

## Meeting Minutes: Georgetown Fire District

February 3, 2026

### Call to Order & Attendance

The Monthly Meeting of the Georgetown Fire District was called to order by **Commissioner Will Ely**.

- **In Attendance:** Stewart "Rob" Flemming, Chief Don Baker, President Andrew Snell, Sandy Clarkson, Fire Marshal Joe Paola, Deputy Commissioner Dan Mecozzi, Deputy Commissioner Elio Cavicchia, Second Assistant Chief Steve Santa, Treasurer/Tax Collector/Secretary Wanda Cardozo, and Office Assistant Meghan Ely.
- **Minutes:** The minutes from the previous meeting were approved by the commissioners.

### Tax Collector's Report

Presented by Wanda Cardozo. The current collection rate is **99.85%**. Meghan Ely continues to send monthly delinquent notices. One property is currently heading to a tax sale, which is expected to generate revenue.

- **Motion:** Accepted by Dan Mecozzi; seconded by Elio Cavicchia.

### Treasurer's Report

The report was presented for review. Dan Mecozzi asked Chief Baker if he had questions; the Chief noted he needed to verify one specific item in his records but otherwise found the report satisfactory.

- **Motion:** Accepted by Dan Mecozzi; seconded by Elio Cavicchia.

### Fire Marshal's Report

Fire Marshal Joe Paola reported the following:

- **Meadow Ridge:** A professional company has been hired to conduct fire drills. The dining hall is being reconstructed and a pub is being added.
- **848 Danbury Rd:** Repairs are underway following a vehicle collision with the building.
- **Hydrants:** Chief Baker requested that the Fire Marshal ask Meadow Ridge to ensure fire hydrants are not blocked by plowed snow.
- **Knox Boxes:** The Chief requested an updated list of Knox Box locations to replace the current paper records at the firehouse.
- **Motion:** Accepted by Dan Mecozzi; seconded by Elio Cavicchia.

### Fire Chief's Report

Chief Baker reported **63 EMS calls** and **13 fire calls** for January. Flow testing of the air packs was completed today; the final invoice is pending as repairs were required.

- **Ladder Truck Update:** The truck is scheduled to leave the production line on March 20. It will spend approximately 30 days at the dealer, with an estimated delivery date in May.

## Old Business

- **Ladder Truck Pricing:** The final price is \$1.48 million. The Fire Company remains firm on staying under the \$1.5 million threshold.
- **Air Compressor:** Commissioner Will Ely stated the District will use a line of credit to purchase the air compressor, to be paid off within two years. The Firehouse may proceed with the order (12-week lead time). Chief Baker will also obtain a "ballpark" price for new air packs for future budgeting, noting a four-year lead time on equipment.
- **Sale of Engine 1 and Tower 8:** Discussion held regarding the sale of surplus apparatus. Tower 8 is expected to sell for approximately \$50,000. Engine 1 may be more difficult to move due to its unique configuration. Feehan suggests a starting point of \$50,000 for both. The District is considering purchasing a pickup truck with the proceeds.
- **District Website:** The District is developing a simple website to be hosted on the Firehouse page. Rob Flemming will train office staff on making edits. Rob and Joe Paola will meet to finalize the Georgetown Fire District URL.
- **Online Bill Lookup:** The District is working with Quality Data and their third-party vendor (mytaxbill) to move tax bills online.

## New Business

- **Split System (VEMS Room):** The Commissioners selected **Santa Energy** to install a split system in the VEMS room for approximately \$6,900.
- **Vendor Cost-Sharing:** The District and Fire Company will split costs for garbage (\$110/mo), landscaping (\$73/wk), pest control (\$212.70), and plowing (variable). These will impact the "Building Maintenance" line item. Wanda Cardozo will provide Chief Baker with copies of plowing invoices to track spending.
- **District Cable:** Cable service has been canceled. Members were advised to monitor their service to ensure no unintended interruptions.
- **Truck Replacement Schedule:** Will Ely requested an updated schedule with estimated pricing. Chief Baker will consult with Feehan for figures.
- **2026–2027 Budget:** The budget process has begun with a focus on increasing the Building Maintenance line. The District plans to take a loan of approximately \$500,000 for the Ladder Truck (utilizing vehicle replacement funds and CDs to cover the balance). Annual loan payments are estimated between \$70,000 and \$150,000, depending on the term.
- **Ambulance Fund:** The Commissioners will open a CD for the Ambulance Replacement Fund with an initial deposit of \$100,000.
- **Kitchen:** The Fire Company plans to renovate the kitchen (floors, closet removal, double-oven installation, and new cabinetry). They hope to use the same contractor

who renovated the downstairs bathroom. The space is currently not being rented out due to liability concerns.

- **Chief's Office Split System:** Steve Santa reported they are awaiting a service call for the malfunctioning unit in the Chief's office.
- **Roof/Drainage:** Ice is reportedly penetrating the **fascia**, which is expected to be an ongoing issue. Steve Santa suggested heat tape for the gutters and roof. Will Ely will contact Anderson Septic to use a camera to inspect a potential sinkhole in front of the building to see if it is linked to the gutter drainage.

#### **Adjournment**

- **Motion:** Will Ely; seconded by Dan Mecozzi.

Meghan Ely