — the vision of “One Department,” where paid and volunteer firefighters operate as a unified, professional, and mutually respectful team. However, I must also respectfully convey several serious concerns that have emerged among the volunteer membership during the early phase of this transition.

Since 1963, a culture of transparency, collaboration, and open communication defines our organization. Volunteers are accustomed to leadership that regularly communicates financial matters, operational changes, and organizational priorities. In the first 45 days of the new chief’s tenure, many volunteers feel there has been a noticeable absence of that communication. There

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has been no discussion regarding the process of transitioning to a combination department, the expectations for volunteers, or how paid and volunteer personnel will integrate operationally. This lack of communication has consequences. It affects morale, clarity, and trust. Most importantly, it affects what organizational scholars call perceived organizational support. This is the degree to which members believe their contributions are valued and their well-being is considered. At present, many volunteers feel uninformed, marginalized, and increasingly uncertain about their role in the department they have long served.

Operational concerns have also been raised. Our members are accustomed to the chief being physically present and actively engaged during major incidents, particularly during severe weather emergencies that place extraordinary demands on the department. During two consecutive weekends of paralyzing winter weather, volunteers observed the chief's physical absence and a lack of communicated emergency response planning. In those moments, firefighters naturally look for direction and fireground leadership. Former officers stepped forward to provide the necessary leadership, and we are proud of their professionalism. But the expectation remains that the chief's role includes visible command presence, coordination, and fireground leadership during critical events and an acknowledgement afterwards of the dedications of the volunteers.

Additionally, there are concerns related to hiring practices. Volunteers have expressed unease over the selection of candidates for paid positions when the applicant pool reportedly included individuals with objectively stronger qualifications. preferences' not about personalities or preferences; it is about fairness, credibility, and organizational integrity. Perceptions of inequitable hiring can quickly erode confidence, create divisions, and undermine the "One Department" vision we all share.

Equally troubling are reports of unprofessional language allegedly used by the chief, including an instance in which an applicant was referred to using a derogatory term of a sexual nature. Such language raises legitimate concerns about workplace culture, professionalism, and potential liability. Regardless of intent, words matter. They shape the environment in which people serve and can expose the department and the district to claims involving harassment or a hostile work environment.

For these reasons, the volunteers respectfully request the commission's consideration of four specific action items:

First, the development and adoption of a clear, objectively based hiring policy for employees — one that is transparent, merit-driven, and collaborative, ensuring that members have a meaningful voice in the process."

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Tim Murphy (yielded his time to Danny Delmarco):

Danny Delmarco continued reading Dr. Grey's email

"Second, a formal HR inquiry into recent hiring decisions, with the goal of reinforcing confidence that employment practices are fair, defensible, and aligned with the department's standards and values.

Third, the implementation of Title IX and workplace conduct awareness training, particularly as it pertains to sexual harassment, professional communication, and maintaining a respectful work Environment.

Fourth, inclusion of volunteer leadership into the decision-making process of operational Changes.

These requests are not made lightly, nor are they intended to be adversarial. They are made in the spirit of accountability, professionalism, and shared commitment to the department's success. Volunteers and paid personnel alike want a strong, cohesive organization. We want leadership that communicates clearly, acts consistently, and fosters unity rather than division.

In closing, I emphasize that our volunteers remain deeply committed to this department and to this community. They are not resisting change; they are asking for clarity, fairness, professionalism, and inclusion as this change unfolds.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your thoughtful consideration of these concerns.

Samuel L. Gray
Vice- President
Corinth Shiloh Volunteer Fire Department"

Danny Delmarco (remarks using time yielded to him by Tim Murphy)

I reflect back on the hiring process, and when we had a great hiring pool, we were all on the hiring committee. I reviewed the tape for many hours, just going over things. The one thing that stands out was one of the questions that Mr. Wayne asked that Monty wanted to have presented. It came out stating, enforcing policy standards of our department. Policy prohibits vaping, smoking, use of smokeless tobacco, on station grounds, on scene, or in a department vehicle. So how would you handle it if you saw, or were informed, firefighters or support members, was violating this policy?

