

1 **NORTH LAKE TAHOE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**
2 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

3
4 **August 17, 2016**

5
6 **LOCATION:** 863 Tanager, Incline Village, Nevada.

7
8 **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Chair Herron called the meeting to order at
9 12:01 p.m.

10
11 **ROLL CALL OF THE NORTH LAKE TAHOE FIRE PROTECTION BOARD OF**
12 **DIRECTORS:** Upon roll call, the following Board Members were present
13 Susan Herron, Chair; Jeff Warner, Vice-Chairman; Dennis Perry, Secretary-
14 Treasurer; Dale Smith, Director; and Paul Zahler, Director.

15
16 **GUESTS PRESENT:** Ryan Sommers, Interim Fire Chief NLTFPD; Devon
17 Reese, Legal Counsel; Tia Rancourt, NLTFPD; Sharon Cary, NLTFPD; Russell
18 Barnum, NLTFPD; Brian Maples, NLTFPD; Dave McClellan, NLTFPD; Steve
19 Alcorn, NLTFPD (retired); Todd Bassett, NLTFPD; Jill Andersen, NLTFPD; Jeff
20 Cutler, NLTFPD; Scott Woodcock, NLTFPD; Mike Roen, NLTFPD; Ken Leijon,
21 NLTFPD; David Melkonian, NLTFPD; Steve Higley, NLTFPD; Ron Johnson,
22 NLTFPD; Steve Baker, NLTFPD (retired); Thomas Rores, NLTFPD; Jay Euse,
23 NLTFPD; Terry Donohue, Family; Daria Donohue, Family; Greg McKay,
24 Resident; Katie Melkonian, Family; Max Bassett, Family; Carson Bassett,
25 Family; and Tina Bassett, Family.

26
27 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Old business item #1 was tabled until September
28 or October's meeting.

29
30 **NRS 241.020 RE: PUBLIC COMMENT: This is a Time for the Public to**
31 **Comment on any Matter, Whether or Not it is Included on the**
32 **Agenda of this Meeting.** None.

33
34 **CONSENT AGENDA** No changes were made to the consent agenda items;
35 Chair Herron deemed them approved as submitted.

36
37 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 20, 2016 BOARD OF**
38 **DIRECTORS MEETING.**

39
40 **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REPORT FOR JULY 2016.**

41
42 **APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR JULY 2016.**

43
44 **NEW BUSINESS:**

45
46 **1. Recognition of Captain Steve Alcorn's years of service &**

1 **retirement from NLTFPD (Presented by Interim Fire Chief Ryan**
2 **Sommers)**

3 Captain Steve Alcorn served with North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District
4 for 19 years, having previously done 5 years at Carson City. Interim Chief
5 Sommers thanked Captain Steve Alcorn tremendously for his years of
6 dedication and service with the District and that we wish him the best in his
7 retirement. Steve Alcorn was presented with his shadow box and thanked
8 the District and personnel for everything they had done for him over the
9 years.

10
11 **2. Promotions & Badge Pinning Ceremony of Ron Johnson, Todd**
12 **Bassett and Dave Melkonian to Engineers (Presented by Interim Fire**
13 **Chief Ryan Sommers)**

14 Interim Chief Sommers explained that the District has been hoping to fill
15 three Engineer positions for some time and that the budget has finally
16 allowed for that to happen.

17 Todd Bassett joined the District in 2004 and came to us hired as a
18 Paramedic, however went through Paramedic school through District funds.
19 Todd has been a great investment and has been a great employee for the
20 District thus far and will continue to be a great asset as an Engineer.

21 Dave Melkonian joined the District in 2012 as a Paramedic and has done a
22 wonderful job thus far. We are excited to have him continue to serve the
23 District as an Engineer.

24 Ron Johnson joined the District in 2000 from East Fork Fire and came to us
25 as a Paramedic and is now being promoted to Engineer. We are also excited
26 to have him continue to work and be recognized within the District in his
27 new capacity.

28
29 **3. Badge Pinning Ceremony for the Fire Inspector Jennifer Donohue**
30 **(Presented by Interim Fire Chief Ryan Sommers)**

31 Interim Chief Sommers introduced Jennifer Donohue as the new Fire
32 Inspector who works in prevention with Assistant Fire Marshal Mark Regan.
33 She brings her 20+ years of experience with her from Reno Fire and we are
34 excited to have her with us.

35
36 ***Chair Herron adjourned the meeting for a short break from 12:10 –***
37 ***12:15 p.m.***

38
39 **4. Discussion & Possible Action to purchase two new ambulances**
40 **rather than lease (Presented by Business Manager Sharon Cary)**

41 Business Manager Sharon Cary explained to the Board of Directors that it
42 makes financial sense to use the funds we have to purchase the
43 ambulances. A year ago, the District paid off \$312,000 of debt so that we
44 did not incur that interest.

45

1 Director Perry made a motion to approve the purchase instead of lease the
2 ambulance(s). Director Zahler seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

3
4 **5. Discussion & Possible Action to purchase a demo ambulance from
5 Braun Northwest (Presented by Interim Fire Chief Ryan Sommers)**

6 Interim Chief Sommers explained to the Board of Directors that in March,
7 one of the District's ambulances was involved in a motor vehicle accident on
8 Mt. Rose Hwy. The cab and chassis issue has been resolved, but the
9 ambulance box issue is still having trouble with the Insurance Company. We
10 have been borrowing ambulances because we have an old fleet and have
11 been having difficulties, so this demo ambulance from Braun would help fill a
12 hole in our current fleet. The District would also receive a discount on the
13 demo ambulance, so it would also make financial sense for the District as
14 well.

