



GOLDEN GATE

Fire Protection District

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Golden Gate Fire Protection District Meeting Minutes 7 October 2021

1. Preliminary
 - 1.1. Location/Call to order: Sheila Carlon called to order the regular meeting of the GGFPD Board at 7:00 pm at 7181 Crawford Gulch Rd, Golden.
 - 1.2. Welcome audience
 - 1.3. Pledge of Allegiance
 - 1.4. Roll call indicated a quorum was present with Sheila Carlon, Dave Kinnard, Paul Trost, Dannel Agar, and Sam Patton. Chief DiFeo was present.
 - 1.5. Additions and deletions to the Agenda: add 4.2 Jeffco HMP per Chief; add 4.3 Wildland Fire Prevention Update per Dave Kinnard
 - 1.6. Conflicts of interest: none
2. Minutes
 - 2.1. Approval of September 2021 Meeting Minutes: **Motion #1** by Sheila Carlon. 2nd by Dave Kinnard. Discussion: Dave added the following corrections:
 - Pg. 7, 3rd bullet point from bottom to read: “audit happens through independent audit accountant and submitted to the state for certification.”
 - Pg. 1, Treasurer’s report, 2nd bullet point, 6th indent should read, “the other \$2K was our credit card bill which is paid monthly in total so we have no long term outstanding debt.”
 - Dave asked if meeting minutes could be posted on the website within one week of getting approved.
 - Sam will work to get admin access to the website to help manage documents.
 - Minutes should state “approved by the board” and the date (no signature needed if board moves to approve).
 - Vote: 4 yes. 1 abstention (Patton was absent at September meeting). **Motion passes.**
3. Reports
 - 3.1. Treasurer’s Report
 - See <https://www.goldengatefire.org/minutes-and-financials/> for reports.
 - Open issues/summary of discussion:
 - Chief asked about property and casualty/workers comp insurance (624/626): we have \$10k budgeted but have used only \$1228 of that. Noted we pay at the end of the year for 2022, not quarterly. Dave noted the accountant wants to see this depreciated per month.
 - Sheila asked if we plan to spend any more money on Buildings and Improvements. Chief replied on Station 83, we will spend ~\$5K on bathroom renovations, which includes replacing/fixing siding, studs and addresses water damage issues, and ~\$1500 on water sealing which Aaron Primmer has been working on. Budgeted about \$10K towards remodel of station 81 (includes permit cost, demo, etc.). So approx. \$17-18K will come off that and the rest will go back to the general fund.

- Questions about Vehicles total budget of \$66K: part of that is for a tender and ~\$6K is budgeted for a Chief's vehicle
- Dave asked, since the resident is moving out of Station 82, if we are anticipating staying at the high internet tier. Sam noted we still have firefighters doing shifts so need to be careful. Chief suggested we monitor our use.

3.2. Chief's Report

- See <https://www.goldengatefire.org/minutes-and-financials/> for report.
 - Noted that we need to get the repeater on Guy Hill updated as well as the no-cost lease.
 - Planning to send 5 recruits to fire academy in 2022.
 - Discussed Proposition 120, corrected 9% not 10% as stated in the report. SB259, pushed through in June, specifically to short circuit Prop 120 to offset that 9%, so we only have a 2.3% loss. That is being contested in court and there's a possibility that SB259 will be overturned. If Prop 120 goes through, we'll have a 9% reduction in tax revenue. Sheila understood it to be multifamily houses and hotels. Chief said only if SB259 remains. If not, it will affect single family residences. Dave noted that if the law that changed the ballot language is going to be contested, then the ballot as written is invalid. Chief met with the SDA, and they advised we proceed as if the proposition passes. Chief recommended we be preemptive and ask after our ballot language on previous Ballot Issue A, to see if allowances were made to adjust the mill levy to offset that reduction. Sheila will reach out to counsel. She noted that we have gotten some increases. Chief and area mountain chiefs did an interview with channel 7 news (aired on the week of the 18th) to discuss concerns. He understood the argument that the assessment values have gone up, but inflation has gone up as well. Hopefully, the interview will spark some awareness.
 - Sam asked what budget year this will affect if the ballot issue passes: 2023 and 2024 (tax year 2022 and 2023).
 - Dannel asked if we have a rough dollar estimate on how our income will be affected. Chief said it will be about \$20K less. Dave did some quick math: looking at anticipated property tax revenue (noting this doesn't affect the specific ownership tax and tax-exempt state payment), for the 2022 budget, if there is a 9% decrement of \$195K that would be a decrease of \$17.5K. Noted that a \$10K increase in taxable value in the district had been built into the 2022 budget.
 - Chief will get with GGAC to work on awards banquet.
 - Dave wanted clarification that SB259 / Prop 120 won't affect next year's property tax collection.
 - Dave asked about the west entrance to Centennial Cone parking lot: 3-4 fire calls this summer and fall for people burning pallets. Dave noted the significant concern of fire spreading to tall grasses and the potential wildfire disaster. He asked if we could have any formal engagement with JCOS to see them commit to some form of monitoring. Sam suggested they start closing the gate to prevent people driving up that road. Chief spoke with a JCOS ranger and asked if they patrol the parks at night. JCOS hired a private company to patrol at night. Sheila asked if neighbors had seen any contracted companies patrol at night, and if not, we should take issue with them on this patrol. Chief will follow up.
 - Paul suggested that they request the perimeter grass be cut as a preventative measure.
 - Sam noted that they started a fire next to one of the lit "no fire" signs. Dannel believed rangers could put a camera on that sign.

