

**Garden Valley Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Where: Main Fire Station on Middlefork Rd in Crouch**

**When: Tuesday, 10th March 2026 @ 2 PM**



- 1 Call to Order:** Phil Palmitto calls meeting to order 2pm
- 2 Commissioner(s)/Chief Roll Call,** Mike Dolan Commissioner; present, Phil Palmiotto commissioner; Present, Chief Cleveland; present, Mike Vandyk Commiosner; absent, Captain Austin Fields Present, Stenographer Heather Sipple; present.
- 3 Amendments to this Agenda**
  - 3.1 Motions to amend this agenda. NONE
- 4 Public Participation**
  - 4.1 Members of the public may comment on an agenda item before action is taken and after the Board has discussed the item. Any member of the public making a public comment shall state their name and address for the record prior to addressing the Board. We allow 3 minutes per speaker.
    - 4.1.1 Crissie Fields, 10 Twilight Garden Valley, Idaho. I want to thank you and share that this is a personal interest with many of her family volunteering for the department. I suggest going to school events to get the information out for the upcoming Levy. Strong local cable people will show up and respond, they need to be able to make a living while doing so.
- 5 Consent Agenda Items -** Consent Agenda Items will be enacted upon by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on items unless a Board Member, Staff, or member of the public request's removal of the item for separate action.
  - 5.1 Minutes: Review/Amend/Approve Previous Month's Meeting Minutes.
  - 5.2 Expenditures: Review/Amend/Approve Expenditures. Phil Makes a motion to approve items, Mike Dolan seconds motion and it passes.
- 6 Correspondence**
  - 6.1 Staff / Commissioners will review relevant correspondence. Phil wants to acknowledge the Auxiliary for the successful Spaghetti feed and all their hard work.
- 7 Public Comment**
  - 7.1 This part of the meeting is reserved for people wishing to address the Board on any matter not on the agenda. Name and address shall be stated for the record prior to addressing the Board. Any matter that requires Board action will be referred to staff (or a Board member) for a report and action at a subsequent Board meeting.
  - 7.2 Jason Sawin, 21 School House Gulch. Jason would like his report to be put into the meeting minutes. Thank you for donating the hose used to help pump water at the special Olympics. Jason reads his concerns. See attached Sheet.
  - 7.3 Crissie Fields, 10 Twilight; Reiterates the capital funds weren't just depleted they were voted on to be used for the on-call program.
  - 7.4 Dennis Ross, 25 Tamarack Court, He was Commissioner at the time. Voted for the on-call system but states no funding sources have been found since.

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- 7.4.1 Mike asked Dennis why there wasn't a sunrise and sunset financial plan for the testing period of said on call system.

## 8 Old/Ongoing Business

- 8.1 (\*) **Grant Award Vehicle Update:** Took delivery of the new quick response Vehicle this week. Hope to have all the details finished up and in service in the next couple of weeks.
- 8.2 (\*) **Record Request Fee Schedule update:** Attorney is still working on the updated Fee schedule.
- 8.3 (\*) **Sub District 3 Commissioners Replacement:** Phil introduced Mike Dolan as the new commissioner. States some of his personal experiences and work history. A good fit for this board to bring new experience. Phil welcomes Mike Dolan. Mike states he's ready to give back to his community. Mike states he will always challenge for excellence. He thanks the community for the opportunity.
- 8.4 (\*) **Starlink Proposal/ Update:** Starlink is temporality being used in unit 4. Working great so far. Was able to get equipment at a cheaper price than expected

## 9 Chief & Staff Reports...

- 9.1 (\*) **Calls in February:** 13 calls
- 9.2 (\*) **Training in February:** IV Optional Modules, Department Updates and Rig Familiarization, Transporting EMT Training, Extrication Training, Reconnects/ Fire Simulation
- 9.3 (\*) **Department on-call staffing & Response times update:** 15 Min Response
- 9.4 (\*) **Staffing Update:** No new updates
- 9.5 (\*) **Equipment Update:** None
- 9.6 (\*) **Station updates:** None

## 10 New Business

- 10.1 Chief states that the new ISO (Insurance Rating Score) rating process will start April 1<sup>st</sup>. Every 3-4 years you can renewal rating.  
Mike asked, does the ISO rating have an impact on the current insurance issues? Risk assessment does, Insurance companies reach out to get the ISO rating and then make their assessments for coverage. Mike asked how long the rating takes? Rating should be about 2-3-month process. How long will it take them to issue the new rating? It could take another 4 weeks after the original assessment.  
Current ISO ratings.
  - In town the rating is around 6
  - Up the middle fork rating is around 8

## 11 Request for Future Agenda Items

- 11.1 Beth Olson; request Wildfire Preparation information to be on the next agenda or a town hall meeting. (Dakota Stallion, Idaho native that specializes in insurance coverage for people who have lost their insurance from wildfires, His info is available on the chamber website)
- 11.2 Jason Sawin requested an Apparatus Committee update (last one created in 2023)

## 12 (\*) Adjournment

- 12.1 Phil adjourned meeting at 2:36 pm

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**The next Regular GVFPD Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, 04/14/2026, @ 2:00 PM @ the Main Station above Crouch.**

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GVFD equipment questions for March 10, 2026

I want to request this statement be included on the record for the meeting minutes.