So, it's a very informative interview question. in their relation of time. I don't want to play the video, but I, respectfully ask that the commission looks back at this. It's at the 46:47 mark. And looking at the quote from our chief, just paraphrasing and mostly quoting that, "if you can't follow policy and procedure,

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you're insubordinate, and we have to really look at it. If you should be here, or not, because if you can't follow a policy and procedure as small as smoking a cigarette, vaping, dipping, then we got a whole nother issue, because if they won't follow that, what's to say they're going to follow you in the heat of battle?" And later on, was stated, "got to enforce those policies. Company officers and command staff, if you see something wrong, you gotta say something".

At the end of the interview, it was talked about. David said, "Do we have an individual who does that? Does he go in a truck and smoke?" And we promptly said "no". But unfortunately, the answer is "yes". Since Dave's leadership, he brought in his hand-picked captain, Mr. Tim Nunneley Danny Delmarco: I mean, because it happens at county council. It happens all the time. People are free to say what they want to say. And I think it's important because we have to solve these issues.

Through the 48 days that Chief Dave has been here, number one, he's not sent out one email to anybody in the department. And we finally got an email from him yesterday about some vision that we could elaborate on if I have some time? So our leader took 48 days, seven weeks, to come through and say something.

But getting back to this question, does Dave have an individual that does that? And we said no. Of course, I elaborated to Mr. Tim. That's been going on, I had to wait until I actually witnessed that. I was in Dave's office, had a nice talk with him. Several of the members have come to us and said that Tim is vadin, smoking, smoking cigars, going through. And if you really look at this video, and you look at what he said here, it's pretty straightforward. That Dave would say, you know what? We need to enforce this rule. We are a 501C volunteer organization, we have rules. There was no effort made whatsoever by Dave or Tim to even ask or look at what our rules are. If that was, Dave had that interview question, that clearly states that we have our department as no smoking. Why did he allow his member to do that? Question number one, very simple.

Danny Delmarco: (Continued Remarks)

So this is the person he chose for our leader of this department? That's not very good character issue. If the person he chose for this department is the one that's violating our rules that are currently on the books. And if they can't even follow our rules, you come into our house and defy what our orders are, there's gonna be a major problem in the department. It's not gonna be cohesive. It's not working.

Okay, number two, he came out of the meeting, and said, He's gonna give everybody a chance to hire that. We all know that Tim was hand-picked, and he got started January 2nd. Okay, there's no, you know, supposed to be the highest rated individual, and there's no transparency to that. There is no transparency to any of the members, nothing.

When it comes to the handbook, we're one department, we're supposed to be working together. You're gonna be talking about a handbook that you may have communicated with Dave and Tim that they've created. There's never been zero involvement with the fire department. Number one.

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Number two, the lease that you're about to hand over and approve or talk about tonight: zero involvement with the volunteers. Zero. Not even one question.

Now, in Dave's letter, he says how great we did, and we've done a great job. If we've been that great, then why would you not utilize us as an asset to help and work together and do that? So the question comes to us and the members, do you want one department? You want your own department? Are you trying to kick the volunteers out? It was very telling. If you have zero communication with us, then I think the answer is writing on the wall.

I had talked with him about grants, you know, that we need a lot of fire gear, talked about Sam Gray. He has a vital asset. We've got almost \$2 million worth of grants. between Kevin and Sam, and so that would be a great tool for you to look at. His response was, I look at having, what was it, Dave, I think, Grant Writers. And he says, "You know, if we win a grant, then that's great. It only cost me \$3 or \$5,000. That's something we pride ourselves on, that we'd be able to almost get \$2 million in grants. Now he just wants to disenfranchise a volunteer. That's very helpful, and I've been very gracious to get the assets that you all want to take over, right? That they want to take over. And then he doesn't have any interest in even using that volunteer. I mean, as clear as day there.

