

GENESSEE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Minutes of September 16, 2020

Board of Directors' Meeting

via Zoom conference

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

Board Members Excused: JP Brewer

Also Attending: Jason Puffett, Christina Shea, Neil Frame, Joe Auster, Gary Rauchenecker

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 August 19, 2020 Board meeting.

Public Comment and Announcements:

- Gary Rauchenecker representing Genesee Foundation reported that Jefferson County has reviewed the posted speed limits in Genesee Foundation and plans to increase the speed limit on 3 streets (Currant, Bitterroot and Shooting Star) from 20 to 25 mph to be consistent with Jefferson County protocol. Residents have been encouraged to provide the County with feedback and the Board of Directors will decide at their next meeting whether to challenge the County's decision.

Financial Reports

- **Review of August Financials**
 - The August, 2020 financial report, presented by Christina Shea, was accepted as stated.
 - A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously, to appoint Director Patti Harris as the Budget Officer
- **2020 Draft Budget**
 - 2021 draft budget recommendations were added to the Budget Worksheet
 - Chief Puffett provided and reviewed a summary document that outlined significant variances between the budget and forecast for specific categories in 2020 and the draft recommendation in these categories for 2021, along with a description of reasons why the 2021 recommendation varied from the 2020 budget.

Reports of Officers, Committees, Professional Consultants

- **Deputy Chief Neil Frame's Report**
 - Call volume is ahead of last year at this time, although medical calls remain about the same. Deputy Chief Frame recognized Dan Hammock who has used his expertise to fabricate various devices for use on the equipment.
 - Events: All plans have been canceled due to COVID, with the exception of two internal events that are planned: a discussion of the book *Fire on the Mountain*, led by Chief Babcock, to be held September 26 outside; and a presentation by Rorke Denver on November 12. There is consideration of whether to cancel the holiday party.
 - Apparatus: Joe Auster reported that some repairs were required as a result of operator error. Chief Puffett discussed the Department's efforts to evaluate training, protocols and culture that might have contributed to what happened. As a result of this analysis, the Department is bringing in a guest speaker, Rorke Denver, who will talk about mental focus and leadership culture.
 - Recruiting: The academy has started. Three of the 7 recruits have dropped out for various reasons.
 - Facilities: Minor repairs are in the works.
 - Medical: no updates.
 - Training: Training videos are being prepared for the GFR YouTube channel

Old Business

- **Rotary Wildfire Ready**
 - Beth Moran reported that the Education Committee is planning “fireside chats” by Zoom the last Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. The subject for September will be Disaster Preparation and for October, the Paradise and Elephant Butte fires.
 - The Safety Committee is continuing to work on lessons learned from the Elephant Butte fire.
- **Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update**
 - Scott Mefford and Nancy Balter reported on progress to date. Forest Guild is making good progress and seeking input to be sure the final product is what GFD is looking for.
 - To date there have been 277 survey responses. While Forest Guild feels this is a good response rate, we were hoping for more. The preliminary analysis shows overwhelming support for mitigation efforts, uncertainty about residents should do with respect to mitigation and concern about evacuation. We will send a final reminder through HOA emails to fill out the survey.
- **Website Update**
 - Chief Puffett showed the three separate sites that are in development: a public site, a members-only site (not searchable) and restricted site for pre-plans.
- **COVID-19 Update**
 - Chief Puffett reported that the Department remains in Phase 2 of the reintegration plan, which is consistent with the current Governor’s order.
- **Wildland Specialist Position**
 - Chief Puffett finalized and distributed a job description. He worked with the HR specialist from Evergreen Fire. The proposed salary is in the mid-range of salaries for similar positions.

New Business

- **Disaster Declaration**
 - A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously, to approve the continuation of the disaster resolution, RESOLUTION NO. 2020-0324-01, for one month.

There was no need for an Executive Session

There being no further business, the Board meeting was adjourned at 19:23 hours.