

**Germantown Hills Fire Protection District
313 Prairie Avenue
Germantown Hills, IL 61548
309-383-4890**

December 7, 2021 6:00 p.m.

Germantown Hills Fire Protection District Board:

Present:

Christopher Lee, President
Brian Christensen, Treasurer (Electronic)
Kelly Thannum, Secretary

Absent:

Officers also present:

Chip Wilmot, Fire Chief
Chad Dawson, Asst. Chief
Mark Shaw, Asst. Chief
Lonnie Beckwith, Asst. Chief
Ryan Williamson, Division Chief/Administrator
Jai Windish, Division Chief-EMS
Jed Bauman, Full Time Paramedic

Absent:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call- President Christopher Lee called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and roll call was taken.

2. Approval of Minutes-The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed.

- a) **Regular Meeting of November 2, 2021-**A motion was made by Christopher Lee to approve the regular meeting minutes from November 2, 2021. The motion was seconded by Kelly Thannum. All yeas and no nays. **Motion passed #1.**

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items and Non-Agenda Items

4. Officers Report

Chief Wilmot gave the run report and equipment report. The December training will include pre-planning including Casey's and the Grade School. Chip noted he is continuing to work on the specs for the 1602 replacement. The Christmas dinner is scheduled for January 8, 2022.

Brian Christensen stated the board has talked about a new truck but we haven't agreed to move forward and didn't think we were ready, as there are several things that need to be discussed.

Christopher Lee noted the board would need to review numbers and discuss the budget and timeline as a next step.

Jai Windish noted PBS is winding down and the last amount he saw outstanding was approximately \$30,000, which we probably won't see.

Mark Shaw noted the December training is planning at the Grade School and Casey's. Several personnel have been certified on the drone use.

Chad Dawson stated he is trying to address the printer problem. RK Dixon has provided a quote for a new machine. The department will need to discuss whether or not to purchase a new copier or lease it.

Chad Dawson noted the ETSB personnel committee gave a hefty pay increase in order to be competitive with other comparable dispatch centers.

Lonnie Beckwith noted they are looking to do the truck maintenance on January 29, 2022.

5. Old Business

- a) **Discussion and possible action regarding developing an operating document for the GHFPD EMS department which defines roles and responsibilities for the staff.** Christopher Lee asked if there's been any movement on getting this information together.

Chip Wilmot stated there have been some conversations but not a lot of movement.

Kelly Thannum suggested having everyone write down what they do and give it to Chip Wilmot for review. The board should have a draft at the next meeting for review.

- b) **Discussion and possible action regarding funding of paramedic training**
This will be discussed at the next meeting as there are no updates at this time.
- c) **Discussion and possible action regarding Annual Tax Levy**
Brian Christensen discussed the proposed tax levy numbers.

A motion was made by Brian Christensen to approve the Annual Tax Levy for FY 22-23. The motion was seconded by Christopher Lee. All yeas and no nays.
Motion passed #2.

- d) **Discussion and possible action relating to the Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance plan**
Brian Christensen explained the way the law is written and the language in the contract, the Fire Department has to offer insurance to any full-time employee that works 30 hours a week or 130 hours a month. We will need to look to see who would meet those requirements. Brian stated there is a measurement period, stability period and an administrative period. The board discussed.

A motion was made by Brian Christensen to approve for the purpose of determining whether an employee has full time status and eligibility for the health insurance, the measurement period will be 90 days and the stability period will be 6 months. For existing employees, it will be a 6 month look back period to determine if they will be eligible. The motion was seconded by Kelly Thannum. All yeas and no nays. **Motion passed #3.**

If the employee meets the requirements, they will be added to the health insurance plan and will be required to pay 10% of the premium each month.

Brian Christensen will look to see what reports are available in the ADP program.

Ryan Williamson also can track hours in the scheduling system.

6. New Business

a) **Review and discuss organization position on Balance Billing, Residential Adjustments, and financial impact of changes in revenue for FY 22/23**

Jai Windish discussed the No Surprises Billing Act. He is not looking for action at this time but wanted the board to be aware of upcoming legislation that will likely impact ambulance reimbursement for future years. The new legislation goes into effect January 1, 2022. What this means is the insurance companies will deem whether you are in network or out of network. Currently ambulance service is not included but most likely will be at some point. For the period of July 2020-July 2021, PBS wrote off \$23,000 for which we have data. Moving forward this could have a financial impact on the department.

Jai Windish discussed some options as follows:

1) The most likely scenario involves beginning with the new fiscal year for residents only, we accept only what insurance pays and cease balance billing of residents.

-Cease the practice of resident adjustment on unpaid balances.

-Contract with our most common payers in an attempt to secure a slightly higher rate.

-Pursue out of district residents of the organizations costs in order to negotiate properly.

2) Attempt to contract with top commercial payers to negotiate an improved reimbursement amount where "Out of Network", would apply to the beneficiaries' plans. This will require legal review and detailed explanations of the organization's costs.

3) We can make no change and see what happens. The board agreed to wait.

b) Discussion and possible action on Regular Meeting dates for calendar year 2022

A motion was made by Christopher Lee to approve the regular meeting dates for calendar year 2022. The motion was seconded by Brian Christensen. All yeas and no nays. **Motion passed #4.**

7. Human Resources-None

8. Treasurer Report

a) Presentation of bills and payment of bills

A motion was made by Christopher Lee to approve the payment of the bills. The motion was seconded by Kelly Thannum. All yeas and no nays. **Motion passed #5.**

9. Secretary Report

a) Review upcoming key dates, submissions and annual schedule of activities

The minutes have been posted to the website. The annual schedule of activities was reviewed.

b) Review of matters to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting

The items for the next agenda were discussed.

10. Correspondence-None

11. Meeting Schedule-The next meeting is on January 4, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

12. Adjournment-A motion was made by Christopher Lee to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Kelly Thannum. All yeas and no nays. **Motion passed #6.**

Ann Sasso
Administrative Clerk