Dave's letter goes through and says something about, we had a rush through compliance. He said, making changes were required by quick action. We're all working from the same foundation by maintaining compliance. If compliance was so important, why does his member break yet another rule that he hired by not having a beard? By having a beard? That's compliant, right? Is that a compliance issue? He didn't seem to care about it. He just went ahead and did what Tim wanted to do. Okay? That's an OSHA requirement, and it should not be done. Again, another rule of department, he decided to just disregard that rule. Okay? So if compliance is that important, then I think he would have acted on that if he really cared. Okay?

And then, saying that things ought to be moving very quickly, this has been going on since January of 25, and we're in, what, February of 26th? Things don't have to be done in 30 days. I think it was a thing, if he would have came in and learned how the department works and operated, I mean, I was one of many members that really felt Dave was a good candidate for this, and that's why I think it's important to look at that video and the interview video, because that's who we thought we were hiring. But unfortunately, we got something totally different. And for him to come in and not even include the volunteers, keep his doors closed, and keep everything done, is a smack in the face to the volunteers. And it's not acceptable. And we're here for the community, and the taxpayers, and what he's done by hiring these individuals that are not as qualified as other individuals, I think it would be very intuitive for the community would want to know, why did we hire people that aren't even EMT certified, they have to go through and get reciprocity? So if they go run a call today, they don't even have that reciprocity.

So, you as the commission, it says on here that you have the approval authority over matters of employment, hiring, discipline, action, termination performed by the fire chief, is duly authorized officers with commission approval of such actions. So, it is your responsibility to oversee what he's doing, and if

you want to be transparent to the taxpayers, I've talked with people from East Shores, and they're paying a lot of money in taxes. And his main concern was I want to hire the best person. And I said, Well, sir, I really don't understand, 'cause we turned down people that were a paramedic. Bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, and we went for somebody that... was my friend from Demarest. And that doesn't even have the qualifications that transfer yet to South Carolina. And there was nothing written in his thing that allows for that. So for some reason, we don't get reciprocity, we have to pay somebody \$60,000 a year just to wait for him to take the class, and who pays for that?

So a lot of big questions that we have to get answered, we want to work together. We're here to work together, but when you ask us, now, with this lease, and then you can say, Hey, turn our property over, whatever that is, 'cause I was, it was clear as day in the office. Dave told me you're not going to like the lease. Well, why would that even come up? We should be working together to create the lease. You're not gonna like the handbook. Well, if we work together, we would all look at the handbug and work together and do that.

Austin Grant:

Continue with, one of the topics in Mr. Gray's letter, speaking on the hiring.

As you all know, I served on the committee that interviewed and recommended hiring Dave Shuerer. The process that was put in place for hiring the fire chief was very well planned and well executed. This process involved the commission, the volunteers, and members of the community. Unfortunately, the same consideration was not given to the hiring of the rest of the department's full time staff.

At the February business meeting, Chief Dave announced that Tim Nunnely would be filling the role of captain, and Justin Upchurch would be hired as a lieutenant. Chief Schuerer unilaterally hired the full time staff, with seemingly no input from either the volunteers or the commissioners. This lack of oversight has a lot of strong bias to go unchecked, and has resulted in Dave unethically hiring his friends and former subordinates when there are more qualified applicants.

In hiring these individuals, Chief Schuerer overlooked candidates with much higher levels of education, certifications, and experience, many of whom are local residents that have volunteer or work experience right here in Oconee County.

For example, he passed over multiple candidates that I know of, with bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, and are EMT, paramedic, fire officer 3, and 4 certifications, and other achievements that exceed the credentials held by his chosen officers. Do the taxpayers in this district not deserve, for the most qualified applicants, to be offered these positions based on merit?

