

# **Gold Hill Fire Protection District Board of Directors Meeting**

## **4/18/23**

**Attendees:** Gretchen Diefenderfer, Bret Gibson, Kris Gibson, Max Yeager, Whitey Debroux, Rich Lopez, Jess Brookhart, Boyd Brown, Steffi Wilson

Meeting called to order at 1907 hours

Chris Dirolf is not in attendance

Minutes from the previous meeting are to be gathered by Chris Dirolf and Kent and Jess will figure out posting minutes as soon as possible.

### **Chiefs Report-**

- Chris Obrien will not be in attendance, delivered by Bret Gibson:
- Gibson requests that some items be changed on the agenda for future meetings to streamline things. Ie. Operational items be left to be handled by the Chiefs and only serious issues regarding operational issues will be discussed. Jess suggests that we retain some of the operational item debriefing but can be streamlined. Rich explains why the agenda outline was created, including that the information requested was part of a corrective action plan and the board is fine with a modified update regarding operational issues. Board and Chief Gibson and Obrien will come up with a broad strokes Chiefs minutes for the future.
- Chief Gibson reports that things seem stable and operational at the department. The department is stuck in the past and needs to be reinvigorated. Updating will take time, money, and training. How can we make our training more relevant and specific to our personnel? Ie: the upcoming class for women in the fire service. We need to look at different techniques and tailor our training to our volunteers.
- 5404 has been brought to a mechanic and Max Yeager reports that there are many items that need to be remedied on the rig to make it legally roadworthy. \$5K for new tires and associated items and more for brake issues. Max Yeager is currently having the emergency brake repaired. He will provide an update next weekend regarding the maintenance budget of 5404.
- In the future the EPA is coming up with new standards which fire departments will not be exempt from. All new fire apparatus will be \$50-\$80k more than they currently are.
- Need to create an IGA with surrounding departments regarding what apparatus would be most appropriate. Given Fourmile's current apparatus fleet it could be an option to share trucks and equipment. All surrounding departments have expressed an interest in getting rid of their old fleet. Trying to figure out an equitable way to share equipment among all agencies.
- Bret would like to sit down with the "new" board at the next meeting to have an in-depth conversation regarding fleet update and replacement.
- Historically, prior to the Fourmile Fire there was great cooperation among Sunshine, Fourmile, and Gold Hill. Post fire that relationship changed and we are now working towards returning to that.
- Boulder County is now working towards creating an appropriate response Matrix which will specifically target the needs of mountain departments regarding what equipment are needed for structure fires, wildland fires, etc. This will hopefully mean that moving forward dispatch will ask for specific apparatus from each department to fill that response matrix. Currently 90% of mountain chiefs are in agreement that this is the way to move forward. This might mean that moving forward there would be apparatus from other departments housed in Gold Hill depending on its capabilities and the needs of the County.
- Movement with Amendment 1B for the tax. How much money will be allocated annually to departments in the mountains? Need more funding for Wildland Academy, Structure Academy, and EMS academy. Education in those areas. Desire to hire and construct a fleet maintenance

program. Possibly a mobile mechanic which is most cost effective and makes the most sense. If the County is willing to manage it with 1B money it will reduce costs. Doing this would reduce 1B money which could be used for purchasing a fire engine.

- What does Gold Hill need: Hose, hose appliances (might be able to get from other agencies). Chief will work with Whitey to come up with a wish list.
- District Maps: When the new board is seated, the Chief feels that it is imperative that the new board takes on new tasks. District maps are generally an operational item. The new board should sit down and look at what tasks they feel they can take on. Chief feels that the new board should join the special district association. These are special district attorneys that will help the board. Chief believes that the board should be doing 10-12 hours a month minimum. We need to spread the responsibility among volunteers and board members.
- Boyd asks if we should hire grant writers? Gibson reports that he feels that we should not. He feels that we should continue to work with Maya and other volunteers and folks we have worked with in the past.

#### **OTHER:**

- Resolution to adopt the IGA for the Boulder West Wildfire Authority. Passed unanimously and signed.
- Boyd passes along an IGA with Mountain View Fire Authority for motor vehicle repairs.
- Whitey reports that we are in dire need of a brush truck. Chief reports that he believes that Fourmile might have a brush truck which can be used for the interim by Gold Hill.
- Whitey requests that we get the UTV placarded and put in service with emergency lights as soon as possible. We are currently just having issues getting to certain calls.
- Gold Hill to be used as a fiscal agent for the Aim grant approved unanimously.

Boyd reports that ballots are printed for the election and judges have been selected. Cast votes at the fire station. How can we better advertise? The information is in the paper, town website, and has been disseminated as per the requirements for doing a special election. We will put up signs throughout town to also advertise.

Rich asks for a resolution to approve titles for the three pieces of apparatus which were donated/sold.

Bret Gibson also recommends that we approve Whitey to have authority to buy and sell apparatus.

Motion approved to approve titles and have Max sign titles to vehicles which were sold.

Last order of business: approval of funds to buy Chief Finn a gift. Board approves up to \$1000 to be used as a gift for Chris Finn in addition to any money needed for the retirement party.

**Motion to adjourn at 1900 hours.**