

GOLDEN GATE FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT

TENTATIVE BUDGET HEARING

SEPTEMBER 14, 1993

THESE MINUTES ARE JUST HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING. REFER TO THE RECORDED TAPE IF MORE INFORMATION IS NEEDED.

The Tentative Budget Hearing of the Golden Gate Fire District was called to order at 6:30 P.M. and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation; all board members were in attendance. There were approximately 7 people in the audience.

Chairman Strain started the meeting off by stating that this was the first of two budget hearings and the meeting will be opened up for discussion, first from the Commissioners and then from the audience followed by a response from the Commissioners.

Chief Peterson stated that the first topic for discussion is the percentage increase in millage over the rolled-back rate necessary to fund the budget. A discussion followed on the "Certification of Taxable Value" form. Chief Peterson went on to state, for the record, that the proposed millage rate of 1 mill exceeds the rolled-back rate by 0.82 %.

Chief Peterson stated, "the rolled-back rate means that millage rate which, exclusive of new construction, additions to structures, deletions, and property added due to geographic boundary changes, will provide the same ad valorem tax revenue for each taxing authority as was levied during the prior year." Discussion followed on the rolled-back rate.

There were no questions forthcoming regarding the proposed revenue for the fiscal year of 1993/94.

Chairman Strain had questions regarding the following object codes:

1. Health Insurance - Code #2301: Noted the big jump in cost and wanted to know if there was some way this could be reduced. Chief Peterson advised that he was looking into it and should have more information by the final budget meeting. The Chief went on to say that one of the things that is effecting us is the requirement to carry David Reeves on the policy (he has had double by-pass heart surgery). Chairman Strain would like to have our new attorney look at the contract which requires the District to carry David Reeves and his wife (she pays her cost) on its health insurance coverage. Chief Peterson advised that Lee Burke of Burke, Bogart & Brownell, Inc. are looking into providing a pool for workers compensation (working with the Florida Fire Chiefs Association) and possibly health insurance.

2. Volunteer Response - Code #3401: Suggested working with a low amount like last year and then if all goes well adjust the figure up at mid-year budget adjustments. \$2,500 was allocated last year and then raised to \$9,500 at mid-year adjustments. Commissioner Budd would like to see the allocation at \$9,500. The Board decided to leave the allocation at \$7,500.

3. Electricity - Code #4301, Trash - Code #4302, and Water & Sewer - Code #4303: Why are the allocated amounts substantially lower than last year? Chief Peterson explained that last year's allocation included past due amounts for 18 months that the County had not billed us for plus the 12 months for the current fiscal year of 1992/93. The County billed the District for the past due amount during 1992/93 and continue to submit bills monthly for current payments. The allocation in this tentative budget includes 12 months for 1993/94 plus 6 months that the County has not billed us for. After being billed and paid for 24 months of utility charges, the average amount came in lower than had been previously anticipated. The County says we are all paid up but according to our records we still owe for 6 months.

4. Clothing & Uniforms - Code #5201: Why the drop in the amount from what was allocated last year? Chief Peterson advised that 12 sets of bunker gear had been purchased in 1992/93.

5. Foods - Code #5202: Why the increased amount? Chief Peterson advised that Hurricane Andrew opened our eyes to the fact that \$800 as was allocated at the beginning of 92/93 would not provide enough food during a natural disaster.

6. New Building - Code #7103 & #7104: Why the big increase in this area? Chief Peterson advised that the latest agreement draft from the County shows an increase in the monthly figure from \$1,200.00 to \$1,626.91 plus the fact that an additional 12 months needed to be added for the coming fiscal year of 1993/94. After some discussion it was the consensus of the Board to use the original amount and put the remainder in contingency.

7. Physical Fitness - Code #3103: Why do we not put money in physical fitness? Chief Peterson advised that we have attempted to put a whole package together and found the cost to be prohibitive. The Chief also advised that S.O. is looking into purchasing physical fitness equipment for use by everyone in the building.

8. Communication Equipment - Code #6401: Wanted to know if this showed zero dollars because the County is now going to control the communication system and it is not going to cost as much or is that still with the S.O. The Chief advised that it depends on who you talk to, the issue has not been resolved as of yet.

Chief Peterson stated that the following is a list of some of the things that he had hoped could be addressed by this budget:

1. A new VCR, TV and cart for this side of the building to be used for training.
2. New pagers and portables.
3. Hose Tester
4. New brush truck (refurb or purchase new).
5. Looked at adding (1) full time shift person, possibility of adding full time inspector.
6. Looked at adding a tele-squirt to the fleet.
7. Looked at adding a midi type engine (sized between attack truck and big engine).
8. Replacing the 85 Bronco.
9. The volunteer training program monies were increased to include the Fire & Emergency Television Network. You can receive college credits for some of the courses. Also, a program for inspector and instructor certifications. It would cost \$385.00 to install with a monthly fee of \$188.00. Captain Fischer is still working on obtaining cooperation from the cable company to install a satellite dish at their site to feed both stations through their cable system. Hope to have an answer to this by the final budget hearing. If this is accepted the American Heat tape subscription with an annual cost of \$888.00 would be canceled.
10. Possible payoff of Engine 70. The Chairman would like the balance owed from the general fund to be divided into three (3) equal payments of \$22,366.00 so that the general fund would not be making a payment in the amount of \$1,844.00 for 83/84 and then hit with large payments of \$32,636.00 each for the following two years. The Chairman requested contacting the finance company to see if this could be done and then have the Chief contact the Commissioners for their input so, if agreed, the adjustment can be made before the final budget hearing.

- * A motion was made by Commissioner Budd and seconded by Commissioner Smith to set the tentative millage rate at 1 mill for fiscal year 1993/94. Motion passed unanimously.
- * Chairman Strain stepped down from the Chair to make a motion adopting the tentative budget as presented with the following amendments:
Code #7103 & #7104- Use original monthly rent figure to arrive at the dollars that will be needed for payment. Put the balance into contingency.
Code #7102 - If possible, divide the balance owed into three equal payments of \$22,366.00.
Chairman Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- * A motion was made by Commissioner Budd and seconded by Commissioner Smith to set the final budget hearing date for Thursday, September 30, 1993 at 6:30 P.M. Motion passed unanimously.
- * A motion was made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Budd to adjourn the hearing at 7:30 P.M. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of the 9/14/93 Tentative Budget Hearing were approved on 10/20/93.



Commissioner Mark Strain



Commissioner Gene Smith



Commissioner Russell Budd