One specific concern that Danny alluded to, many volunteers have expressed concern that, two of these individuals have not held an entering EMT certification for over a decade. I have documentation right here, if anyone wants to pass it around. I understand that these individuals have Georgia EMT certifications and licenses, which means they have to go through the reciprocity process, to be granted a conditional, or provisional, one year South Carolina EMT license. They will then have that one year to

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meet the requirements of the national registry, a South Carolina now requires a current entering EMT license to recertify at the state level. So this begs the question, will our tax dollars be paying for them to obtain their NREMT licenses? If they have to repeat an EMT course, will our tax dollars be paying for their non resident tuition to attend a local EMT program? If they fail to attain the NREMT within the year one year period, will they still be employed in these leadership roles? It seems very difficult to justify hiring these individuals when there are at least a dozen other applicants who already held NREMT certifications.

These unethical hiring practices have done nothing but erode confidence and trust in the chief. I also, as Sam said, I asked that the commission create detailed policies governing future staff hiring are fair, inclusive, and collaborative. I also ask that the commission launch an HR inquiry Chief Schuerer hiring of his friends when there were numerous other candidates who were more qualified. Thank you.

Rene Schmauder:

Over the past two months, we looked forward to improvements to the station as we transition to combined paid and volunteer department. We expected collaboration, communication, inclusion, respect, and clear direction. We anticipated working alongside a highly trained staff that demonstrates professionalism. To date, I've not observed collaboration, communication, respect, direction, or inclusion, consistent with what was described during the hiring and interview process.

In more than 20 years, in emergency services, this is the first time that I've experienced a so called 'open door policy' where the door remains consistently closed. Exchange process that's conducted behind closed warrants is not for transparency; it does not cultivate trust.

Extreme weather responses evolve rapidly and present real safety challenges. I've never before experienced a department chief being absent during major responses, resulting in a lack of direction for responding crews. Clear leadership during critical incidents is essential for safety and operational effectiveness.

Committees are used to develop policies and procedures because no one or 2 people can anticipate all downstream consequences. Policies and procedures must be shared openly to ensure transparency. We ask to be informed about policy and procedures as they're being developed.

A hiring process that excludes station membership and overlooks highly qualified applicants, does not promote transparency or trust. We ask that an independent HR review, the hiring process be conducted to ensure fairness, compliance, and professionalism.

Dr. Gray referred to an interviewee reporting in public. I was present when this happened, that a vulgar word had been used in there and directed to them during an interview. Such language is inappropriate in any professional setting, does not cultivate trust or respect, and represents an HR compliance and liability issue. We request a formal HR inquiry in this matter, Title IX training on appropriate workplace behavior and languages as Dr. Gray has noted.

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The behaviors and cultures observed over the past 2 months are inconsistent with what was promised to us during the interview process. This inconsistency does not cultivate trust. Additionally, the Chief's letter yesterday was sent to individuals who have not been members of this department for years. This reflects poor communication management and further undermines trust.

This department cannot succeed without strong and engaged volunteer membership that's included in the department's evolution. Success requires professionalism, trust, respect, collaboration, communication and inclusion. To move forward constructively, we request that a formal communication policy be developed collaboratively to prevent continued breakdown communication and to rebuilt trusts. Thank you.

Chris Leveque:

Oh, I will say something. So, actually, I signed that because I thought it was just a sign in sheet. I really did. So, and I'm standing up because I've learned to address people. So for those of you that don't know me, I was a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical weapons officer 21 years in the United States Military. I did quite a bit of learning and growing and leadership development of my junior soldiers. I came here wanting to hear sides of the story, and understand what was going on. If you take half of this, and this is what we're training in the military, as a leader, if you take half of what you're being told and assume it is true, we have some serious problems here.

I'm just telling you straight up from a leadership standpoint of view, we have some serious problems in this department. Dave has been here for 45 days. That's a short time to have this many issues with someone's fundamental leadership. Leading is about inspiring others to do things that they don't want to do. And all I'm hearing is people do not have the confidence in him to do those tasks.

