

Georgia Fire Department
Regular Business Meeting
September 3, 2020
Approved: October 1, 2020

Location:
Georgia Fire Station
4134 Ethan Allen Highway
Georgia, VT 05478

Present: 10 Excused: 7 Absent: 2

Meeting called to order by Keith Baker at 7:09pm.

Old Business

- Minutes of the previous meeting read by the secretary. Motion to accept made by Eric Couture seconded by Jamieson Barber, motion passed.
- 104A is now open. Dispatch and the Fairfax Fire Department have been notified and Fairfax is no longer on automatic mutual aid for calls on the west side of town.
- The Sawzall which was ordered for the brush truck has arrived. The 2 remaining old chainsaws have been replaced.
- The new brush truck chassis has arrived and both the new and old trucks have been sent to Charlebois for the upfit. Charlebois asked if we would be fine with them sending the trucks out of state for the body swap as that facility is better equipped. There is no added cost and it may result in a shorter upfit time.
- Until the brush truck returns, Water 1 and then Engine 2 will be the trucks responding to trees down.
- 2019 awards will be presented at the October business meeting.
- Keith reminded everyone to make sure we are wearing masks on calls.
- Keith thanked those who have put in a lot of time at the station on various projects.
- Discussed the Calcutta and other possible fund raisers for the association.
- RIT training in Fairfax has been canceled due to lack of interest.

New Business

- We are still working on arrangements for a hazmat decon class this month. We will send an email with details on this month's training once finalized.
- Discussed having another cleaning day to go through the station and do a deep clean. Decided upon Saturday, September 19th from 8:00am to noon.
- The town is looking into hiring someone to clean the community room of the fire station.
- Our last birthday parade will be September 4th. Anyone who can help, please be at the station for 5:10pm.
- There was an event for Dan Desorcie which involved a stop by the station. Dan and his family were grateful for providing the parking lot.
- Engine 1 will have a cell phone for use on calls. It will include data and can be used to take scene pictures.
- The select board is asking town departments to remind members to be thoughtful about our use of social media.

- We will be doing a fire extinguisher training at Century Arms at September 10th, at 9:00am. Anyone who can help please be at the station by 8:00am.
- Keith asked everyone to send him any ideas for consideration for next year's budget. We have been considering the addition of a storage room within the station apparatus bay.
- The officer's discussed making some changes to the cadet program. The program currently begins at 16 years old. Other departments have cadet programs that start at 14. While someone under 16 years old would not be able to run calls, it would allow members to join at a younger age to train and learn more about the department without having to wait until 16 years old.
- Fire prevention may not happen this year. Discussed possibly offering the school a virtual alternative.
- Keith would like to give more officers the opportunity to command calls. Due to his proximity of the station he is frequently command, though that is not always best for helping other officers to build their experience. The same approach was recommended for driving. These changes should not delay responses.
- On September 12th from 10:00am to 1:00pm, there will be an open house at the highway garage. It is intended to be an opportunity for the taxpayers to see why a new highway garage is necessary.
- On September 28th, there will be a zoom meeting with the Select Board to meet with the fire department. The Select Board is holding these meetings for all town departments.
- September 11th is next Friday. Please be at the station for 9:30 if you would like to take part in our annual memorial.
- The hydraulic tools were service last week. All tools are in good shape and required only minor maintenance.
- Engine 2 and Water 1 have swapped positions in the station. The trucks may continue to be moved.
- Make sure to enter the rear of the engines from the driver's side and fill the seats closest to the officer's side first.
- Remember to keep the doors to the community room closed.

Motion to adjourn made by Todd Cadieux seconded by Eric Couture, motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.

Select Board Concerns

- None