

GHFPD Board of Directors Minutes 2/21/23

Meeting called to order at 1901 hours:

Attendees: Chief Chris Obrien, Chief Bret Gibson, Liz Wig, Jess Brookhart, Boyd Brown, Rich Lopez, Chris Dirolf, Max Yeager, Steffi Wilson, Kent Coghill, Kris Gibson
Zoom Attendees: Julien Blundell, Maya Machamer, Virginia Schulz, Dave Wilson, Deb Yeager, Dwight Debroux, Kris Hill, Leslie Finn, Val Christ

January minutes and 2/2/23 minutes approved unanimously

Fire Chiefs Minutes:

Calls:

2 calls in February

2/4/23- Fire call above Jamestown, two responders, Gold Hill was canceled prior to arrival

2/21/23- Downed telephone line, no emergency, resolved by three responders

Training:

February CPR training at Lefthand, 5 attended morning, 3 attended afternoon

Dave Wilson did a truck training with two volunteers and will do follow up trainings

Three new recruits are Austin Miller, Marcus Moench, and Dave Tolley

Austin will help assist with taking over the shift calendar/google calendar.

Whitey would like to purchase or allocate funds for IRespond which is software that Lefthand uses for helping schedule volunteer shifts. Around \$400.00 a year. The software also allows you to see all the call notes from CAD. Lefthand likes the software and it has a lot of helpful features. Easy to use.

Motion to approve up to \$600.00 for a one year subscription to I am Responding shift schedule software or up to \$1000.00 for a three year subscription.

Whitey recommends that we donate or get rid of the three apparatus outside of the firebarn. Chief Gibson would like a mechanic to come up and take a look at all apparatus and determine the health of the fleet. Recommends that disposal of equipment be a formal process that Whitey and other volunteers work on.

Upcoming training Thursday night- pumper training at Fourmile

Other Business:

DEO:

Liz Wig introduced as the new DEO. The board has a few nomination forms for the new DEO to take. Blank nomination forms are available.

Motion to pass a resolution for Liz Wig to be the DEO and to have the power to cancel the election if needed. Motion approved unanimously. Board provides information regarding the responsibility of the DEO to Liz.

CWPP: Chris Dirolf

Paul Denison will be meeting with the other districts and will reach out to the core CWPP team and the document will soon be completed. It is currently in draft form but the final draft will soon be completed.

UTV Certifications: Dirolf reports that Jay Jones is currently in the process of getting everyone who took the UTV course certified. Expect certifications in the coming months.

Grants: Virginia and Maya

AIM Grant is intended to keep up momentum from previous mitigation. Julian speaks on a new grant which assists with a strategic position of mitigation of land that was not covered in the original grant. Julian needs to know the priorities of what the fire department and fireboard wants to see contained in the grant. Home hardening? Weed Wacking? Limbing? Mitigation on private property? More dumpster days? Virginia has a list with specific items such as grazing meadows, stone fence demonstrations (more fire sustainable/less burnable materials), Teens Inc, more home hardening, Food and Dumpsters for slash removal days, providing firewood to the community and getting rid of logs from previous projects. Need recommendations by Friday. On Friday a concept paper will be sent out. If they like the general idea then they will recommend we submit a grant. Email Maya or Virginia if you have any ideas. Jess asks, what are the parameters? AIM wants to see quantifiable results. Kris Gibson recommends that we do the same that we did last year in terms of work. Chris Dirolf asks what would the material costs be for doing a home hardening or gravel barrier for every home in Gold Hill? Maya reports that the 6 homes which were done cost \$3,500 in materials. How many teens are involved in Teens Inc? Teens Inc is a conservation youth corp, usually in groups of 8-12 which are partially funded by grant money. We would need multiple weeks of Teens Inc to double the amount of houses completed for 2023. Another idea would be mapping of cisterns in the district for GIS.

Kris Gibson reports that we are putting in for 5 more sets of bunker gear.

Jess signed the necessary paperwork for the radio grant. We got money back from a grant Chris Finn put in from the previous year.

Other: Rich Lopez

Moving propane lines with Freds propane to allow for a shed to be installed behind the firebarn to store the UTV. Currently waiting on permits. 14'x16' shed is the ideal if possible. Max has done a lot of hard work to get things moving.

MOU: Rich Lopez

The fireboard wants to have a discussion with the community to have the MOU explained and questions answered. When and Where? A Community event at someone's house? A joint meeting with the Fire Protection District and the town meeting. Rich will work with Marcus to get the meeting organized prior to the next town meeting.

Questions:

Steffi Wilson asks what is our process with looking for a new Chief? Kent Coghill, Max Yeager, Chris Dirolf, and Chief Gibson report on what the board is working on. Developing a list of needs which will help quickly modernize and update the department to better prepare it and harden it for modern fires and incidents.

Virginia- Gold Hill Cash Mine Mill hearing? Any information regarding this? There were questions regarding water rights from Lefthand which are valid which they could actually use in a mining operation. Rich Lopez will look at the information regarding the Gold Hill Mill hearing to see if there is anything the fireboard needs to do regarding concerns with the mine.

Val Crist mentions that we have more talent in the community than the community might realize to utilize for the department. Board members agree but report that repeated efforts to reach out to volunteers for leadership positions showed that many were maxed out with time that they could offer.

BUDGET:

Jess Brookhart

The district had a mill levy increase this year but last year we were -\$7,000. That year we put on a new roof, got ESO software, and bought bunker gear with a grant. We have a buffer in our account to assist if we go in the negative. With the mill levy our budget is doubled which assists with costs. We still need to be frugal with our purchases.

OTHER:

Boyd Brown points out that lately certain community members have put out false information and propoganda regarding the board which had no factual background and was proved to be incorrect. Boyd and others in attendance report that the "fake news" and aggressive divisive rhetoric are unjustified and don't do anything to make us safer or more connected as a community. If people have questions regarding the board or the fire department it is recommended they reach out directly to the board or assistant fire chief for answers.

Motion to adjourn at 2034 hours. Motion approved and meeting adjourned.