

AGENDA

**Grand Valley Fire Protection District
Regular Board Meeting – September 20, 2017, 9:00 AM
Battlement Mesa Fire Station
0124 Stone Quarry Road, Parachute, CO 81635**

- **Call meeting to order**
- **August 16, 2017 Regular Board Meeting Minutes**
- **August 2017 Financial Reports**
- **Public Comment**
- **Board President Report**

President Whelan will be asking the question – “In light of what’s been happening nationally with fires and floods, is it time that the Fire District support stricter fire codes and perhaps rethink whether to support the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Code within the District?”
- **Fire Chief’s Report**
 - **Old Business**
 - **OROI/Strategic Plan**
 - Chief Blair met with Dr. Kevan via phone conversation. He has agreed with the Medical Director Job description, minus the desirable requirement of board certification in emergency medicine by the American Board of Emergency Medicine or the American Board of Osteopathic Emergency Medicine. Dr. Kevan has been working as an emergency physician for the past several years and has been recognized at the District’s Medical Director by the State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment since he took over from Dr. Papenfus.
 - Deputy Chief Ferguson and Chief Blair met with CRFR Chief Jones and Deputy Chief Sackett in regards to finalizing the coordinated emergency response in the Rulison area. Both agencies have been in contact with Dino Ross, both Districts’ Attorney and he has drafted an Intergovernmental Agreement for Coordinated Emergency Response Services. Deputy Chief Ferguson and Deputy Chief Sackett will be preparing the Exhibit A, Specific Response sheet, as well as SOGs for such incident types. Chief Blair is asking that the Board review and approve the IGA, so he can sign it on the Board’s behalf.
 - Training Chief Rowe and the other training chiefs in the county have prepared a Cooperative Training Memorandum of Understanding that is now ready for each of the Boards review. Chief Blair is asking that the Board review and approve the MOU, so he can sign it on the Board’s behalf.

- The District has worked through almost 2/3s of the list of suggested improvements and has completed each of these items or placed them in monitor status. Is the Board comfortable with the continued progress or does it feel a need to bring Martin Goughnour back for a formal review of the District's status?

- **Budget Preparation**

Chief Blair is asking that the Board give him direction as it relates to the following items:

 - Should the 2018 General Fund Budget include a COLA increase of 2.9%?
 - Should the District move to the FSLA approved firefighter 28 Day Work Period calendar versus the 14 Day Work Period calendar it currently uses?
 - Is the Board comfortable with the current healthcare options for staff? I.E. the CEBT Employer Plan Selection sheet needs to be approved for the coming year's renewal period.
 - Because the District has recognized NFPA standards by reference only and has not adopted them as rule, should the District discontinue annual physicals and move to 2 year physicals as per CDL requirements?
 - The staff has taken over custodial duties of Station 1.
 - The staff will be taking over the lawn care duties as of the end of September.
 - The District has purchased a porta john toilet for the Training Center and will no longer be paying rental fees. The porta john will be pumped/cleaned on an as-needed basis. The cost of the porta john will be paid for within the first year of use.
 - Chief Blair is recommending that we cancel the current maintenance agreement and system monitoring contracts with Climate Control and switch to service as needed with a different service company. Chief Rowe has recommended Comfort Air, Plumbing & Mechanical of Grand Junction.
 - Volunteer Pension Plan A needs to be approved by the Board so the Pension Budget can be drafted.

- **Voluntary Firefighter Cancer Benefits Trust**

Chief Blair is recommending that District join the Voluntary Firefighter Cancer Benefits Trust program, based on the discussion at the County Fire Chief's meeting that included Mark Carlson, the District's insurance agent for general liability coverage. A decision needs to be made by the BOD so that the cost can be added into the 2018 General Fund Budget. The District has been advised that there may be added savings to the current worker's compensation insurance coverage through Pinnacol and CESA.

- **New Business**
 - **EMS Rates**

LifeQuest has suggested we look at raising our base rates for service. They have provided the rates for agencies they represent in our area. Chief Blair is suggesting that we raise our base rates to be equitable with CRFR, but reduce the "In District" rate to \$90 less, which is the current offset.

- **Mill Levy increase discussion**

Chief Blair's has prepared an initial rough draft of a pared down budget that includes major cuts to all expenditure areas. Chief Blair is anticipating that the District will need to use approximately \$200,000 of the Future Operational Reserves plus the estimated \$730,000 of Operational Fund Balance to balance the 2018 General Fund Balance, at this point. This number will go up to \$1,000,000 for the year 2019 because there will be \$0.00 Operational Fund Balance at the end of 2018. Chief Blair is requesting that the BOD start looking forward and setting benchmarks for when will be the "right time" to begin the discussion with the community of a "potential mill levy increase" and the possible placement of such as ballot question to the public. Chief Blair has asked the District's attorney what is the time table for mill levy questions and was advised:

Chief,

Because a mill levy question falls under the TABOR guidelines, the question may only be placed on a ballot in November of any year, or in May of even number years as part of the District's regular director election. Please also remember that any TABOR question must be sent by mail ballot, either as part of a coordinated election with the County in November, or as an independent mail ballot election in May. Dino

Chief Blair believes that May of 2018 is too premature; however November of 2018 may be appropriate. There is a one year wait period before the collection of any mill levy increase.

- **2018 Board Member elections**

2018 is a scheduled election year. The District will have 2 board members that will be termed out and a third that will be up for re-election to a second term. It is still very early, but the Call for Nominations in January will be upon very soon.

- **Staff Report**

- **District participation in recent events**

Deputy Chief Ferguson will discuss some of the events that the District has participated in during the past couple of months, as well as what the Operations Staff has been doing.

- **OPS Report**

Deputy Chief Ferguson will discuss the handout outlining the August 2017 Operations report

- **Accreditation Update**

DFC Ferguson will give an update to the BOD as to progress being made as it pertains to the Community Risk Assessment: Standards of Coverage

- **SDA Conference Update**

Deputy Chief Ferguson will give an update on what was discussed at the 2018 SDA Conference.

- **LifeQuest Billing Update**

Administrative Specialist Reeves will give an update on the progress being made to transitioning the District's EMS billing from in-house to the LifeQuest Billing Agency.

- **Mineral Rights Disbursements from Station #2**

Administrative Specialist Reeves is looking into which gas company has the leased the mineral rights under Station #2 in Parachute and whether or not the District should be receiving mineral rights payments.

- **Board of Director's Report/Comments**

- **Fire Hydrant Testing**

- Director Anderson would like to re-visit whether or not it should be a function of the Fire District to assist with fire hydrant testing.

- **Length of Meetings vs. the Need to have Shorter and Additional Meetings**

- Director Whelan would like to visit with the rest of the Board about the length of BOD meetings. It has been suggested to him that meetings should last no longer than an hour. Is the rest of the BOD okay with the current status/structure, or would members like to have shorter meetings and meet more often in order to get the work of the District completed?

- **Executive Sessions**

- There will be an Executive Session held per CRS-246-402(2)(F) for the discussion of a personnel matter and not involving: any specific employees who have requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of this body or any elected official; the appointment of any person to fill an office of this body or of an elected official; or personnel policies that do not require the discussion of matters personal to particular employees.

➤ **Next Meeting: October 18, 2017**

➤ **Motion to Adjourn**