



Golden Gate Fire Protection District

Minutes – March 17, 2016

Board Meeting

Written by Sam Patton

1. Preliminary
 - 1.1. Location: Golden Gate Fire Station #1, 32360 Robinson Hill Rd. Golden, CO.
 - 1.2. Call to order – 7:00 pm by Mr. Shuler.
 - 1.3. Welcome Audience
 - 1.4. Pledge of Allegiance
 - 1.5. Roll call indicated a quorum was present with Mrs. Daniel, Mr. Green, Mr. Shuler, and Mr. Patton. Mr. Primmer absent unexcused.
 - 1.6. Additions and Deletions to Agenda
 - **Motion #1** by Shuler to add rank voting as item 5.5 and email to community regarding relation between the District and Auxiliary as item 5.6, 2nd by Patton.
 - Discussion
 - There is a handout on the rank discussion
 - Vote result – 3 yes (Daniel, Shuler, Patton), 1 no (Green). Items are added as 5.5 and 5.6.
 - **Motion #2** by Green to address complaints from community that have gone unanswered the documents he has been requesting including IFC Resolution, 2nd Daniel.
 - Discussion
 - Shuler states these are chief report items.
 - Patton will send the emails to all board of the submitted document and responses from Jeffco.
 - Vote result – 1 yes (Green), 3 no (Daniel, Shuler, Patton). Defeated but the items will be addressed during the meeting.
 - **Motion #3** by Patton to add approval of January and February 2016 meeting minutes as items 2.2 and 2.3, 2nd Shuler.
 - Vote results – 4 yes (unanimous).
2. Public Agenda
 - 2.1. (0:06:50) Public Comment
 - Grant Ruesch brings up the Mill Levy issue but will wait until it is discussed later. The other issue is regarding a memo that was sent earlier in the day regarding the Auxiliary as it mischaracterized. They are accountable, transparent, legitimate, and perform a wonderful function. They are very effective and spend the money they raise under the consultation of the chief and it is spent on the fire fighters. They do not function as a parallel board. It is wonderful for this community.
 - Garrett V addresses the group that met with Timberline last week to discuss becoming remotely managed. Linda Skeen and Sheila Carlon engineered the meeting and there is a conflict of interest in those involved. Fire fighters do not support this plan and stated Mr. Shuler was aware of the meeting.
 - Sheila Carlon requests this board sanction Green as she is tired of seeing emails that are inaccurate. Even sports teams take people out for unsportsmanlike behavior. Its unbecoming of a board member. Email was inaccurate. She doesn't need permission

of anyone to attend a meeting. Yes, six people went to a meeting with Timberline to discuss options for the district. She is concerned of sustainability of the district. She has notes from the meeting. Asks the board to investigate the same thing they discussed with Timberline. It was not a secret meeting.

- Terri Costeldia recap of the Auxiliary. They have reimbursed IV classes for fire fighters, provided food for the awards banquet, supplemented funding for FF shirts, set up a separate capital purchase fund account, food on demand for training, make arrangements for the Grange, cleaning Station #1, many donations, community has benefited from their 501c3, supporting radio communications, FF incentive program, set up and paid for wildland interfacing training course including books and food. Our FFs have so much knowledge of the terrain. Our FFs have so many certs and are well trained. Want to communicate more to the community of what they are doing.
- Suzan asks Brill how many volunteers we have, 16. How many live in district, 11. How many attend the training, average 8. How many responders are on calls, average 6, depends on the time of day. Average response time, 20 minutes.
- Dannell asks the board to update the web site. He can't find latest meeting minutes, IFC Resolution, and chief's reports.

2.2. (0:24:33) Approval of Minutes – January 2016

- **Motion #4** Patton to approve January 2016 meeting minutes, 2nd by Daniel
 - Discussion
 - Green the minutes are obscure when it comes to what the board decided on for the wording within the the GGFPD Resolution to Adopt the IFC resolution and they beat around the bush. There is verbiage that is key and not shown in the minutes.
 - Shuler to keep things brief.
 - Vote result – 4 yes (unanimous).

