



Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Date: 3/04/2025

Item #: 8

Item Title: Southern Shores Fire Department Consultant Findings

Item Summary: The Town of Southern Shores Volunteer Department has a long history of providing fire service throughout the community. Though chartered in 1982, its history dates to 1949. The department as well as those remaining volunteer departments locally, and even nationally, have seen a steady decline in the number of volunteer fire fighters for the past several years. The inevitable reality of the department shifting to a paid municipal department has come to the point that the Town and SSVFD must consider what is best for the citizens of Southern Shores moving forward.

At its December 2024, Town Council meeting, the Council directed staff to engage a consultant for the purpose of long-range planning. A joint letter signed by the Mayor and Chairman of the Southern Shores Volunteer Fire Department was distributed as information throughout the community. Both staff of the Town and SSVFD have been working closely with consultants with NC Fire Chief Consulting to aid in the evaluation of the feasibility of the SSVFD becoming part of the Town of Southern Shores municipal government.

NC Fire Chief Consulting serves as the NC League of Municipalities fire consulting partner, and they have worked with many North Carolina counties and municipalities to provide management guidance and technical expertise regarding recommendations, options, best practices, and considerations related to providing core, essential public safety services.

The Chief of the consulting group, Mr. Greg Grayson, will present the findings of his study.