

**Glen Carbon Fire Protection District
199 North Main Street
Glen Carbon, Illinois 62034**

12 May 2021 – Minutes of District Board Special Meeting

****This meeting was held during the COVID-19 pandemic and during Governor Pritzker's Illinois Disaster Proclamation declared in Executive Order No. 2020-04 (COVID-19 Executive Order No. 2).**

Trustees present: President Harris, Treasurer Schaake, Trustee Humes, Trustee Williams, Secretary Otto

Trustees absent: None

District Management: Chief Whitaker, Deputy Chief Hood, Asst. Chief Bowles, Capt. Russ Kopesky, Capt. Doug Schultz, Capt. Jay Steinhauer

Firefighters/EMS Present: Sharon Heuser, Jason Reaka, Zack Napoli, Kiko Perez, Chad VanRyn, Cameron Overholtz, Alex Campbell, James Schulte, Nathan Wahl, Ben Bullock, Mike DeConcini, Greg DeSutter, Andrew Dodge, Rachel Fiorini, Tony Hargis, Rachel Robert, Frank Slemmer, Ralph Well, Justin Wilkinson

Other: None.

The meeting commenced at 7:01 pm.

President Harris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Open Discussion with GCFPD Employees and Volunteers (Fire and EMS) to discuss any changes in policy, new requirements and any recommendations for changes – No general items raised.

Senior Fire Fighter, Engineer position. – Chief Whitaker discussed his vision of the position, qualifications, mission enhancement and job performance requirements. Training will be in accordance with the Illinois State Fire Marshal standards such as 8 hours of Driver training annually, Pump/Aerial operations and other on scene assistance. It would include everything in a response situation except structural firefighting. Target Solutions logs hours if used properly.

President Harris said the position should be properly termed Engineer, with no other designation and open to all. Chief Whitaker will develop a proposal for the May 25 Board meeting.

Personalizing fire helmets – There was discussion that the approved design should be standardized, differentiation between officers and firefighters, color coded. Chief Whitaker said there was no rush to decide as it will be a budget item deferred to the next fiscal year.

Discussion on Full time EMS/Fire Fighter positions and how both Paid on Call and Full Time fire work together – Chief Whitaker laid out the plan to have a combined EMS/Fire Fighter shift at one station and an EMS crew at the other with both supplemented by Paid On Call Fire Fighters, some on duty days allowing for faster response. Chief stipulated that there will be a move to make duty days more of a scheduled versus an ad hoc program.

Discussion ensued over whether this would make paid on call response redundant and whether volunteers would be shut out if a truck had already departed the station. Assistant Chief Bowles pointed out that in many cases a second truck would be deployed for a structural fire. Firefighter Wilkinson felt that the pager system does not allow real time status updates. Chief Whitaker and Deputy Chief Hood confirmed this was the case but do not see a workable solution to that and any upgraded system would be costly and impractical. There was discussion concerning having volunteers go directly to the scene but this was discarded as unworkable due to equipment requirements and parking snarls on scene. Chief Whitaker said that invariably, there will be responses that are unnecessary, the cost of doing business. Firefighter Slemer said that would be a good outcome with no harm to anyone.

Firefighter Robert asked whether the current policy limiting members to either part time EMS or paid on call could be modified. Chief Whitaker did not think that could change due to compensation issues.

Other – Fire Fighter DeSutter asked if duty days could be scheduled on weekends as well as the current weekdays so members employed during the normal work week could participate and enhance response at the same time. There was support for this from the membership and Treasurer Schaake. Chief Whitaker will consider this as part of his scheduling project.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion to adjourn the meeting by President Harris, seconded by Trustee Humes and unanimously approved by the Trustees present, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Submitted by:

Christopher P. Otto
Recording Secretary