- Dave suggested this could be a topic for the county meeting and the JCOS joint task force wildland mitigation representative.

3.3. Community Organization Reports

- Auxiliary

- Mary Preister said that they are continuing with the fundraiser. While they have a similar number of donations, they have not received the 3 very large donations, so total is only around \$7K and last year we were at \$20K. They expect more donations until the end of the year but are not anticipating large donations.
- GGAC met at Station 81 tonight. They would have preferred to know that the board meeting was today so they could be physically present at the board meeting.
- They are happy to support the awards banquet.
- They would like to know of schedule changes to the fire business meetings so they can continue to be good stewards of their funds.
- Sam responded that these meetings are posted on the calendar tab on the GGFPD website. The annual board meeting schedule is posted on the website, as well.
- Sheila asked if Mary plans to send out another fundraiser letter since she had not received a letter yet. Mary said they were not planning on another mailing as that costs several hundred dollars. They will send a letter out in the next 2 weeks to their email list.
- Sheila reminded the board to donate if they have not already done so.
- DeeDee asked about the next business meeting which will be on Oct 27th and there will be no meeting in November.

- Grange

- Terri Costeldia would like to pay their Waste Management bill in Nov. Admin will provide a YTD summary of expenses.
- Dave asked about WM prices going up and wondered if we should research other companies.
- Sheila commented she was using Republic, but they got bought out by Western Disposal and they are looking for new customers. Admin to investigate.
- Terri said they are pouring concrete tomorrow and then the Conex box will be moved to the slab.
- Still dealing with permission to cross.
- Attorney is reviewing the drainage issue.
- Paul has a 2 yd dumpster and noted he could save 30-40% by going down to a 1 yd dumpster but it was noted that the 2 yd dumpster gets filled with 3 stations' trash and Grange activities and rentals.

4. Old Business

4.1. Grange Crossing Document

- Sheila wanted to make sure that this issue wasn't lost and to keep it on the agenda until it is closed.

4.2. Jefferson County Hazardous Mitigation Plan

- Chief reviewed/background: Plan updated every 5 yrs. Sent to FEMA for review and approval after the district's update. It's been approved and is ready to be adopted. Chief has a resolution to adopt that plan along with other fire departments due in November. This does affect grant dollars and FEMA/federal grants.
- Sheila noted it's very thorough and addressed every possible disaster.
- **Motion #2** by Sam Patton that we pass resolution 2021-10-01. 2nd by Dannel Agar.
Discussion: no financial cost, county pays for everything, however, Sam noted the

negative impact is that we would not be eligible for FEMA/federal grants. Dave commented that the county has an emergency preparedness manager that puts this list together. It protects us. The only issue Dave has is that paragraph that states GGF is a local unit of government that has afforded the citizens the opportunity to provide comment. He doesn't remember getting a letter from the county asking for comment. This resolution states that they have asked the districts to develop the plan, but they haven't pushed for feedback. Nonetheless, the resolution says that we have done that process and he's uncomfortable with that. Chief said to amend the resolution to say Jefferson County has afforded public comment. Dave asked if Chief/Admin, during their district preparation, noted any major change in philosophy of disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation for Golden Gate. Chief replied it's not part of that as much as the fire mitigation task force he's on. The county is looking at hiring a full-time grant writer but not much is going to trickle down to the private property homeowner. It's tougher when you're in an area surrounded by private property. Dannel asked why para. 4 can't also say Jefferson County. He takes exception that we are agreeing to do this no less than every 5 years. Chief replied the 5 years must be in the resolution as a FEMA requirement. **Amend the resolution, in the 3rd paragraph, to say that Jefferson County as a local unit of government afforded citizens the opportunity to provide comment. Vote: 5 yes.**

Motion passes.

