



BOARD APPROVED 10-10-

Glacier View Fire Protection District

1414 Green Mountain Dr. • Livermore • Colorado • 80536
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
September 5th at 7:00pm

GVFPD SPECIAL Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM via in-person and ZOOM

Board of Directors present: President Dave Burk, Vice President Bill Salmon, Treasurer David Thompson, Director Steve Groeteke, and Secretary Ron Lindroth via Zoom

CWPP Committee members present: 2 and project manager Warren Jones

Public members: 0

1. Sunset/Campaign Update – RESOLUTION OF ADVOCACY

District Administrator Franz stated that our attorney suggested a Resolution of Advocacy which would allow the Board to show support of the mill levy extension at the November Election. The Resolution can be handed out by the Board, Campaign Committee, or other election supporters. District Administrator Franz will distribute the accepted and unaccepted practices that the Board can use through the election process. Treasurer Thompson added that the Board can't advocate for or against the mill levy, but they can work with the Campaign Committee in preparation for the election and can state the facts relating to GVFPD. He presented a worksheet of planned funding for the 1.15 mill levy if the vote passed. The planned funding was in line with the survey that was sent out to the community and was put together by Chief Knox, the members, and the Sunset/Campaign Committee.

District Administrator Franz stated that GVFPD received its tax valuation from Larimer County and mentioned that Fred is working on the numbers for the Budget. Randy Golden is working on a Factual Summary for the Campaign Committee.

District Administrator Franz confirmed that there will be a Budget Work Session one hour before the Board meeting on September 12th in preparation for the preliminary Budget Approval at the regular Board meeting.

President Burk read Resolution 2022-09-01. There was discussion on the 1.15 mill levy. Secretary Lindroth asked if there was a cap on the dollar amount received. President Burk noted that the dollar amount is a floating amount and is based on the tax valuation received from Larimer County. In 1999 it was \$17,000 for 1.15 mills, in 2022 it was \$28,672 for 1.15 mills. Another question was answered regarding a third station. Treasurer Thompson mentioned that his document is a planning document which includes a third a station but can change as plans change. He mentioned that each project listed will have funding going towards it from the 1.15 mill levy.

(Sunset/Campaign Committee – continued)

There will be two punctuation corrections in the Resolution, an underscore in the last WHEREAS, and the colon will be eliminated after the word Colorado in the THEREFORE statement.

President Burk made a correction to his reading of the Resolution in the fifth WHEREAS, stating that this is a 1.15 mill levy, which was read as 1.1 mill levy.

President Burk made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented and amended. Treasurer Thompson accepted the motion. Vice President Salmon seconded. Call for discussion, no further discussion. All in favor, motion carried.

2. CWPP – Board Discussion

President Burk asked for questions on all the material presented for CWPP and noted that the reason for the Special Meeting was for the Board to be able to have discussion and take action on items.

Recommendations of the CWPP Implementation Committee to establish the Fire Adapted Community Alliance (FACA) Program –

Secretary Lindroth expressed supporting the implementation program, but when it comes to the reorganization of our structure and handbook, etc., he would like GVFPD to take a broader approach by having a branch in the organization called Fire Prevention of which the implementation committee or anything else would fall under that branch. He said it would open it up to different department activities without going back and redoing our handbooks, rules, bylaws, etc.

Secretary Lindroth addressed Warren directly and stated that it appears that the whole program is working towards just evacuations. He would like to entertain the idea of once a resident has done mitigation work then we work to train them to stay and defend their own properties. He stated that he understands the controversy theory, but to stay and defend once substantially better, or taking the pressure off the fire services, that just evacuation creates a problem. He knows we are not there yet and that this idea is farther down the road and would take more education and training but suggested small steps.

Treasurer Thompson expressed his concern which way this program was going to run, if the District was going to manage the project or if the HOA's were going to manage the projects. Warren stated that there could be projects that the District would manage as specified in the packet, such as the evacuation exercise would be in cooperation with the County and others. For mitigation projects, the District would not manage them directly by ourselves except for possibly a chipping program which we would not be doing the mitigating, but helping people deal with the slash. He added that it could be possible that the District would manage a project, but probably not, more the HOA's. Treasurer Thompson added that he had a problem with the District being responsible for a lot of the activities presented because the Mission and Goals presented stated that we would be assisting in the efforts. He believes that we can recommend, but as far as "assist" we cannot do that as a District. He noted that the Licketty Splitters can assist

