

**Gilford Fire-Rescue
Board of Fire Engineers
19 May 2009**

The Board of Fire Engineers met in regular session on Tuesday, 19 May 2009 at 39 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford, New Hampshire.

Present: Chairman William Akerley, Engineer Philip Brouillard, Engineer Don Spear, Chief James Hayes, Deputy John Beland, and Executive Secretary Catherine M. Reitz.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 0814 hours.

I. Salute to the Flag: All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

II Adoption of Minutes: Minutes of 21 April 2009 meeting were reviewed, motion to accept and were approved. Motion carried.

III. Budget Review:

2009 Budget: Typically by this time of the budget year, expected expenditures is nearly 38.5%. Our actual expenditure is 32.65%. As mentioned in prior meetings, early vacations and an unusual amount of sick time accounts for this. \$12K + from the Ambulance Capital account will be returned to the General Fund.

IV. Personnel:

Call Company Status The Board of Selectmen approved the recommendation of the Fire Dept to increase the Call Company roster to the maximum of 30 members. Ryan Brown, our senior student from LRCC graduated last week and has requested to become a full member of the Call Co. Currently, we have two Driver/Operators; however five new employees are in training now. One position will be reserved for the Freshman student this fall. Engineer Brouillard moved and Engineer Spear made the second to hire Samuel Adams as a provisional Call Company member participating in training only until his 18th birthday at which time he becomes a full member. Vote was unanimous.

V. Apparatus & Equipment:

A. Forestry Truck Project: Due to early greening of the woods the Forestry was not needed. Expected ready date has not been determined.

B. Fire Boats: 8B1 has been launched. The radar has been installed. Staff is resolving battery issues by installing a metered device so that the State can bill us for electricity. Delivery of the new 8B2 boat and motor is expected this month. The Town Administrator advised that due to leaking problems with the old Boat 2, that it be destroyed. We will retain the motor as a spare.

C. New Ambulance: The low coolant message on the engine sensor was resolved by Cantin's ordering a new coolant reservoir.

D. Engine 2: Winter tires have been removed by Belknap Tire. The Public Works Dept. had employees out on vacation and was understaffed. The window issue is being resolved by FF. DeCarli.

VI. Training:

Firefighters Blanchette and Madon participated in AARF training this week. Firefighters Beaulac and Beaupre take FF Level I test in 2 weeks. Firefighter Akerley and Senior Student FF. Skafas are currently in FF Level II held in Brentwood. All new recruits are progressing through the orientation process and are completing the Skill's Book requirements in a timely manner. All passed the physical ability test requirement. FF. Sanborn, Beaupre, Barrett, Beaulac and EMT Sharon Davis have begun Driver/Operator training. All except FF. Beaupre currently hold their CDL. Deputy Beland reported that the Skills Book will be used yearly to recertify all staff on qualifying vehicles and apparatus. The May 3rd Water Tower Drill was successful and staff who participated has a greater skill level. This will be held again in September. Typically, only 40% of staff is attending training drills and the Deputy expressed his concern that more emphasis be placed on the importance of training. The Airport Plaza owners have approved training in the vacant store fronts. We will be able to set up the variety of props staff has been constructing for an assortment of evolutions. "Got Big Water – Moving Large Amounts of Water without Hydrants" was a successful training held this month in Ashland. The Tanker and Engine 1 ran extensively.

VII. Fire Prevention:

Fire Prevention is on going. The Towne Plaza Suites on Sawmill Road opens tomorrow. A new medical office building is in the planning process for Hounsell Avenue. High end houses are being built on Governor's Island, however there is very little new construction elsewhere. The Fire Prevention fee schedule has been modified and will be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen at their June meeting.

VIII. Other Business:

A. Assistance to Fire Fighter's Grant:

2008 Grant: All items within this grant have been purchased. The balance of the funds will be used to purchase individual "bail out systems" for the Department. This falls within the criteria of firefighter safety.

2009 Grant: The Board of Selectmen agreed to allow this Department to apply for a matching \$49,000 computer based digital training simulator that creates fire evolution scenarios allowing firefighters the ability to make decisions without the need for actual buildings used or exposing firefighters to risk. Plans include renovating a portion of the basement under the Administrative Wing creating a classroom. The grant allows only \$10,000 to be used for renovations; therefore staff will perform all the labor required. This grant proposal is due tomorrow.

B. Alton & Franklin Fires: This Department received Letters of Appreciation from the Fire Chiefs of Alton and Franklin thanking staff for our efforts during their extensive fires.

C. Other: 1} Chairman Akerley will give former Engineer Mark LaBonte the Appreciation Plaque for his service to this Department. 2} Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, 25 May with staging at the Public Library. 3} The Opticom System was tested recently. A large number of units were broken. These have been repaired and extra parts have been ordered for the future. 4} The Board of Selectmen will write a letter to Mark Mello of Gator Signs thanking him for his generous donation of the GILFORD FIRE-RESCUE sign.

Inspector Pendergast, FF. Proulx and several students installed the sign with the help of the fork lift borrowed from DPW. \$1800 was budgeted for the sign however only \$300 was used for supporting building materials. 5} The garage door in the Administrative Wing will be replaced with a double panel in-swinging fiberglass door. Chairman Akerley volunteered to donate the hardware for the door; however, FF. Akerley had already made the offer. 6} The Mutual Aid meeting will be held here on 5/28/09 featuring a Chicken Barbecue with resident Chefs Hayes and Beland. 7} This Saturday, a benefit for 7 month old Austin Cote who is battling brain cancer, will be held at Hector's.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 0953 hours.

Respectfully submitted:

Catherine M. Reitz

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Executive Secretary

Preliminary
Subject to Board Approval