You can go on to Army Times, Navy Times, and there are commanders that are relieved all the time for this, for just that act that the people underneath them do not respect him or trust that he has their best motivations in mind. So where do we go from here? Right? At the end of the day, we want this place to all succeed. Right? Look around the room. Everyone here is here because they care. There's not a single person in this room that says, I don't get a crap. You all care. What are we gonna do about it? How do we mend it, how do we mend it? How do we build the bridge back up? It's your communication. And you have to be detailed and care about what you're saying, and who you're saying it to, and be respectful.

That's all I have.

Brady:

All right, so I'm listening to everything everybody's saying. I hear what you're saying. The one thing that is really rubbing me the wrong way is when Danny made his, and he said, the tobacco policy is a thing, right? When Ryan, your assistant chief here, and I know you ruled, I'm gonna try not if they can go any further. Bought cigars for the entire station on the night before the ice storm. And we all sat outside. So if that's a rule, he broke the rule. He was higher up, and that shouldn't be a thing. So the rule may need to be written, be rewritten. It should be acceptable outside, according to what we did out there that night.

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But, like I said, outside, all of us did. Skylar was there. Did we not? Okay. Who else was there? Where's your hand? Dalton was there? Jacob was there. He's no longer in here. he didn't want him do it. But that shouldn't be targeted toward...and it sounds like it's one sided, right? It sounds like toward one person. The whole thing sounded like it was for one person, but that's not okay. Especially if it's already been broken by the volunteers themselves. And this shouldn't be hounded on the paid people if y'all are also breaking your rules. It's just, it's not acceptable, and it's not cool at all. So, that's all I got. Oh, yield Dalton, he can use all of my time.

Dalton:

I'm Dalton <<inaudible>>. I'm a college student, a volunteer here. Pretty new to this place. Only been here about a year and a half. It's been a lot of fun, but there's definitely been some contra, contratory things that, like, oh, it's one way, but it's another way, and it's kind of confusing. There's not many definite things that are rules. Here, one of them, yes, that I was going to piggyback off of what Brady said about the tobacco use as a rule, but we do break it. I volunteer. I tell you. I've broken up. So that's a little bit frustrating to hear that being thrown onto them, especially because I'm being optimistic. I'll go ahead and say I was for JT Bass at first, so I'm not biased at all. I have listened to everything that they have said and have gotten to know them, and I'm trying to be open about it and it's kind of hard to be, everyone in the same shoes be open about it when we're throwing a bunch of stuff at them that we also do.

That was what was that was the tobacco use. I don't know, vulgar language was brought up. I'm not sure with exactly vulgar language. Talking about how a leader should not say vulgar language. Ryan is the assistant chief, or was the assistant chief? I'm not really sure. But he has said some very hardcore stuff to me personally. I'm a fireman. We're all, let it roll off of our shoulders, but, stuff is said, but if they're bringing it up and throwing it off to them, it's not, very fair, because, I've been in the same shoes. And he's told me that he doesn't give an F about what I think as a fireman. So that I'm going to kind of put that out there because that's where the previous leadership has been. And, I think we're all in the wrong. I think we could both get together and do better, but nothing's gonna happen if everyone doesn't look in their own parts and figure out what we do wrong as a station of volunteers right now, and just throw everything in trash at the new people coming in. I've been here very, very short amount of time, so I understand there's a pride about. Certain people have 30, 40 years, 5, 10, way more than I do here. All I know is I can see very clearly that everyone has broken a lot of the rules. Everyone says stuff. There's a lot of, there's a lot of contra indications that are being thrown at one person, but not looked at by ourself. And I'm saying that as a volunteer.

Because that letter was says as a volunteer station, a lot of the members, I'm kind of stepping out and playing devil's advocate on both sides because I, I don't throw myself into that role. I don't know, a lot of people, a lot of volunteers don't throw themselves under that letter and what they believe. And this is the 1st meeting that I kind of sat in on, and this is wild. What does all have been said? I thought we were trying to all work together. I think there's stuff that is very valid that they said, and I think there's stuff that

is very valid that we never look on ourselves. And I think if we're going to look at the speck in the other person's eyes, probably take the log out of our own. So that's what I'll end on. Thank you.

