

Georgia Fire Department
Regular Business Meeting
December 5, 2019
Approved: January 2, 2020

4134 Ethan Allen Highway
Georgia, VT 05478

Location:
Georgia Fire
Station

Present: 16 Excused: 5 Absent: 2

Meeting called to order by Keith Baker at 7:05pm.

Old Business

- Minutes of the previous meeting read by the secretary. Motion to accept made by Ben Piper seconded by Jamie Cota, motion passed.
- Jamie thanked Landon Baker for helping with the Cub Scout presentation.
- Cookies with Santa is Sunday the 15th from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Please be at the station for 11:00am if able to help clean and set up.
- Water 2 has tentatively been sold. Usage of the truck is restricted to in-town structure fires only until the sale is finalized. For mutual aid requests for tankers, will send Water 1 and Water 3. Truck will be shipped to Fayetteville, Tennessee. Selling price was \$11,000 which should net around \$10,000.
- End of year purchases should be completed tomorrow.
- Exit 18 Southbound ramp is likely to be closed for another month, though the contractor doing the work is hoping to have the work completed before Christmas.
- Well pump in the station has been changed to address the issues with running out of water.

New Business

- Training will be the annual mandatory HazMat refresher which will start at 6:00pm.
- There is an emergency responder wellness conference in Montpelier next week.
- A resident called Keith to thank the department for our assistance at an earlier call.
- The new budget has been drafted to try to put a full-time employee in the fire station during the day. The employee would be a certified firefighter and EMT. The position would help with some administrative and maintenance work as well as ensuring a driver and a response for all emergency calls in town.
- We are looking at possibly trading in Engine 2 to buy St. Albans Town's ladder truck. We expect to net around \$100k from the sale of Engine 2 and expect the ladder to cost around \$200k plus about \$20k for repainting and refurbishment. A new ladder truck would likely cost around \$800k. With the loan for the SCBAs expiring this year, if the amount paid annually for the loan payment is applied to the balance of the truck cost, it could cover the cost without an increase in budget over current levels. If the swap were made, this would also correct the replacement schedule so that engines and tankers will be replaced alternating

every five years, instead of purchasing two engines, which tend to be more expensive, and then two tankers, which would better distribute these large costs. A new housing development of just under 100 units is being planned on the south end of town. The ladder would be an asset especially for buildings such as the expected new construction as well as industrial buildings including the new expansion expected to be built soon. It would also make operations at chimney fires safer. Roughly 70% of homes in Georgia are two stories or greater. There would be an added annual cost of up to \$4,000 due to the increased equipment on the truck that would need to be maintained including testing of additional ladders and annual certification of the pump and aerial.

- Discussed whether to move the key box in Engine 2 into Engine 1.
- The rear apparatus bay door did not lock because the handle was unlocked which can only be unlocked with a key. Let Keith know if the door is found unlocked. Are researching putting cameras on the property to cover at least points of entry into the station. May also consider replacing locks.
- Discussed only having the last truck returning to the station notify dispatch that all trucks are back in quarters unless it is an extended call where some trucks may return while others are remaining on scene.

Motion to adjourn made by Jamie Cota seconded by Ben Piper, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Select Board Concerns

- None