

GENESEE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Minutes of March 18, 2020

Board of Directors' Meeting

- **Board Members in Attendance:** Nancy Balter (via Zoom), Susan Eagle (via Zoom), Patti Harris, Scott Mefford, Beth Moran (via Zoom)
- **Board Members Excused:** none
- **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 February, 2020 Board meeting.
- **Public Comment and Announcements**
 - None
- **Financial Reports**
 - **Review of February Financials**
 - The February, 2020 financial report was accepted as stated.
 - **Review of Notable Payables**
 - Discussion of tax receipts and heater installation
 - **2019 District Audit**
 - Audit was begun 3/16 with a site visit for primary auditor to view new assets as large capital purchases may be considered a high risk
- **Reports of Officers, Committees, Professional Consultants**
 - **Deputy Chief's Report**
 - Due to the ongoing nature of cancellations in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, status of the July 4th parade is uncertain. The Open House is tentative also for the same reason. MDA collection decision is also on hold; if GFR proceeds the effort will be scaled back from that of previous years.
 - Again, due to COVID-19, recruiting face-to-face interviews and station meetings are on hold.
 - Facilities reports that the station has been locked according to COVID-19 protocols. A cleaning crew has been hired to ensure proper sanitation procedures are being followed.
 - Apparatus reports that equipment is in order. 954 and 932 were activated for a fire on 3/17.
 - Medical protocols have been updated and implemented in response to COVID-19 outbreak. Understanding the risks of exposure when responding to a medical call is of utmost importance.
 - **Training Chief's Report**
 - attached to agenda
 - Remote training is being implemented; no group training is being allowed
 - One new recruit has started Wildland training; will complete Fire Academy in September
- **Old Business**
 - **Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update**
 - Progress report attached
 - There was discussion about needing to "think outside the box" for ways to engage the community while COVID-19 protocols are in effect, i.e. webinars, optimizing the GFR website
 - **COVID-19 Update**
 - Phases 1 and 2 of a 3 Phase program have been implemented
 - Department is actively working with Highland Rescue Team Ambulance District to co-manage incidents to ensure that as few responders as possible will need to enter homes.

- **Website**

- The State of Colorado will likely not be able to add new accounts such as GFR's for 6-8 months. In the meantime, GFR will keep the current website updated, especially as relates to COVID-19 public information.

- **New Business**

- **Highland Rescue Support Resolution**

- Board Chair Rob Keating and HRT Chief Alan Feldman discussed the need for raising the mill levy and de-Gallagherizing.
- Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adopt Resolution 03182020-01, A Resolution of Support for Highland Rescue Team, wherein the Board expresses its strongest possible support for Highland Rescue Team Ambulance District Ballot Issue A to increase its property tax levy; and encourages electors to vote yes on said Ballot Issue A at the May 5, 2020 election.

- **Disaster Declaration**

- At least two other local fire districts have officially declared a disaster, to facilitate the use of Tabor funds and make possible the receipt of Federal funds in continuing to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. Discussion of the need for GFR to implement such a declaration included timing and community notification, as well as some questions as to financial requirements that will be referred to the legal team. The decision was made to table this decision until such time as the Chief deems it appropriate to be submitted. At that time, the Board will hold a special meeting in accordance with all rules and regulations, to further discuss the answer questions raised and to adopt such a resolution.

- **There was no need for an Executive Session**

- **The Board meeting was adjourned at 19:16 hours.**