(CWPP – Board Discussion – continued)

because they are not representative of the District and that our firefighters are not going to be out with chainsaws mitigating the District. Warren agreed and stated that the committee would help the HOA's develop a mitigation program. He stated that "assist" would be a variety of activities from sponsoring a meeting, assisting with information, giving a letter of support, or a grant, having meetings on slash programs with other agencies, etc., it was not actually going out and cutting trees. Treasurer Thompson felt like "assist" expresses an active element which was more than sharing information and giving support. Warren suggested that it would be the Board's decision to preclude from ever being involved in mitigation projects and that the Board could choose that direction. President Burk agreed that "assist" is very broad and encompassing and suggested that if the Board had concerns where we want to limit or expressly curtail some activities due to liability, insurance, or whatever, then the Board will do that. Vice President Salmon suggested saying "administratively assist" because that is what the committee is doing. Treasurer Thompson agreed to the change in wording and stated that if the District got involved in the actual mitigation than there are liability issues and ultimately any damages or injuries would fall back on the District and we can't have that. Warren asked about the chipper program and how that would work with assisting, stating that the District would be providing that assistance and the committee suggested getting a chipper like Poudre Canyon has. He stated that Poudre Canyon does chipping for properties twice a year, and it is done by the fire department members. Treasurer Thompson again stated that this would need to be done by our members and the program would need liability. Director Groeteke addressed several issues, one was that the committee stated they were working on grants for a chipper and for vegetation removal, but there is a gray area as to where the committee can actively be doing things, and if they can't then the program would be scrapped. He suggested saying assist in various ways primary in guidance, leaving it open to what the committee will be doing, stating that the liability and insurance will need to be addressed. Warren stated that he would bring back the specific programs for the Board to discuss and approve.

Section 1: President Burk asked the Board if there was any discussion with the committee's name Fire Adapted Community Alliance and noted that Fire Adapted Community Alliance is an overarching, nationwide program. **President Burk made a motion to approve the name as presented, Fire Adapted Community Alliance. Director Groeteke accepted the motion. President Burk seconded. Call for discussion, no discussion. All in favor, motion carried.**

The Board discussed the FACA Mission Statement. President Burk was unaware of any other program in the District that has a mission statement and asked what makes this program any different that it would need a mission statement. Vice President Salmon recommended a mission statement because it sets a precedence for the members on the committee as they interact within the community. Secretary Lindroth liked the mission statement for the Alliance but would recommend adding a line that states GVFPD supports the mission for the Fire Adapted Community Alliance in all aspects it deems possible or within the realm capable of the District. He believes the Alliance mission should be separate from the District's mission and value statement and it would be worthwhile for us to add a supportive comment from the GVFPD Board. President Burk had a comment on the last line of the mission statement; maintain a healthy

(CWPP-Board Discussion-Section 1-continued)

Ecosystem, stating that it was a pretty encompassing statement. He would like to see the scope narrowed. Warren suggested changing the statement and omitting the statement. Director Groeteke suggested that the language state either not harm our healthy ecosystem or to be in balance with our healthy ecosystem. President Burk suggested adding a line that says GVFPD creates and supports the Fire Adapted Community Alliance. The mission statement was amended to read: **The GVFPD creates and supports the mission of the Fire Adapted Community Alliance which is to improve the ability of district residents and visitors to survive a wildfire, reduce the potential for property loss, and be in balance with a healthy ecosystem within the District. President Burk made a motion to accept the Mission Statement as amended. Secretary Lindroth accepted the motion. Vice President Salmon seconded. Call for discussion, no further discussion. All in favor, motion carried.**

Section 2: President Burk brought up the location of FACA within the organization. Warren said the issue of placement was discussed by the other chief officer's and no one wanted to manage the program under Operations and suggested that going forward it should be a fire prevention program. He stated that it required participation with many stakeholders to get the job done, and that it is not a function for Operations. He mentioned that the Alliance will be providing some level of direct service and doing projects with people. The feeling of the committee was to keep it under the Board and not Operations. Vice President Salmon stated that there was concern about the capacity and the ability to perform in Operations after talking to Chief Knox, and felt it was a better fit as a third tier to the organization. President Burk noted that even if FACA was under Operations there will be a coordinator, like EMS, training, etc., and didn't see the necessity of elevating the position to be equal to the Fire Chief, unless it is purely to be with the Board, and reminded the Board that Firewise has been under Operations in the past and didn't have a coordinator elevated above the Fire Chief. To him, the Fire Chief is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the organization, and according to the presentation there would be three CEO's for the organization. Treasurer Thompson agreed stating that he didn't understand why there was such a need for it to be separated, because the Fire Chief is the CEO of the organization. Director Groeteke felt like the Chief had enough on his plate and that this program is much more involved, so it does elevate its need as a separate program. Vice President Salmon mentioned that it would be good to add to FACA to the organization so as the Board changes or the Fire Chief changes, this program will keep its place. Secretary Lindroth supported the idea of separating it out from Operations and asked the Board's role in FACA and suggested that this program be labeled as Fire Prevention as not to overwhelm Operations or Administration. President Burk expressed his concerns. He sees that we have the cart before the horse, that there is talk about what kind of Board we will be and stated that if this is the way the Board is going to go then the Board is responsible for appointing the coordinator which has not been done yet. He stated that the Board doesn't even know what the program is and therefore it is unrealistic to move forward. He added that there is no budget, no knowledge of what people are doing, no handbook for them, no plan of action for the volunteers, as none of the documents presented spell it out. He reminded the Board that they are responsible for selecting a Fire Chief and Assistant Chief's through the recommendation of the members and hiring an Administrator,