Commission Member Comments:

Mr. Marcengill:

I had hopes that, new year, new chief, new department, new everything, we'd all get off to it. I had some pretty good battles here to start with. But I'm kind like what the young man there just said. We gotta fix it. We've got to work together. I'm willing to change my attitude on a lot of things in this department, and have. I know I've got to do more. I'm willing to do that. I know somebody else is too.

Ms. Morris:

I'm glad to see everybody, since I wasn't supposed to be here. I was supposed to be on a cruise ship, but for those of you who don't know, my son decided to break a bunch of bones. I'm glad to see you guys, even though not really under great circumstances.

I definitely hear the concerns of the volunteers. I'm glad you guys came and spoke to us. I'm thankful for those of you who've called, text, emailed, us individually, and also as a group to let us know what you guys are feeling, what you're thinking, because without it, I'm not a mind reader. I don't know who I feel about things. So, I just want to say thank you for that. I want to say thank you for the hard work that everyone has done this year, so far. I believe Chief said that there was... I know Kevin said that we were close to almost a thousand calls, and we've already done 85 so far, so it's really great. And things up to everybody for the responsibility, snowstorms and all the things. I do just want to remind us that we're family and we're a team. And so family and teams can rub each other the wrong way. We could have hardships, we could have arguments, but at the end of the day, we're gonna figure out how to work it out. And so, I just want everyone to know that.

Mr. Walton:

I'm post-dental surgery today, so.

Dr. Howler:

I have had an extremely, tiring day, both physically, and emotionally, so excuse me, if I sound sort disjointed. When I first begin with the fire department, as a person who helped get the tax bill passed, many times talking about what the vision was, and I came up with a vision that this was gonna be a fire department where everyone has sat down and had equal input into how the department would be run. Ultimately, it would be up to the chief to run operational matters, which I still totally agree with.

During that time, I tried to make that vision come true. That was that we would have equality in setting up what this department was gonna be. i.e., administrative staff, chief and volunteers, and commissioners, obviously.

I feel like, at this point, I have I failed in that mission. I take some responsibility because as chairman of the commission this past year, perhaps I did not push hard enough for that. I tried to be... we were on the... I let meetings go on with discussion that probably should not be allowed to go on. so long. And that included a discussion between the board and community members. I felt that was the best way for us to get to know each other, to see where we stood, and move on. Well, I don't think we've moved on, so I failed.

I tried to get the board to have a mission of... Our responsibility was to make this best department we could, perhaps the best in South Carolina, and maybe even further. I had the vision of it being a unified. By unified, I mean, an everybody involved issue. The other thing was that we protect the taxpayers by giving them what they're paying for. In other words, that we honor our duty as fiduciary to the people of this community.

I felt like I tried to have form a consensus among the commissioners of what our vision would be. And I think by the end of the year, having started not knowing each other, and having very different ideas about things, we were able to get a budget, accepted by the county. We were obviously able to go through a hiring process. That I think still was the proper way to go. I think that we chose a chief, and what I envisioned did not happen.

I did, I also read the letter that we received yesterday. If that letter had been sent out two months ago, or let's put it this way, a month ago, even. If that letter had been sent out, we sat down and were true to that, that it was gonna happen. Well, I failed there, too.

So I feel like at this point in time, and I'll give you a belief. I believe that every human being is endowed with a certain amount of physical energy and emotional energy. And when we start reaching the peak of that, we don't become as effective, because it's too much of a burden. I have a tremendous burden put on me that I never thought would happen. as far as family is concerned. I have spent physical and emotional energy over two years. I am near my limit. So I have to make a decision of what I'm going to do.

