

GENESEE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Minutes of February 17, 2021

Board of Directors' Meeting

via Zoom conference

Board Members in Attendance: Nancy Balter, JP Brewer, Susan Eagle, Patti Harris, Scott Mefford

Board Members Excused: none

Also Attending: Chief Puffett, Training Chief Babcock, Deputy Chief Neil Frame, Wildland Specialist Dorie Dalton, Bob Dalton, Joe Auster

Call to Order: 18:00 by Scott Mefford

Minutes of Prior Meetings:

- A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously, to accept the minutes of the January 20, 2021 Board meeting.

Public Comment and Announcements: none

Financial Reports

- **Review of August Financials**
 - The January, 2021 financial report was presented by Chief Puffett. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to accept the financials as presented.

Reports of Officers, Committees, Professional Consultants

- **Wildland Specialist Dorie Dalton's Report**
 - A schematic showing the components of the communication plan for the next year was presented.
- **Training Chief Ryan Babcock's Report**
 - Hazmat has been completed by 4 recruits with results of the exam pending. For one of the 4, assuming he passed the exam, he will become a probie. The other three will begin the wildland training.
 - Car fire training was completed followed by an actual car fire in the District.
 - The wildland refresher has been scheduled.
 - A medical training was completed.
- **Deputy Chief Neil Frame's Report**
 - Call volume for January was up compared to last year.
 - Events: Planning is underway for an event in June to celebrate the previous 2 recruit classes and present recognition awards. Closer to the time of the event a decision will be made as to how to incorporate COVID considerations. It is hoped that the open house can be held, but a decision will depend on COVID considerations.
 - Apparatus: Chief Puffett reported that all equipment is undergoing routine maintenance. The power steering pump on 971 is being refurbished.
 - Recruiting: ramping up the recruitment effort. One potential recruit looks very promising and may be able to begin the upcoming wildland unit.
 - Facilities: Routine maintenance, installation of a vent system is underway.
 - Medical: New coordinator, Doug Barenburg is working with Chief Babcock to develop the medical training program.

Old Business

- **Rotary Wildfire Ready**
 - Nancy Balter reported that the Safety committee is working on several initiatives including emergency notification and information resources during a wildfire event. The education committee is getting ready to

roll out their fire truck with educational information about wildfire mitigation and emergency preparedness. It will be available to have at community events.

▪ **Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update**

- Scott Mefford and Nancy Balter reported on progress to date. Good progress is being made and, although the project is behind schedule, the Core Group is pleased with the scientifically-based analyses that are presented. A 90% complete draft will be shared with the Board, hopefully within the next few weeks.
- Chief Puffett provided a status report on the roadway feasibility study. He will share the final report with the Board when it is received.
- The communication plan which is being developed includes providing District residents with a hard-copy summary of the findings of the CWPP along with an invitation to a public meeting where Forest Stewards Guild will present the findings and answer questions.
- A potential collaboration with the WiRē research group out of the University of Colorado, Boulder, was discussed. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to ask for a contract that the Board could review at the next meeting that would spell out the responsibilities of each party were we to go forward with the WiRē project and to ask Chief Puffett to communicate with another fire chief whose District collaborated with WiRē about their experience.

▪ **COVID-19 Update**

- 90% of the department have received both doses of vaccine and, as of tomorrow, all be at least 2 weeks from their last injection. The remainder of the department have signed waivers.
- A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously, to approve the continuation of the disaster resolution, RESOLUTION NO. 2020-0324-01, for one month.

New Business

- GW&S Lease Agreement: Chief Puffett is working on the agreement which he hopes to have ready for Board approval shortly.
- Joint Resolution to Close the Firefighter's Pension Plan to New Members. The Board reviewed the suggested language of the resolution, in particular the 5th paragraph and the language about the freezing of benefits. The 5th paragraph was considered not to be accurate and unnecessary and the Board wanted to retain the discretion to increase benefits if they deemed appropriate. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adopt the Joint Resolution of the Genesee Fire Protection District Board of Directors and Volunteer Firefighter's Pension Fund Board of Trustees Closing the Volunteer Firefighter's Pension Plan to New Members *and Freezing Benefits for Current Members*, with the deletion of the 5th paragraph and deletion of 2. Freezing of Benefits.

There being no further business, the Board meeting was adjourned at 20:08 hours.