



# GOLDEN GATE

## Fire Protection District

P.O. Box 843  
Golden, CO 80402-0483  
(303) 279-3538

[HYPERLINK](#)

<http://www.goldengatefire.org> [www.goldengatefire.org](http://www.goldengatefire.org)

### Minutes November 21, 2022 7pm at the Grange - GGFPD board meeting

**Roll Call** - Niffy Ovuworie, Steve Green, Deb Curlee & admin. assistant Julie Ramstetter

Discussion of improper appointment of new board member Chris Creech at last meeting. Board will repeat the appointment properly.

**Additions to agenda** - Steve discussion of indoor sprinklers

**Corrections** - Deb Curlee stated - board will discuss Julie Ramstetter hiring and details during executive session. More discussion by Deb concerning Charlie Haupt donating his bookkeeper Vanessa's time and a thank you to Charlie Haupt.

#### **Approval of Oct. 6th minutes.**

Steve had a few corrections in order to make the minutes more clear. No substantial changes just clarifications to make more understandable. Also Steve wanted to clarify that "incidents" number appearance seems to be higher but it is mostly due to how incidents are counted. It was noted that Steve's corrections were late.

**Minutes approved** unanimously with changes / additions by Steve

**Treasurer's Report** - Steve Green is acting as temporary treasurer and will do reports as furnished by Vanessa. All looks normal. \$400K plus in bank. There was some Marshal fire income and pay outs to FFs. Decreased the number of credit cards out there. Chief added that each vehicle has within it a Fleet Fuel card.

Niffy had some questions about phone and internet charges.

Steve said we are \$6000 over budget on vehicle repairs. This is due to collision damage to a citizen's car by a fire engine. Also over budget on structure repair on Station #1 - pest removal. Election expense is way over budget at over \$12,000 which equals approx. \$40 per ballot. Steve would like to find a less expensive way to have elections if possible.

#### **Chief's Report** - Interim chief Chris Enright

Two chief applications received. Finances all good. Google workspace finally under control and email delivery working as it should. Discussion about Admin of Google account by Niffy. Julie stated she is setting it up for easy transition. More discussion by chief on "groups" in email.

**19:00** Chief began discussion of record management software - EMS management. ESO company cited for record management. We would have to pay an upgrade cost of \$1190 in addition to a \$3122 in 2023. This includes software training and should be seamless for FFs. Chief says this is best option as what we currently have is on the way out. Chief says we do not have to comply and purchase. Chief requested approval to proceed with upgrade. Price will go up from \$3122 per year.

Steve asked about the increase? Chief said will go up 50% in 2024 and then 100% next year. Steve was concerned with these future increased charges. Chief explained the approximate charges for year 1 - \$3000, year 2 - \$4000 and then in year 3 it will go to \$8000 per year for this record keeping software. Niffy expressed concern at this increase in price. Sam Patton asked if there were different levels of the software? Chief made some explanations but did not directly answer Sam.

Steve made comment that at 102 incidents YTD this is a high price for software per incident. Steve asked if it is necessary? Chief said "theoretically we do not have to proceed with this change." However there may be less service available for our current software.

Terri Costeldia asked about the \$8000 money we sent to Timberline (TL) for software?

Chief said TL is not paid for data tracking but rather to manage the training records.

He went on to explain more about the software TL has of ours. (difficult to understand what chief meant).

**33:20** Steve asked if we are locked in if we decide to purchase? Chief quoted the prices again same as above.

Niffy asked what options we have? Asked for other options? Chief said we do have the potential to "shop it around."

Chief reported 102 incidents to date. Still have low person response per call.

Rate schedule for responding to large incidents updated and we will be getting paid more for out of district responses like the Marshal fire. New system instituted by the state of Colorado.

**38:15** We have 17 member volunteers currently and hopefully 20 soon. One applicant for resident FF also.

Training - new members completed training with TL. Better trained and doing good work. A former member wants to come back as training officer. No decision made yet.

Logistics - Thank you to the Auxiliary for Station #82 clean up.

Still keeping eye out for a light vehicle to purchase. Radio grant unsuccessful.

Planning and Life Safety - Plan and Sprinkler review

Reached out to Fairmont with no response. Golden Fire Marshal Mr. Case was amenable to do this for the district and provide consulting service. Any fees charged would be passed passed to permittee. City of Golden will prepare an Inter Government Agreement / IGA for us. Deb asked if Jeffco can do this (plan review and sprinkler review)? Chief explained they do not do that.

**45:19** Chief went on to discuss GGFPD IFC Adoption Resolution. Deb asked about bad driveways and alternative minimum standards. Chief not sure about county standards. Steve commented on whether or not indoor sprinklers are mandatory. Steve went on to cite GFPD

IFC adoption and options available for non complying roads: Sprinklers, donations, fire alarm & Affidavit of Understanding and maybe others. Fire sprinklers and not just “blanket required” Steve said.

**50:00** Steve mentioned that sprinklers are not mandatory. Chief stated that sprinklers are a means of “alternative compliance” and stated “things are coming.” Chief wants to make sure we have expertise for inspections and reviews if need required and that Mr. Case is an expert at sprinkler and plan review and used to be with Inter-Canyon FPD. Steve stated that GGFPD relationships with other districts has not always been the most popular in GGFPD. Steve asked if the IGA with Golden has a cost? Chief does not think there is a cost to GGFPD.