Thank you for the donation of the use of the fire hose for snowmaking for the Special Olympics. We couldn't have done this without your support.

### **GVFD Financial Health**

When looking at the financial health of the GVFD, I think it helps to break the department into two major parts: labor and equipment. The levy vote last November and the new one in May focuses on labor.

The information presented here was obtained by our public records requests and previous knowledge from the GVCC members.

The January 2023 apparatus report shows that several pieces of apparatus are already very old. For example, Engine 804 is a 1992 Pierce, and Rescue 831, a 1995 International, was listed as "soon needing replacement". Also in the report, Tanker 822 needs to have the "tank relined in the next 2 to 3 years" with an approximate price of \$8,000 to \$15,000.

Since that report, Rescue 831 has been sold for \$30,000, and Engine 804 has been converted into a rescue. No replacement apparatus has been purchased, with the exception of a command vehicle funded by grant money in 2026.

*A concern with Engine 804 is that the pump failed its annual pump test. This was made public at the November 2022 fire commissioners meeting. At the February 2023 meeting, it was stated 804 failed another pump test and repairs are roughly \$8,000. Chief Cleaveland vetoed the repairs. 804 later was made into the rescue after Rescue 831 was sold. The commissioners requested Austin Fields create a plan moving forward with apparatus replacements. Apparatus discussions faded away in the regular meetings and special meetings and no new plans have been presented.*

At the February 26, 2026 town hall meeting, Battalion Chief Dean Lange stated that Engine 804 responds to vehicle accidents on Highway 55 with the ambulance. At vehicle accidents, one of the top NFPA priorities is fire suppression capability. Is Engine 804 being used for fire suppression at a vehicle accident? If so, using a fire apparatus that has failed an annual pump test is a very big safety issue for our volunteers and a liability issue.

I created a spreadsheet for equipment replacement planning. Even using conservative numbers and used apparatus prices, the district should be setting aside about \$100,000 per year to responsibly fund equipment replacement and reserves for the next 8 to 10 years. Equipment includes an engine, a rescue, SCBA replacements in 2032 and replacement turnout gear in the next 10 years.

However, the current Capital Investment Fund is roughly \$63,000 per year, and that funding is already committed to paying a lease for the new water tender and the newest ambulance. This line item has significantly declined in the last four years.

How does GVFD plan to replenish the Capital Investment Fund, regardless of whether the May levy vote passes or not? Do you plan to go to the voters in the future for another levy increase or a bond for equipment?

Has the apparatus report been updated since January 2023? If so, we have not found it in the public records.

What recommendations has the apparatus committee made regarding future apparatus replacement? Is this committee still in existence?

These questions are important because reliable equipment is fundamental to firefighter safety and protecting the community, and responsible long term planning today prevents much larger financial challenges in the future.

The Garden Valley Citizens Committee is committed to providing factual information to the citizens so they can make an informed decision on election day. In the near future, we will have video interviews from experts so the GVCC can provide the public with useful information on a wide range of topics. Below is a link to our new YouTube channel. We have a video of the recent town hall available and will be making additional videos of GVFD meetings available soon.

<https://www.youtube.com/@gvcitizenscommitteeidaho>

Jason Sawin  
GVCC  
303.818.5923 cell

**Estimated Budget for equipment replacement through 2026**

Budget description	Purchase Price	Annual \$	Quantity	Total
Backup engine (used, replaces 804) (8 yrs)	\$400,000	\$50,000	1	\$50,000.00
Rescue (used) (8 yrs)	\$150,000	\$18,750	1	\$18,750.00
SCBA replacement fund (2032)	\$100,000	\$20,000	1	\$20,000.00
Reserves (10 yrs)	\$400,000		1	\$0.00
Mini Pumper (used) (8 years) instead of engine	\$150,000		1	\$0.00
Ambulance replacement	\$175,000			
Water Tender Replacement (new)	\$400,000			
Turnout gear replacement (10 years)	\$105,000	\$10,500	1	\$10,500.00
Fire Station Capital Fund				
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$99,250.00</b>
equipment lease 8 year term				