

## GENESSEE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Minutes of June 16, 2021  
Board of Directors' Meeting

**Board Members in Attendance:** Nancy Balter (by zoom), JP Brewer (by zoom), Susan Eagle, Patti Harris, Scott Mefford

**Board Members Excused:** none

**Also Attending:** Chief Puffett, Deputy Chief Neil Frame, Wildland Specialist Dorie Dalton, Training Chief Ryan Babcock, Captain Joe Auster, Firefighter Paul Benson, Christina Jantzef, Ty Holman, Gary Rauchenecker

**Call to Order:** 18:00 by Director Mefford

### **Minutes of Prior Meetings:**

- A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to accept the minutes of the May 19, 2021 Board meeting.

### **Public Comment and Announcements:**

- Gary Rauchenecker, Genesee Foundation Board member invited a representative of the fire department to provide a GFR update at a Foundation Board meeting. Director Mefford suggested that Wildland Specialist Dalton would be the person for the presentation and thanked the Genesee Foundation for the opportunity.

### **Financial Reports**

- **Audit:**
  - Ty Holman with Haynie & Co. reviewed the audited financial statement report. Haynie & Co. will issue a clean opinion that our financial statements are a fair representation of what has transpired in 2020.
  - A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to accept the audited financial statement report and authorized Chief Puffett to sign the Management Representation Letter and for Haynie & Co to file the report with the state on the district's behalf.
- **Review of May Financials**
  - The May, 2021 financial report was presented by Christina Jantzef.
  - A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to accept the year-to-date financials as presented.

### **Reports of Officers, Committees, Professional Consultants**

- **Wildland Specialist Dorie Dalton's Report**
  - Two neighborhood defensible space walks with Meg Matonis of Forest Guild took place. A total of about 20 people attended. Several potential community leaders were identified. A recording of the walk will be posted on the website.
  - The rapid home assessments for the WiRē program have been completed.
  - Wildfire Prepared Home Assessment Program:
    - Dorie has almost completed the certification program. Once she is certified, she will be able to work with other GFR volunteers to get them certified.
    - Ben Yellin and Julia Kalish gave a presentation on the program to HOA representatives.
    - About 20 residents have already indicated interest in having an assessment done.
- **Training Chief Ryan Babcock's Report**
  - Chief Babcock reviewed the training that has occurred to date.
  - Three recruits have successfully completed the fire academy.
  - The medical coordinator with St Anthonys, Steve Drago, is retiring. It is not known who will take his place.
  - A crew of 5 responded to the Platte River wildfire.
- **Deputy Chief Neil Frame's Report**
  - Call volume to date for 2021 was similar to last year.

- Events:
  - A graduation celebration will be held next Saturday and will include dinner.
  - The Open House will definitely happen in September
- Apparatus: Hose testing is complete with only minimal failures.
- Recruiting: Deputy Chief Frame recognized the great job Hank O'Brien has done. We will have 4 recruits starting the next Academy.
- Facilities: A lot of organizing has occurred.
- Medical: the equipment for EMTs has been reviewed.
- Chief Puffett recognized Deputy Chief Frame for the excellent job he has done for the past 2 years. This will be the last Board meeting he attends as Deputy Chief.

#### **Old Business**

- **Rotary Wildfire Ready:** Nancy Balter reported that two areas of focus are investigating the installation of a camera system for early detection and scoping of wildfires and pushing for a workable standard for roadside mitigation of evacuation routes.

#### **New Business:**

- **GW&S Lease (revised):** Chief Puffett reviewed the changes to the lease agreement that resulted from continued negotiations with the Water District. The significant changes were that the lease term is now 25 years instead of 50 years and insurance procurement and payment will be handled differently. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to accept the revised lease agreement.
- **EFR Maintenance IGA Amendment:** The amendment increases the hourly rate, but Chief Puffett explained that the rate is still reasonable. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to accept the Amendment to the EFR Maintenance IGA.
- **SB 21-293:** Chief Puffett explained the very rushed passage of this bill, which, as of June 14<sup>th</sup>, is on Governor Polis' desk for signature. It reduces assessments rates resulting in a decrease in revenue for special districts. In addition, there will be a ballot question on the November election that, if passed, would even more drastically reduce assessment rates, and therefore, further reduce special district revenue. Genesee Fire Protection District Ballot Issue A, approved by voters in 2018, authorizes the Genesee Fire Protection District to adjust the districts mill levy to offset changes to the percentage of actual valuation used to determine assessed valuation.

**There being no further business, the Board meeting was adjourned at 19:17 hours.**