

**TOWN OF COWPENS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
5330 N. Main St.
October 11, 2022**

The Town of Cowpens held a special meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mayor Michael D. Hamrick, Mayor Pro-Tem Jarred S. Spencer, Council Members Pam Camp, Thomas Voelker, and Erin P. Wofford. Mayor Hamrick called the meeting to order.

This meeting is being held to receive information from Lawrence Flynn, Jr. and Drayton Fire Department, Glendale Fire Department, Pacolet Fire Department, and Cowpens Fire Department, to consider consolidating departments in order to ensure that each fire district has enough personnel.

Lawrence Flynn, Jr., of Pope Flynn, LLC updated council on the statutory process for merging departments. Council will have a choice to consolidate or will need additional funding to hire full-time employees for the fire department.

Council discussed:

- ❖ Millage rates
- ❖ The need for full-time workforce
- ❖ A consolidation approach that levels out the millage rates
- ❖ Assets
- ❖ Difficulties in running fire service
- ❖ The lack of volunteer resources
- ❖ Training hours

Lawrence Flynn, Jr. reviewed the millage rates of each department. Cowpens Fire District is set at 29 mills, Drayton is set at 40 mills, Glendale is at 20 mills, and Pacolet is set at 20 mills. The Fire District, as a group, has decided to set the millage rate at 38 mills. The Town of Cowpens would decrease their millage rate to adjust for the fire district rate. He noted that Glendale Fire District has full-time employees and the greatest assets.

Jarred S. Spencer suggested a study to determine how much additional service is needed and how to adjust the millage rate accordingly. Chris Massey, a liaison from Spartanburg County, was present. He informed Council that a study was conducted, and his job is to follow through with recommendations made from the study. One of the recommendations was to consolidate fire departments. The benefit of consolidation is workforce.

Jarred S. Spencer asked if the County would control the assets. Lawrence Flynn, Jr. responded that Drayton would be the take-over target since their millage rate is set at 40 mills at this time and assets would be controlled by the SPD, which would be Drayton Fire Department.

The new Special Purpose District would have representation from each fire service area. The town council would need to vote to consolidate services and transfer assets to the Special Purpose District.

Mayor Hamrick thanked Mr. Flynn for his presentation and thanked other fire districts for attending the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Guest: Chief Tony Blanton (Cowpens FD), Chief Mike Comer (Drayton FD), Glendale Board Member Rappy Williams, Chris Massey (Spartanburg County),

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Mayor Michael D. Hamrick

Mayor Pro-Tem Jarred S. Spencer

Council Member Pam Camp

Attest:

Council Member Thomas Voelker

Teresa Carter, Town Clerk

Council Member Erin P. Wofford

Guest: Chief Tony Blanton (Cowpens FD), Chief Mike Comer (Drayton FD), Glendale Board Member Rappy Williams, Chris Massey (Spartanburg County),