2.3. (0:26:38) Approval of Minutes – February 2016

- **Motion #5** by Patton to approve minutes, 2nd by Shuler.
- Discussion
 - **Motion #6** by Shuler to amend to list the names of vote results, 2nd by Daniel
 - Discussion – None
 - Vote result – 4 yes (unanimous).
- Vote result – 3 yes (Daniel, Shuler, Patton), 1 no (Green). As amended.

3. Committee Reports

3.1. (0:28:16) Treasurer's Report – Presented by Mrs. Daniel

- Included in Colo Trust account is the \$25,000 of excess 2015 revenue.
- \$198,046.17 total bank accounts.
- Prepaid expenses is liability insurance which will be moved into budget line item paid in 2015 for 2016 policy period.

Report accepted

3.2. (0:32:15) Fire Chief's Report – Presented by Chief Brill

- AMR is medical responder with response of 15-20 minutes.
- NFPA limits tires to 10 years of age.
- It is a big feat that the district received FCC radio station authorization.
- Don Carrol subleases the tower and runs the communication on Guy Hill. He has granted access to the District to this tower.
- Mutual Aid contracts by previous Chief Judd Miller are operational agreements, MOU.

- Lori will be meeting with Highland Rescue, to coordinate fire time and mobilization. They will assist the district and they will get training and time on fire.
- Lori has no intention of remaining the fire chief and asks the board why it has taken 3.5 weeks to post the position.
- Lori comments on malicious emails and discussions are heard by the fire fighters.
- Station #1 lights: There is risk not having lights and they are currently blacked out. The plan is place a light on each door that are solar operated and they will remain on all night with low watt bulbs. This will be resolved soon. It will remain as a lit fire station for safety.
- Generator grant: Jeffco is still planning to rebid the project. They have no timeline.
- Current friction is due to non-transparency. Lori has talked with 3 chiefs from other districts surrounding our district. Lori complains of board communication. Lori is upset of the rumors and malicious comments and emails. It is damaging to the fire fighters.
- Mitsu asks if there is a concern of the qualifications of the fire fighters. Sheila Carlon comments the concern is the volunteerism is down and the new open space and wants to look long term. There will be discussion on the next agenda to discuss this issue.

3.3. (0:56:48) Communications – Presented by Mark Hall

- Mark has been working with the district for 13 years. With First Responders Communications. Lead communications coordinator for Jefferson County
- Contacted when new pagers didn't work by Chief Roozen.
- The district will always carry 2 radios due to the geographic of the district.
- The tower on Guy Hill is a great location.
- District will be looking at \$25,000-35,000 to but a repeater system in place at the existing tower on Guy Hill. It is a large savings using this existing tower with the existing infrastructure. Could possibly get the cost down to \$10,000-15,000 with used equipment.
- This would be a custom built system to make a reliable system. The system would page on VHF, opens the pagers that audio comes from the 800 system.
- There will always be some dark spots due to the geography. Even satellite will have limitations to reach the bottom of canyon.
- VHF would be primary and 800MHz would be in the rigs.
- The cost would be for the repeater, duplexer, power side, antennas (2). The Repeater receives on one frequency and transmits on another. VHF repeater that would tie to an 800 MHz radio. VHF can be the primary means of basic operability, similar to what Coal Creek does.
- Can we cost share with other departments? The State will only be interested if we put in a 800 MHz which will be a minimum of \$500,000.
- Guy Hill location is hard to share with other districts.
- Mark needs to do a site visit to get final cost.
- Another option can be a municipal lease agreement paid over time with a buy out later. Recent quotes came in at 2.9%.
- 911 board has not been favorable to purchasing equipment.
- The county is going to one dispatch center. All Jeffco and Golden shut down to move. The iron is hot to have a discussion with the 911 board. The contact would be Jeff Urban Executive Director of Jeffco 911 Authority Board 303-539-9410, jurbon@jceca.org
- Jeffco is also looking at doing all dispatch on one channel.