So, at this point, my family wins out. So, at this point, I would like to wish the commission the best of success. I would like to wish Chief Dave the best of success. I'd like to wish the volunteers to best of success. But at this point, I feel like I have no option based on what has happened and what it may happen in the future, that I don't have that kind of energy. So this time I was going to do this at the end of the meeting, but there were several things to vote on. I don't think my vote's gonna make that much difference in what it's decided. So at this point, I would like to tender my resignation as a member of the Corinth-Shiloh Tax District Commission. So, now resign, I don't get to vote. Good luck on all of these. And I do wish the best. Both personally, but also as a taxpayer. If y'all will excuse me, I will bide my time.

Chairman Smith paused the Commission Comments to recognize Lisa Christianbury for remarks

Lisa Christenbury:

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I just want to thank you, Dr. Howeler, because you, probably I mean, I could be wrong, 'cause I don't know everything about everybody in this room. But I'm in an unrelated field to the fire district and medical stuff - completely. And out of everybody in this room, Dr. Howeler has more expertise in this kind of thing and more knowledge, more patient care. I mean, I don't know if you all know, but, I mean, he was put in very high positions because he knows things. So you've just given so much of your time and so much of your emotional energy to us and helping the tax district get past, and trying to educate all of us. So I just want to thank you for your time, and it was invaluable. And so I just appreciate you. And you're also just so kind to everyone. And if there's anything that we can do for your family or anything that we can do for you in any way, we are here for you.

Mr. Smith:

I'll finish with my Comments. First, I want to say, I appreciate your comments, but we hear you. The commission, we value what you bring to the table, we do, we really do. And over the past 3 weeks, I've spent hours talking to you guys. I spent 2 hours and 15 minutes with Danny. I spent three hours, over three hours with Kevin at my house. Ryan called me back in January, and I listened to him, just listened. And so... Again, I hear you. I've shared.. I'm transparent, anytime I talk to somebody, I will share it. If they talk about a person, I will share it with that person. I've shared the concerns with Dave, and we talked about it all day. It will be addressed.

Now, I want to say that when we begin the process of hiring our chief, we the commission, we gave you guys the power to choose your chief. You developed the hiring process, and it was heavily weighted, that you would hire the person that you want. And so when the interviews were complete, we had two people. And we were debating between both people. And it was unanimous. The same people that are in here. did the same thing that you're doing tonight, but it was to help Dave and get him hired. Okay? So we hear you, and we involved you, okay? So, but now less than 6 weeks in, you haven't given Dave a chance to set this up. Did he make some mistakes? Probably so. I've made some mistakes. I made some mistakes already tonight. And you know, nobody's perfect. And I want to remind you of something. You guys lobbied to get this tax district passed. And from what I understand, you paid an advisor to help you do that. And as a result of this referendum, that you lobbied for, Ordinance 2426 was created. Have y'all read that? I don't know. But anyway. The ordinance governs how we are to function as a special purpose tax district. It outlines the function of the commission and how we're supposed to operate. And it ultimately protects the taxpayers. Referendum 2426, Article 4.6, Operating Authority, states the following: "The fire chief shall be responsible for meeting the management, operating, and financial objectives that shall have day to day operating authority over the fire department and its volunteer staff." It doesn't say that he has to allow you to develop his policies. Now, we allowed you to help hire the chief, and we thought that that was the right thing to do and I still believe that. But what I'm trying to say is the ordinance gives the chief full authority to set the direction of the department, develop his policies, and hire the team that he thinks that he can win with. And that's what Dave's trying to do. So I want to close by saying, we hear your comments. And what we're gonna look at it. But please, give us a chance to make this department greater than it already is. Give us the chance. Let's work together. And let's focus on what we can agree on, you know, work on, and move forward in a positive direction. So again, thank you for your comments and especially thank you for your service, that's all I have.

