



GOLDEN GATE

Fire Protection District

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Golden Gate Fire Protection District Meeting Minutes

18 June 2020

1. Preliminary

- 1.1. Location/Call to order: Ms. Carlon called to order the regular meeting of the GGFPD Board at 7:00pm via telephone conference call.
- 1.2. Welcome audience
- 1.3. Pledge of allegiance
- 1.4. Roll call indicated a quorum was present with Ms. Carlon, Mr. Patton, Mr. Trost, Dr. Kinnard, and Mr. Agar. Chief DiFeo was present.
- 1.5. Additions and deletions to the Agenda: Add line 5.4 Board procedure.

2. Public Agenda

2.1. Public comment:

- Dee Dee Ramstetter announced the hydration drive for FFs will be June 20-29th. She also advertised rentals for the Grange are starting back up. Cost is \$1 for the Board. Social distancing is possible. Road cleanup is on the 28th from 7am - 9am. Jayne will send out email with information. There is an answering service at the grange so leave a message.
- Dr. Kinnard was grateful for the hydration and food support for FFs and asked if she coordinated with Chief on any specific FF needs regarding food and sustenance.
- Terri Costeldia said it was a pleasure to work with all the board members and thanked them for their service. Slash Day is Aug 1st-2nd. At the next auxiliary meeting on July 2nd, they will be discussing a great alternative to the annual Pig Roast fund raiser. Auxiliary was happy to support FFs with the snack packs which were very much needed. All the LTs can reach out and ask for anything for their shift work, etc. They are looking for a liaison between FFs and Auxiliary. They are also looking forward to some sort of recognition for Gerrit and Lori. They still need to plan this. On a separate note, as a resident, she would like to know when she can get answers on the questions she's been asking for a while.
- Dr. Kinnard commented that regarding the hydration drive, Station 1 has enough drinks.
- Terri will look at inventory and filter the older items out and donate these to food banks and replace FD food/drinks with fresh items.

2.2. Approval of minutes from May 21, 2020

- **Motion #1** by Mr. Patton to table the May minutes to July so Mitsu can review the recorded meeting for accuracy. 2nd by Dr. Kinnard. Vote results: 5 yes. **Motion passed.**

2.3. Approval of Special Board Meeting minutes from April 23, 2020.

- **Motion #2** by Ms. Carlon to approve minutes. 2nd by Mr. Patton. Vote results: 3 yes (Patton and Kinnard are recused). **Motion passed.**

3. Committee Reports

3.1. Treasurer's Report

- Verbal report. Written reports will be sent out after the board meeting.
- Mr. Trost reviewed the financials and discussed all items.

3.2 Chief's Report

- See attached.
- Open issues/summary of discussion:
 - Regarding Personnel: Ms. Carlon asked Chief to present his findings to the board so they have visibility on the requirements of a FF's obligatory service and finding a balance on how much money we invest in a FF knowing they may disappear after academy.
 - Mr. Trost asked how we start quantifying the calls we make with Open Space to present them with a hard argument that if we keep making these calls that they have to help. Chief is discussing this with other mountain departments but this came to a standstill with the pandemic. This will be revisited.
 - Station 83 Septic update:
 - Tank is installed. Paperwork sent to community. Not expecting any problems.
 - Regarding the Personnel Policy review, Ms. Carlon noted that the lawyers looked at it and a few issues were raised but it should be ready by the July board meeting.

4. Old Business

4.1 Easements with the Grange

- Mr. Trost reported that Terri Costeldia is getting additional data from the county on documents for both the well and easement. The well agreement is 90% complete. Mr. Trost will take input from Dave and Terri, modify it and resend to the Board. Most critical is that we incorporate, as an addendum, the county letter that when we closed on the building we accepted that letter and we assumed any assets and liabilities assimilated therein.
- Easement: Terri suggested waiting until final data from County comes in. This issue sprang from when the county made an easement on the road and got the property boundary wrong. They are trying to fix this.
- Ms. Carlon asked if an attorney needs to review this. Mr. Trost replied that we send it out in our final form with preliminary approval from the Grange and Fire Board. But we need a preliminary agreement first. Ms. Carlon will add this for action item for July.

4.2 LOSAP investment

- Chief sent out Hero plus program for FF feedback. Older FFs were not interested. Would rather take the check. Younger guys leaning towards Hero plus. Proposed writing a check at the end of every year.
- **Motion #3** by Mr. Agar to pay out LOSAP checks every year by the end of February. 2nd by Mr. Trost. Vote results: 3 yes (Patton and Kinnard recused themselves). **Motion passed.**

5. New business:

5.1 Board Secretary Position

- Discussion: concerned with Mitsu having several different roles. Secretary is a voting member. In addition, she shouldn't get hours detracted for writing minutes. It would be cleaner to have a Board member to be Secretary. **Motion #4** by Ms. Carlon to elect Dannel Agar as secretary. 2nd by Mr. Trost. Vote: 5 yes. **Motion Passed.**
- Committee formation:
 - Document was posted on website. Only 1 community member volunteered to participate.
 - Mr. Patton will post the plan on the website. Comments will get forwarded to the board to be discussed at the July meeting.