**52:20 Community Reports** - Didi Ramstetter

Terri Costeldia reported a little over \$18,000 raised a Pig Roast. Mentioned was: station clean up, new toilet, new sign at station #82. \$110 per month for Starlink internet in place at Grange. Deb mentioned the new sign donated for station #82 by community members. Chris Creech discussed slash piles and need for chipper at station #82. Chief said Lt. Phillips looking into a chipper. More people discussed chippers.

**59:00 Old business** Chief - radio purchases discussed.

FireWise update Deb Curlee - last risk assessment was performed in 2015 and no longer acceptable. New Assessment needed. Steve asked what benefit is FireWise? Terri Costeldia said we get reduced insurance rates, ISO ratings and opens us up to grants. There was general talk by audience concerning other fire safety programs and risk assessments. Sam Patton spoke about all special districts having to do risk assessment plans and that Damian DiFeo knows the specifics.

**1:06:00** Julie Ramstetter discussed GGFPD newsletter, email list and website.

Steve asked if an emailed newsletter actually went out? Julie stated all who signed up (10 people) did get a newsletter. Niffy asked about importing email lists we have access to. Steve asked if the board gets a chance to review the newsletter before it goes out? No clear answer given concerning the newsletter. Steve went on to ask if website postings get reviewed by the board?

**1:14:57** Steve wants the board to be part of the newsletter and website process and approve any major postings. Steve and Julie argued on this point. Niffy said he does “not want to go back to be the webmaster and Steve should let people do their job.” Steve feels it is the board job to review this content.

Julie discussed Novel website monthly bills as well as “safety and corrections.” The cost as per Julie is \$350 per year for Blue Host and \$150 per month to Novel. Julie discussed switching our website to the state of Colorado which is free “but for now we have to stay with Novel.”

**1:18:10** Niffy asked about these website charges and thought they were high. Niffy asked about other website hosts. Julie said “we have to be very careful about security.” Julie is working on getting money back and does not want to leave current web host at this time.

**1:20:30** Discussion - Julie wants a list of homes in district from assessor. Sam Patton said many duplicates on list and “need to be careful.” A non specific discussion ensued by many concerning this list.

**1:24:20 Ballot Issue A process to rescind** Steve Green asked Linda Searcy to give some details. Steve talked about original wording on Initiative, Gallagher wording, community meetings presenting both sides of the issue. Nifty discussed questions about timeline. Steve discussed possible ways to have less expensive elections. Terri Costeldia talked about intent of Ballot Issue A and how it was based on the “Gallagher Act” and how she feels the board can just make a resolution they will not use Ballot Issue A. Nifty offered a counter point of view on how that is not enough. Deb Curlee stated she spoke to the SOS, DOLA and SDA and found that we will need to rescind with a ballot and that is the only way to get rid of it. Nifty offered his point of view that a board resolution is not enough and that a new board could use Ballot Issue A to raise taxes.

**1:31:00** Steve said that we may very well will have an election in May 2023. Went on the discuss when Paul Trost acted as a DEO. Nifty wants to find out the “gate keeping steps.” Sam Patton mentioned specific dates for election.

**1:33:18 Community Wildfire Protection Plans** - Steve Green wants to talk about these important plans concerning safety as opposed to just bureaucratic stuff. These CWPPs need to be on the website and working. People need to read these plans and see what information in the plans will help them be safer.

**1:36:50 Deb Curlee mentioned upcoming budget meeting on Dec. 8th.** Discussion by chief and Steve about properly formatting the budget for submission to county and state. It was decided this takes a professional either Vanessa or Micki. Chief will forward information to Vanessa and work with her. Sam Patton will send 4 resolutions he has concerning end of year financial filings to Julie. Copying these formats will make it easier for the 2023 budget filings.

**1:41:50 Family leave opt out,** chief discussed SDA insurance coverage. Board action is needed to approve the IGA - a resolution to buy a FF cancer policy through the SDA. Chief said the cost is around \$375 minimum charge per year for all the FFs.

**Deb moved to adopt the resolution to adopt the cancer trust fund and allocate the needed funds. Approved unanimously.**

**1:46:08 Family leave opt out** continued - Deb said we are not in it. Applies to part time employees too. Guarantees family leave for illness. Info is on SDA website. Deb made a motion that we opt out this year. Only applies to paid employees. Chief said state sets premium at 0.9% of wage. Chief said employee cost is \$2.08/mo for an employee making \$24,000 per year and it would give a \$400 weekly benefit. Julie thinks it is worth it. There is a one year accrual period during 2023 and no benefits possible until 2024. **Nifty moved we do not opt out of Family Leave. Approved unanimously.**

**1:54:00 Appointment of 2 new board members** - Deb Curlee - Reappoint Chris Creech and appointment of Dave Primmer to the 2 open board seats. **Motion made and**

**unanimously approved to appoint both Mr. Creech and Mr. Primmer to the GGFPD board. Motion made to swear in both new members - approved unanimously.**

**1:59:25 Public Comment** - There was none.

Deb mentioned special budget meeting on December 8th and also that there was a public posting in the Golden Transcript.

**Discussion of Executive Session (ES)**, Deb Curlee concerning hiring Julie Ramstetter as our administrative assistant. Niffy read statutes / requirements for ES. **Motion made and passed unanimously to enter ES.** ++2:03:29 ES began, ES ended 2:12:27++

**2:13:00 Regular meeting began again. Motion made to hire Julie Ramstetter as Admin assistant. Passed unanimously.**

Public Comment - Thanks to board from Terri Costeldia.

**2:14:25 Meeting adjourned**