Action Items:

- **Purchase Tri-Band Radios**
 - Chief Schuerer indicated that the Department uses miss matched devices for radio communications. Radios are important to maintain communications with the outside world, as well as internally. Having researched, he found a portable radio will communicate with Clemson, Corinth-Shiloh and all Pickens County on one radio instead of having three. He requested authorization to purchase 5 at a costs of \$24,796.88.
 - Mr. Walton and Mr. Marcengil asked about the availability of funds in the budget
 - Chief Schuerer indicated that the funds were not included in the 2025-2026 budget.
 - Mr. Marcengil moved that the purchase request be approved. Mr. Walton Seconded. The motion carried in a 4-0 vote
- **PORS - Personnel Retirement**
 - Chairman Smith indicated that the Commission needed to formally approve the state retirement system for new employees.
 - Ms. Morris made the motion to approve the retirement system, seconded by Mr. Walton. The motion carried in a 4-0 vote
- **Financial- Banking and Savings Account Strategy**
 - Chairman Smith indicated the need for the commission to pass a resolution to open four bank accounts
 - General Fund
 - County Quarterly \$60,000 Fund
 - 1% Fund
 - Donations Fund
 - Mr. Marcengil moved to establish these accounts, Ms. Morris seconded. The motion was carried in a 4 - 0 vote.
- **PEBA- Personnel Insurance**
 - Chief Schuerer indicated that he was in the process of acquiring the PEBA insurance and all that was needed was Commission approval and signature.
 - Chief Schuerer: Yes, I have it. Christine left me a...I've got it in my notebook, and we have to sign it before we adjourn tonight. So that said, do we have any questions or comments or concerns with that? Okay. Do we hear a motion to approve the personal insurance.
 - Mr. Walton made a motion to accept the Personnel Insurance proposal seconded by Mr. Marcengil. The motion carried in a 4-0 vote
- **Discussion on Volunteer 501(c)3 expense reimbursement request**

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- Chairman Smith opened a discussion on the reimbursement of expenses incurred by the 501(c)(3) organization while the tax district was awaiting funds from the taxes paid
 - Mr. Walton indicated that he had not yet reconciled the itemized listing with the receipts
 - Ms. Morris asked members to remember when they are looking at 501(c)(3) expenditures, it is still money that's coming from the taxpayers
 - Danny Delmarco ask that if the commission were to receive future charitable donation that they make people aware of any changes that may occur to tax donations if that status were to change.
 - Chief Schuerer agreed to look into it.
 - Chairman Smith entertained a motion to table further discussion until receipt reconciliation could be completed. Ms. Morris made a motion to table further discussion, seconded by Mr. Walton. The motion carried in a 4 - 0 vote.
- Financial- Banking and Savings Account Strategy

Executive Session:

Ms. Morris made a motion, seconded by Mr. Marcengil, approved 4-0, to enter Executive Session for the following purposes, as allowed for § 30-4-70(a) of the South Carolina Code of Laws:

- *Discussion regarding employee handbook, lease contract, and personnel matters*
- Ms. Morris made a motion for an executive session, seconded by Mr. Marcengil. The motion was passed in a 4-0 vote
- Commission Meeting entered Executive Session at 7:10 P.M.
- Ms. Morris made a motion to end executive session, seconded by Mr. Marcengil. The motion was passed in a 4-0 vote
- The commission exited executive session a 7:53 P.M.

Continued Action Items:

- Employee Handbook
 - Mr. Walton made a motion to approve the Employee Handbook seconded by Mr. Marcengil the motion was approved in 4-0 vote.
- Facility Lease Agreement
 - Mr. Marcengil made a motion to approve the Facility Lease Agreement seconded by Mr. Walton. The motion was approved in a 4-0 vote.

Committee Reports:

None for this meeting

Adjourn:

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- Ms. Morris moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Walton seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved by a 4 - 0 vote
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kevin Whelan
Staff Secretary

Next Meeting:

March 5 – Workshop

6:00 pm, Training Room, Corinth-Shiloh Fire Department
940 Old Clemson Highway, Seneca, SC 29672