

**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY AND COURTS COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
January 27, 2025**

The Newberry County Council Public Safety and Courts Committee met on Monday, January 27, 2025, at 5:01 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a special called meeting.

Notice of the meeting was duly advertised, as required by law.

PRESENT: Stuart Smith, Committee Chair  
Leon Fulmer, Committee Member  
Karl Sease, Committee Member  
Jeff Shacker, County Administrator  
Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director  
Eric Nieto, I.T. Director  
Brandon Wicker, Emergency Services Coordinator  
Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council/PIO

Mr. Fulmer called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Mr. Smith led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Election of 2025 Chair.

- Mr. Sease nominated Mr. Smith to serve as the 2025 Chair; Mr. Fulmer provided the second. With no other nominations, Mr. Sease made a motion to close nominations, Mr. Fulmer provided the second.
- Mr. Smith was elected the 2025 Chair 3-0.
- Mr. Fulmer turned over the meeting to Mr. Smith.

2. Additions, Deletions and Adoption of the Agenda.

- There were no changes to the agenda.

3. Update on Public Safety Vehicles, Fire Engine, Tanker Truck, Ambulances – Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director.

- Mr. Long said they have the new fire engine (for Little Mountain) outside and invited the Committee to go take a look at it. He said they are still waiting on some equipment to get it in service.
- Regarding the tanker truck for Bush River, Mr. Long said it should be ready by the end of February, and they have most of the truck put together now.
- Mr. Long said they had one EMS ambulance budgeted in this year's budget and one for next year's budget, but they went ahead and secured purchasing those. One should be ready in July and the second should be ready in September.
  - Mr. Smith asked where those ambulances will go, Mr. Long said EMS will get those.

4. Discussion of Post-Helene Efforts, Tommy Long, Emergency Services Director.

- Mr. Long said there is a Disaster Recovery Center at the Newberry Armory that will be there until January 29, 2025, to help anyone with denials from entering claims or answering any questions. Mr. Long said this will be the last DRC in the state, possibly.
- Mr. Long said they are working on FEMA reimbursements and that staff met with them today. He said they are looking to hire a consultant to make sure they don't miss anything when it comes to reimbursements, and getting grant funding, and that will be on the next Newberry County Council meeting agenda.
  - Mr. Fulmer asked, regarding debris pickup, if everything has been picked up on county roads. Mr. Long said he believes that is complete, but that would be more a question for Public Works. He added DOT will handle that reimbursement. Mr. Shacker added that we have debris at the landfill site that still needs to be picked up.

- Mr. Sease asked about the Hurricane Helene debrief and if that has taken place. Mr. Long said they did a “hotwash” already and that was forwarded to all the departments, and he can send that to council. He said they will probably do a debrief with all of the squads and chiefs and anything not in that “hotwash” will cover that, as well.

## 5. Public Comments.

- Mr. Terry Russell, said his stations wanted to say thank you for council participation during the Board of Rural Fire Department meeting and a thank you for increasing the stipend for people that made the “VIP.” He also said not to forget what they discussed at the meeting. Mr. Smith said yes, they are working on that now.
- Mr. Sease asked for an update on lockboxes for handguns for people with concealed weapon permits at stations. Mr. Long said the county attorney was supposed to be finalizing the policy, and they have not gotten that back. He said he dropped the ball on that, and they got sidetracked with the hurricane.
  - Mr. Sease said he knows some volunteers come with a concealed weapon in their vehicle, it is a primary spot to get it stolen.
- Mr. Fulmer thanked all of the public safety personnel for everything they do for the county, and they depend on them greatly. He said he specifically wanted to thank everyone who helped with the bus accident. He said he thinks most everyone has heard, Amick Farms had a fire at their processing plant and that will affect several farms in Newberry County, he asked everyone to keep Amick Farms family in your thoughts and prayers.
  - Mr. Long added that they sent several departments, volunteers, to assist with that fire. He thanked them for responding and helping our neighbors.
- Mr. Smith thanked all the volunteers for what they do every day and he knows Newberry County residents appreciate it too. He said he

looks forward to his new role and working with every station. He said he enjoyed the meeting the other night and they got good input and concerns they will get worked out.

- Mr. Sease thanked all the volunteers that responded to the hurricane that were out there working 15 hours a day, cutting down trees. He said we need to make sure we support them make sure we are feeding them, making sure they have water, have gas, and whatever they need to clear the roads for the safety of Newberry County.

6. Adjourn.

- Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:49 p.m.

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**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY  
AND COURTS COMMITTEE**



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**Stuart Smith, Committee Chairman**

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**Andrew Wigger, Clerk to Council**

Minutes Approved: 2/5/25