

Downieville Fire Protection District

Commissioners Meeting

Wednesday, June 14, 2023
3:00 pm, Downieville Community Hall

Officer's Report

Thought of the Day "If you could kick the person in the pants that's responsible for most of your trouble, you wouldn't sit for a month". Theodore Roosevelt

1. May Dispatched Incident

- a. **Downieville**, 7 medicals, 8 MUCs, 1 smoke check, 1 Fire Alarm Check, 911 open line
- b. **Sierra City** 2 medicals
- c. **Alleghany** 1 medical
- d. **Pike** 1 medical, 1 Public Assist, 3 Mutual Aide
- e. **To date 116 dispatched incidents**

2. Grants Update, Quarterly updates completed.

- a. Regional Communication Grant, sponsored by Ben Edwards Sierra Dist. 1 No update.
- b. Submitted a brief application to the National Volunteer Council for turnout gear No update
- c. Submitting an application to the California Fire Foundation
 - a. Asking for wildland fire PPE to update Pre-Positioning crew and a portable pump for 7362
- d. No other grants in the works.

3. 2023 activities,

- a. **Appreciation BBQ**, Saturday May 20th, Tin Cup Diggins 3:00 PM
 - i. Seemed to go well, any comments or suggestions?
- b. **EMS Week, May 21-27**
 - i. Again, a successful event, suggestions for next year
- c. **4th of July**, Sat. 1st muster, BBQ, Dance. Parade on the 4th. Requires all hands-on deck.
 - i. May need to make special arrangements for meal prep. (community Hall construction)
- d. **Bike Race, July 15th, and 16th,**
 - i. Still maintaining the first aid station, location will be in the school gym
- e. **Brewfest.**, We will be helping in the setup and tear down.

4. Communication

- a. After 4 trips to the repeater site, we may have found a fix for the radio reception problems.
 - i. On the downside, the output power had to be reduced.
 - ii. A more permanent solution is being put together that will increase performance.
- b. Unfortunately, all of this comes at a cost. I am trying to mitigate as much as possible.
- c. Asked for and received funding from the Association for 4 new radios.
 - i. Current older radios will need repair and reprogramming. Some may be scrapped.
 - ii. New members will not be getting a new radio until they demonstrate their commitment to the department.
 - iii. Also asked the association for 2 King radios to be used by engine captains during pre-positioning and any other inter agency incidents.

- d. Still in the works I is for a repeater in town located high up on Sunnyside. Garrett as approved using his property for the site.
 - i. Estimated cost \$3,000 installation and programing all radios.
 - ii. This will optimize the functionality of the intown pagers and radios even during storms and power outages.
 - iii. The problem will be the use of another frequency requiring training on when and how to implement the access change.

5. Type 3 and pump trailer, No new update

- a. Exploring the possibility of having a specialized pump trailer constructed for us. If the bids come back higher than the allocated \$15K I will bring it back to the board.
- b. Still actively searching for the right units. Hopefully departments will be offering for surplus as they upgrade their equipment.

6. Proposed fire breaks No new update

- a. Still being under discussion but no definitive progress. Steve's mapping of the proposed Northern fire break is being sanctioned by the Sierra County Fire Safe. Should be a go when money is granted.
- b. If they decide to do any work, it may not be until next spring.

7. Training

- a. Still trying to encourage all to complete online training for a Red Card
- b. Work on wildland fire skills training.

6. Court House Generator interfering with the access of 7341 and 7342 to Station 3. No New Update

- a. Still a major concern with the safe responding and parking. Nothing new to add

7. Personnel

From the Captains desk

I am deeply troubled by the lack of volunteerism the department has been experiencing. The main task of a forward-thinking leader is to train their successor. Unfortunately, the opportunities to nurture my replacement are slim. There will be a time in the near future when my old mind and body will not be able to respond as needed. That scares me. So, in defiance of the inevitable I continue to do all I can because of my passion for the fire service and the love for our community. Regretfully, when I see the same small number of responders who answer the call it is obvious that my beliefs are without merit. I am sorry to say I do not have a solution.

I bring this to the board now to start a discussion on what the department will look like in the future.

Conclusion, Questions, Comments, Constructive Criticism?