(CWPP-Board Discussion-Section 2-continued)

and this would make the Board also responsible for selecting a coordinator which there is no process for. Warren would like to bring back handbook suggestions for the FACA program. Vice President Salmon stated that the Resolution presented will create the program and then work has to be done to bring the program in line. He agreed that the Board would have to appoint the coordinator for the program and then the coordinator will be responsible for the committee and for reporting back to the Board. Treasurer Thompson suggested having this program under the Fire Chief and putting an Assistant Chief in charge of the program. Warren said that the committee is not interested in going in the direction of having the FACA under Operations, and he is not opposed to the program being under a broader title such as Fire Prevention. Warren also added that the volunteers and the fire department members have two totally different roles and responsibilities and the two don't mix and it would be harder to sustain under one umbrella. President Burk suggested putting it under the Chief for a year while the program is being developed and move forward from there. He feels he is being asked to approve something that he has no details on because this is a different program and there is no liability or insurance coverage on the FACA. Vice President Salmon and Secretary Lindroth agreed on establishing a program that people can work in and the Board assist on the staff work that it will take so that when people show up, they understand what can be done and what cannot be done and take this forward knowing that it will be updated as the program grows. President Burk agreed that as you move forward you correct, but at the same time if you start out in the wrong direction there is a big correction to make and stated that the committee should know their direction before they start out. Warren stated that they would have to figure that out so everyone would know what is expected. Vice President Salmon suggest that we build the committee, and we seek the direction from others who are doing the same program. Warren stated that FACA would follow other organizations and that FACA would not develop or implement any programs without Board approval. Overall, the Board was in agreement with Section 2 of the Resolution.

Section 3. President Burk would like the Section to just read, establish a standing Fire Adapted Community Alliance, and keep it broad. This would not limit it to the specific listed groups and more groups could be added at any time. Treasurer Thompson added that the Board would trust the Alliance to bring the right people together that are representative of the entire District. Secretary Lindroth supports the way it is presented. Director Groeteke supported leaving the last line but could go either way. It was decided by a majority of the Board to leave it as it is presented.

Section 4: President Burk asked the committee to bring forth a coordinator name to the Board and the Board will approve.

Section 5: The committee will bring to the Board the definition of the program, a proposed organizational chart and handbook recommendations, definition of non-emergency members and their plan of action. It was suggested that this would reflect an additional volunteer support group within the organization as laid out by the Fire Chief and the handbook would have to clearly define the emergency members and non-emergency volunteers. President Burk asked Warren to come back with the sections of the Member Handbook for the Handbook Committee to

(CWPP-Section 5 – continued)

review for possible changes. He stated that the handbook would then have to go back to Legal for review.

The Board was in agreement with the discussions on the Resolution. District Administrator Franz will update the Resolution and present it to the Board at the Regular Board Meeting for approval.

President Burk felt that it would be appropriate to review additional Budget submittals at the Thursday Budget Meeting to discuss and bring forward at the Budget Work Session. Warren will send the Budget request to the Fire Chief to present to the Budget Committee. President Burk noted that this would be an exception to how the Budget is generally handled because of the deadline.

Warren discussed two potential grants. President Burk reminded the Board and Committee that if there is no matching grant, the Board would like to know about it so they can support the grant. On matching grants, the Committee would need to come to the Board for approval. He noted that there is potentially a meeting the week of September 26th. Warren mentioned that individual owners and groups can apply for grants, and it would be good for the Board to support the individuals and groups with a letter. He stated that the letter does not commit GVFPD to anything.

Public Comments:

Mr. Hudson has checked into the chipping programs. He mentioned that Poudre Canyon Fire has a State Grant from the Forrest Service with a 25% match and used the soft match of volunteer work time to pay off the program with the State. The Poudre Canyon has a chipping day one day a month and is done by a volunteer. The fire department owns the chipper. Mr. Hudson mentioned that a Premier chipper is top of the line costing \$23,500, a smaller chipper is between \$3k-\$5k.

Mr. Hudson addressed the healthy ecosystem, stating that this area didn't have trees 100 years ago, so he would consider people mitigating to avoid a potential problem.

Board comments:

- Vice President Salmon thanked everyone for being at the meeting and engaging in the discussion.
- President Burk commented on the 501c3 stating that there is still the question on how GVFPD is going to set up Firewise/Fire Adaptive -CWPP in the Budget. He noted that even with a supporting entity GVFPD would still have to take the money in as revenue and show it as an expense for whatever is purchased. He added that there is no downside to a resolution to be put in place, it is more formal than a Board motion and action, but with the complexity of CWPP for the District and beyond, lining it out on a written document is a good idea. President Burk stated that a resolution can always be amended and adjusted or dropped by a future Board. A resolution does not bind a

(Board Comments-continued)

future Board's action. He does not see a downside to a resolution and recommended a draft resolution before a meeting, so the Board is ready to discuss at a future Board Meeting.

- Treasurer Thompson had no further comments.
- Secretary Lindroth had no further comments.
- Director Groetke shared his appreciation for all the work that has gone on with the Committee.

President Burk motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 PM. Treasurer Thompson accepted the motion. No further discussion. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by
Cheryl Franz
District Administrator