- #1 problem is communication from code red and American Messaging.
 - The district needs to be represented in the call center consolidation discussion.
 - The district will be charged \$1,200 for the license, onetime fee. 10 year renewal.
 - Next step is a site visit of the Guy Hill Night Hawk facility to get a better idea of what exactly needs to be done. Lori to coordinate this visit
 - FEMA does not fund these types of things.
- 3.4. (1:26:35) Election Update – Shuler
- Four people who are running in the May 3rd election, David Kinnard, John Arendt, Steve Green, and Patsy Daniel.
 - Candidates have been asked to submit a bio to be posted on the website.
4. Old Business Requiring Board Action - None
5. New Business
- 5.1. (1:27:19) Mill Levy – Shuler
- The Mill Levy has gone up over the past years.
 - The legal mill levy is 9.000 per district records, backed by DOLA.
 - Since 2011 the mill levy has been increasing in violation of TABOR.
 - It is compounding each year.
 - The board adopts a budget then the accountant, used by the board since 2012, has certified the mill levy.
 - Budget revenue has 4 components to it. Property tax, Civic Ownership tax, grants, and donations.
 - The accountant has been using the total revenue to confirm the mill levy rather than just the Property tax revenue.
 - Since 2013 the district will have collected approximately \$80,000 in excess taxes.
 - The excess collected in 2015 has been placed in a reserve account.
 - The excess for 2016 will be \$54,000 and the district will set it aside as well.
 - A revised budget will be approved for 2016 to account for the correct revenue.
 - A Mill Levy Credit is proposed for 2017 where the Mill Levy is reduced to account for the overages and the district will draw from the reserve account (\$80,000) in 2017.
 - Green states, after talking with Phil (accountant), in 2012 the district did not collect enough taxes by \$2,107, 2013: \$3,393 over collected, 2014: \$22,167 over collected, 2015: nearly \$52,000. Green states Phil was given revenue number of \$167,000 which he then reverse calculated the mill levy based on that number. Phil added all other revenue \$23,135 for a total of \$190,135. He backed into the mill levy to 12.665. Green stated that if the docs were shared rather than hidden these errors would have been caught.
 - The mill levy should not be changed.
 - The revised budget will require board approval.
 - Green states the county does not have a mechanism to refund money based on a conversation with assessor.
 - **Motion #7** by Shuler that the district make a tax credit on 2017 mill levy in an amount to be determined, 2nd by Patton
 - Discussion
 - Green thinks we may be able to ask if individuals they want to allow the district to keep the overage as donation, or another option is that we have almost \$200,000 in cash.