5.2 Committee formation

- With Gallagher amendment coming up, suggested that we start forming the committee tonight with a couple board members.
- Terri Costeldia asked for clarity on the committee: if this is specifically for recruitment or pulling/sharing resources from other departments. Noted dynamics in mountain communities are far different. Wants to ensure we are clarifying recruitment and networking v. merging.
- Terri cautioned that there is a perception that this goes towards a merger rather than retention of FFs. Ms. Carlon noted there's a difference between merging and sharing resources.
- Lengthy discussion on composition of committee. Not more than 2 board members. Chief noted that data mining and research will take time and the committee member needs to be able to commit. Mr. Patton cautioned having 2 FFs on the committee. Reach out to the two community members who had expressed interest.
- Dr. Kinnard will get started with principles of operation and understanding the charter and then will look at individual responsibilities. Trost asked about constituents. Dr. Kinnard commented that as a fact finding committee initially, they come up with a series of options for district to consider. Mr. Trost clarified: committee will initially set up ground rules with constituents and in future open it up to the community.
- Terri asked what the goal of the Committee would be. Sam clarified that initially it's just to organize. The purpose of the committee is to do a preliminary study on the future of rural fire departments. Terri was concerned about the Chief's time commitment, especially as a paid employee. She cautioned that he's spending his time on this and this may be part of his overarching agenda. Suggested that time would be better spent on recruitment, morale, etc. Cautioned that we have a clear direction for the volunteer energy that we have. Dr. Kinnard commented that he understands chief's professional point of view— he's asking for help from the board so that he can focus on other Chief responsibilities. Let's not put this all on his shoulder. This is also a community responsibility.
- Mr. Agar appreciated the opportunity to review medical services contract and asked if these types of contracts look like they are flexible in a regulatory environment. Are there any departments that have shifted medical responsibilities to these ambulances and shifting

away from FF medical responsibility. Chief said that the bigger departments are budgeted to have a FF/medic on staff. Ambulance companies are a for profit business so this is a challenge for rural communities.

- Ms. Carlon commented that this is a problem everywhere. This is something the committee can look at, too.
- Mr. Patton commented that some ambulance companies rely on FDs to handle the medical calls.
- Chief: the one issue GG has that is different from the central fire agencies is that our ambulance is 15min out as opposed to a few minutes. Our FFs have to be better at EMS and patient care.
- Dannel commented that a lot of our FFs are also coming out of district with the same response time as the ambulance.

5.3. Auxiliary Request

- Ms. Carlon explained that we are not going to have a physical gathering for the pig roast this year due to the pandemic. The Auxiliary will be doing their fund raiser by mail and requested the use of our resident list. Sue Blair, DEO, said we can redact the nonpublic info from the list. Ms. Carlon asked the board to consider the best method for getting an accurate mailing list.
- Mary Preister wanted to know what FFs will need in the coming year so they can share this with the residents in their letter and asked the board for a list of residents and landowners.
- Discussed tax payer roles, which is public information available from the county assessor. (list can be purchased for approx. \$75.) If someone is not registered to vote they may not be on the list but taxpayers are. Ms. Carlon asked how accurate the tax list is compared to voter list. Tax roles will have duplicate names because some people own multiple properties. Tax roles are more accurate than voter registration. If we're going to put names on it, Mr. Trost would like to get a legal agreement.
- Dr. Kinnard commented that as a public organization it's important to separate conflicts: private organization doing fund raising v. public unit using this information to generate newsletters.
- Board agreed that Auxiliary should purchase the list from the county assessor and the Board should remain uninvolved.

5.4 Board procedure:

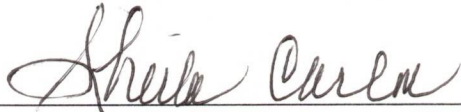
- Ms. Carlon wanted to ensure that Mitsu gets the recorded link so she can clarify issues for meeting minutes.
- Clarified check signing procedure: 4 signers are active (Carlon, Trost, Kinnard, Patton).
- July meeting location discussion: the challenge with the Grange location is internet for Zoom meetings, also option to use the station's bay. Chief expects teleconference meetings will continue. Add this as an agenda item for July on how to proceed with future board meetings.
- Chief asked Terri about getting wifi at the grange and sharing it with station 83. Terri will follow up. Dannel suggested an amplified cell phone tower at the grange as an option to look into.

7. Adjournment

- ▶ Sheila Carlon adjourned the meeting at 8:31 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is scheduled for July 16, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

END

Minutes approved by:



Sheila Carlon, President