

Georgia Fire Department
Regular Business Meeting
February 6, 2019

4134 Ethan Allen Highway
Georgia, VT 05478

Location:
Georgia Fire
Station

Present: 14 Excused: 6 Absent: 3

Meeting called to order by Keith Baker at 7:02pm.

Old Business

- Minutes of the previous meeting read by the secretary. Motion to accept made by Eric Couture seconded by Ben Piper, motion passed.
- Budget was generally approved as presented including pay raises of \$1.00/hr for each firefighter, which likely will not take effect until the town budget is approved in March. The ladder truck purchase was approved; however, the employee proposal was rejected. The maintenance line went down, as it was temporarily increased last year to handle a planned expense. The salary line and the protective gear increased as well as money for annual testing to cover the increased costs associated with the ladder truck.
- See Keith if you would like to see more information about the ladder truck and other materials that were prepared for the budget meeting with the town.
- The ladder truck has a larger pump and more ladders than Engine 2, and also has a front suction. The only sacrifice is 250 gallons of water compared to Engine 2 which it would replace.
- Water 2 left a couple weeks ago and is now in Fayetteville, Tennessee and in service with its new department.
- The issue with the tower light on Engine 1 not seating properly should now be corrected. Please be sure to double check when operating.
- The Calcutta is about a month and a half away. There are still plenty of tickets that need to be sold.
- Keith thanked Eric for getting pricing for a new cab and chassis for the brush truck. Sought quotes for Ford, GMC and Ram. The intended use of the truck is the same as it is currently being used for, however its role may change over its intended 20-year life. Price ranges from \$60,000 for a Ford F550 gasoline engine, to the GMC at \$72,000 with a diesel engine. The truck is being paid for by the sale of Engine 1, Water 2 and the sale of the current Brush 1 chassis which should total about \$50,000 with the remaining balance being covered by impact fees. Consensus was to go with the Ford F550 with the gasoline engine.

New Business

- Our annual CPR and Infection Control training will be on February 27th. Hoping to do a walkthrough at the new triplex being built on Mill River Road on February 20th.

- Burlington Fire Department is hosting a training opportunity on April 3rd. Keith will send out additional information if anyone is interested.
- The battery-operated spreader made a noise during training which was thought to be a problem. Pat reached out to the vendor who explained that it is a normal sound. The tools will have their annual servicing in April. If we are doing an active extrication, someone should keep a spare battery near the operating area so we do not lose time while someone runs to the truck if needed.
- Keith sent out an email, opening applications for anyone interested in being considered for an officer position. In the past the town administrator has sat with Keith for interviews, however this year, one or two select board members will participate instead to avoid potential conflicts of interest.
- Town meeting day is March 3rd. Everyone is encouraged to attend if they are able. The state has a new CARES initiative for elderly and special needs residents. The program's intent is to identify those who may need additional help in emergency situations, such as extended power outages, or help with evacuations.
- PACIF grant is open. Looking to get a flammables cabinet and new hoods which are supposed to help protect against cancer causing particulates.
- The department received a thank you from FireTech Sprinkler Company who donated \$500 after being nominated by one of their employees who is a town resident whose home we responded to.
- The state's FireSafe802 program will provide smoke alarms and CO alarms for fire departments.
- We have a request from a resident to burn a brush pile on Goodrich Hill Road. Tentatively planning to do it February 29th. Please let Eric know if you want to help.
- Malcolm is putting applications for bricks in the dispatch office for anyone who wants one. Please submit applications by April 15th.

Motion to adjourn made by Jamie Cota seconded by Jeff Bryant, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.

Select Board Concerns

- None