- Shuler state the county can not adjust the tax rate this year and feels this is the fairest method to credit the money to the tax payers.
 - Patton asks is this is a legal option. Shuler states it is legal based on conversation with attorney and appropriate which will be adjusted at the end of 2016 and built in to 2017 budget. A one-time mill levy reduction.
 - Vote results – 4 yes (Daniel, Shuler, Green, Patton). Motion passed.
- 5.2. (1:46:34) Budget Revision – Daniel
 - Revised 2016 budget presented by Daniel
 - Budget is too high by \$30,000 due to the elevated mill levy.
 - **Motion #8** by Patton to pass the revised 2016 budget, 2nd by Shuler
 - Discussion
 - \$5,000 removed for board expenses for election, \$1,100 removed from training, \$250 from facilities, \$3,300 from station repairs and maintenance, \$9,300 from capital investments, \$1,000 from communications, \$1,500 from PPE, \$2,000 from vehicle expense, \$250 from fire fighters fund, \$6,675 from contingency.
 - Green states concern with the reduction in election expense.
 - The revised revenue is based on the correct mill levy of 9.000.
 - Green asks where the \$167,000 revenue came from earlier. Daniel states based on the prior year increase and used the same percentage. Green states the increases for 2015 and 2016 were larger than the past.
 - Shuler states concern why the accountant changed the method of certification.
 - Green states his concern with the short time in which these budget amendments are being made to review this budget and make a decision.
 - Green states we should have a special meeting in a couple weeks.
 - Patton asks if we can reduce the reduction in 2016 and draw the rest from reserves.
 - Shuler states this is the reality of what the board faces right now.
 - Legally the board is required to adopt a revised budget.
 - Patton talks through each revised line item.
 - Grant states concern with applying the revised budget to remaining 9 months of the year.
 - Green states concern of budget again.
 - SDA is about \$700 paid already.
 - Green asks about the Board Travel Expenses at \$450 still in the budget.
 - Incentive program still has \$1,000 budgeted. Lori states this can be cut and the worked with the Auxiliary. Shuler suggests moving this \$1,000 into election expense line item. This will be moved and election expense will be \$6,000.
 - Lori asks why the \$450 for board travel expense and suggests that come out the board members pocket and remove the budget. Lori suggests this be placed in contingency. This will be moved
 - Bottom line cannot change.
 - Vote results – 4 yes (Daniel, Shuler, Green, Patton) Revised budget adopted.

5.3. (2:08:43) Chief Job Description – Shuler

- Survey conducted and changes based on that.
- **Motion #9** Patton to adopt chief job description, 2nd by Daniel.
 - Vote results – 4 yes (Daniel, Shuler, Green, Patton) approved.

5.4. (2:10:22) Reschedule April Meeting – April 28th – Shuler

- **Motion #10** by Shuler to reschedule the next meeting to April 28, 2016, 2nd by Daniel
 - Vote results – 4 yes (Daniel, Shuler, Green, Patton) approved.

5.5. (2:11:53) Rank voting

- Shuler presents Rank Voting description.
- State law allows special districts to use rank voting which allows people to rank their preferences. He thinks it does a better job a recognizing the voice of the community.
- Shuler states it will not increase the cost of the vote.
- Typically you can only vote for the number of open seats. This will allow voters to vote for more if they want.
- Concern on the confusion this may lead to for voters.
- **Motion #11** by Shuler to adopt rank voting for the upcoming election, 2nd by Patton.
 - Vote results – 1 yes (Shuler), 3 no (Daniel, Green, Patton). Does not pass.

5.6. (2:18:50) Email to community regarding relation between the District and Auxiliary


- Shuler states this is in reaction to email from Green that went out accusing the auxiliary of wrongdoing.
- The community needs to know the important role of the auxiliary.
- Green states he was bothered with the statement that the board voted and approved to let the auxiliary conduct the pig roast. He states he could not find where the board approved it other than the approval from the budget committee made up of Daniel, Primmer, and Chief. He has not received any accounting from the auxiliary. He is not against the auxiliary but is against the way the auxiliary was formed.
- The characterization that the board gave the auxiliary money is false.
- The auxiliary conducted the pig roast and they collected the money. This money goes to the benefit of the fire fighters.
- These are not tax payer dollars, they are donations only.
- **Motion #12** by Shuler to send out an email to community regarding relation between the District and Auxiliary, 2nd Daniel.
 - Vote results – 3 yes (Daniel, Shuler, Patton) 1 no (Green), approved.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 pm. The next regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for April 28, 2016 at Fire Station #2 at 7:00 pm.

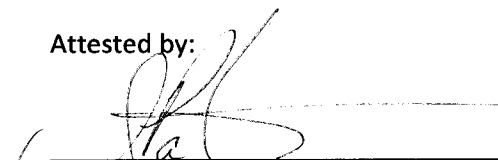
END

Approved by:



Derec Shuler, ~~President~~
Secretary

Attested by:



Sam Patton, ~~Secretary~~
President