- Chief will send an updated resolution for signatures.

4.3. Wildland Fire Prevention Update

- Dave reminded at the last meeting, of the need to update our website recording opportunity for residents who would like to support our Firewise application. Turned out to be more complicated and it was just completed this past weekend. It will now say 2021. It's ready to go and will be communicated through fire district email, Grange email, and GGAC email.
- This supports the folks who invested in mitigation work that wasn't reflected/recorded during the slash event. They can now record their efforts and the district gets credit for their investment in fire protection.

5. New Business

5.1. 2022 Draft Budget presentation

- Sam reviewed the 3-month process: today is the budget presentation to the board. In November, there will be a review session with comments from the board and public comment session. Following tonight's meeting the draft budget will be posted on the website. The December meeting is when we make a motion to approve the 2022 budget and mill levy.
- Chief presented the budget committee's draft budget plan. Line items were reviewed/discussed, noting the following in particular:
 - Tax revenues show a 5% increase and is the final number from the assessor. Chief will double check.
 - With all the building going on in district, plan/permit fees will go up from \$1000 to \$1200 which gives us a gross profit of \$287,350.
 - Dave noted the biggest inflation cost of living increase we've seen in 20 years and asked if that was reflected in salary decisions. Chief suggested an executive session to discuss this next meeting. Paul noted that they did discuss inflation issues and if we should use the government numbers (3%) when in fact it's more like 10%. No decisions were made.
 - Recognition expense: admin to research 5-10-15-20 year benchmarks.

- Incentive program: discuss with the GGAC to see if they are interested in splitting this.
- PPE at \$5K, may have to bump this up because we have 5 new recruits.
- Fuel expense: \$3K, will check this number next month. Dave noted this is up 50% in one year.
- Had a category for health and wellness. This was for public education on CPR classes. We picked up a lot of costs the first time around. It was noted we cancelled our spring wildland fire education days. However, higher costs (bringing in speakers pro bono, pancake breakfasts, etc.) are necessary if we want a higher-level conference. Dave believes \$1K sounds low, bump to \$1500.
- Dispatch fees: went down ~\$2900. When they first started it was based on an estimate, now they have data.
- Noted contingency number is wrong. Should be 5% based on total budget amount.
- Election expense: looked back at 2018 and it was at \$17K because they had to do some extra work (recounts of ballots, ballot issue). Sam asked if that was just the board election or included the ballot issue. Chief will review. It could have been a combination of both.
- Property & Casualty needs to change to reflect our current budget
- New: Website maintenance/hosting cost was added to the budget for \$1K.
- Bottom line: at \$287K, compared to \$286K from last year with addition of election and pulling \$65K out of reserves. We are filling reserves from what we didn't spend, about \$16K. Sam clarified we're taking money from this year and moving it to next year. So even though we are spending more money on the remodel, we still have the same budget as last year.
- Dave asked about the county treasurer's commission which is not on this proposed budget. Chief will check.
- Dannel questioned the accounting cost bumped up from \$2K to \$5K.
- Chief noted he did not budget for the proposed third party study if we move forward with TFPD. This is pending the meeting next week.
- Cistern fund: \$10K is in the general fund. Terri Costeldia felt it should be listed separately, noting other departments do this. Chief will follow up with the accountant.
- Dave thought it worthwhile to reach out to the slash vendor and include a contingency for the slash event. If County moves to a more central location, and we get feedback from the district, then we can look at this next year. Paul and Terri felt that people won't support going to Rooney Road.
- Dave noted to annotate "draft" in the title before posting it on the website.

6. Public Comment

- Deb Curlee asked about attending the TFPD meeting next Monday if it's open to the public. No, because this is a study group meeting is not subject to the public attendance.
- Deb also asked why GGFPD wasn't included in the study group with the 3 other departments. Chief replied that we are a rural mountain dept. and they are city depts.
- DeeDee Ramstetter asked about the use of "study group" label again. Sheila responded that we are calling it the District Exploration committee. "Study group" is a technical term in the SDA language and has different rules.

7. Adjournment

- 7.1. Sheila Carlon adjourned the meeting at 8:41 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is on November 18, 2021 at 7:00 pm at Station 81.

END

Minutes approved by the Board on November 18, 2021