15 This demo ambulance would count as one of the two that was just approved
16 in the item previously and in the budget. Interim Chief Sommers asked that
17 the Board approve the purchase of this demo ambulance so that the District
18 can receive one in a timely manner and the second can be ordered and
19 would probably arrive in spring 2017.

20 Director Perry asked if the Insurance Company is going to total the
21 ambulance and cut the District a check or...? Interim Chief Sommers said
22 that we should receive \$48,000 and some change which includes the gurney
23 and stair chair which have to be replaced any time an ambulance is involved
24 in an accident. It is a requirement that it gets replaced. \$19,000 of that goes
25 towards the gurney and stair chair and the rest will go towards a new cab
26 and chassis, which still puts us at about \$4,000 out of pocket to replace the
27 cab and chassis.

28 Director Perry asked where the contention is with the ambulance and
29 whether it is the box and what it is worth or if it is something else. Interim
30 Chief Sommers explained that the contention is that the Insurance Adjuster
31 said that they can repair the box for \$11,000 but Braun said that's not
32 possible and that it is a minimum of \$25,000. The Insurance Company says
33 that they are not responsible for the repair and re-mounting of the box onto
34 a different chassis, but it makes no sense to repair a patient box and leave it
35 on a wrecked chassis. Braun is trying to work with the adjuster to get the
36 entire thing covered by our Insurance Company.

37 Director Smith expressed concern about why it has taken so long to replace
38 the ambulance that was involved in the wreck and that it has taken far too
39 long (6 months) to replace it. This is one of our main pieces of equipment
40 and Director Smith expressed his frustration over this taking so long and
41 that it has placed an unnecessary burden on the District.

42 Director Perry wanted to make sure that this demo ambulance would be
43 considered one of the two that was just approved in the previous agenda
44 item. Interim Chief Sommers said that the demo ambulance would in fact
45 count as one of the two ambulance approved for purchase in the previous
46 agenda item. He also explained that on Monday, the Braun representative

1 was here and explained some of the channels that we were unaware of and
2 then he went to the Insurance Adjusters doorstep to talk more with her
3 about the wrecked ambulance. If the District buys the demo ambulance, the
4 District would have to loan the ambulance back to Braun to attend Fire
5 Shows West, which would actually be a great way to get the District's name
6 out in front of the public.

7 Business Manager Sharon Cary said that the ambulance fund has about half
8 a million dollars in it currently, which means that the District would be able
9 to pay for the ambulances outright without any issues.

10 Direct Perry asked whether there is anything the District can do in order to
11 be whole on accessories like this to ensure that we get full replacement cost
12 on things like this. Legal Counsel Devon Reese said he has not seen
13 Insurance Companies provide any such agreement or set-up. Generally,
14 that's why you have an ambulance fund for things that pop up that need to
15 be taken care of.

16 Director Warner suggested that the District contact the Nevada Department
17 of Insurance and express concern over our Insurance Company's handling of
18 this issue. Legal Counsel Devon Reese advised that it would premature at
19 this point to do so and that he will evaluate the situation and get back with
20 the Board about further action.

21
22 Director Smith made a motion to buy the demo ambulance and Director
23 Perry seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

24 25 **6. Discussion, Update & Possible Action on appeal of Cowan Case** 26 **(Presented by Legal Counsel)**

27 Legal Counsel Devon Reese has been watching a companion case out of Las
28 Vegas and the Nevada Supreme Court issued a final on the case. It is Legal
29 Counsel's recommendation that the District settles its case so that we do not
30 incur more costs associated with an appeal because it is most likely going to
31 result in the same outcome as the case out of Las Vegas, which will most
32 likely not be favorable to the District. Legal Counsel is looking for direction
33 and approval from the Board of Directors to pursue settling the case. The
34 Board agreed and approved Legal Counsel to move forward with pursuing a
35 settlement on the Cowan case. The Board agreed with Legal Counsel's
36 recommendation to settle the Cowan Case.

37 38 **7. Discussion, Update & Possible Action on the Fire Safe Counsel** 39 **Bankruptcy (Presented by Interim Fire Chief Ryan Sommers)**

40 Legal Counsel Devon Reese updated the Board of Directors on the NV Fire
41 Safe Counsel Bankruptcy and explained that for the last several months, the
42 District and Legal Counsel have been in front of bankruptcy court and that
43 the government has allocated the funds incorrectly and unfairly. The District
44 has been trying to figure out how to get the correct amount that we are
45 owed paid back to us, however it looks like the offer and amount that has

1 been determined, which is \$192,000, is the "best scenario". That does mean
2 that the District would be settling for significantly less than we are owed.
3 Legal Counsel Devon Reese did express to the Board that working with the
4 department of justice has been a very garish experience and that he and his
5 firm have worked very hard but have not been very fruitful in their efforts.
6 The District would be withdrawing their objections to the current legal
7 direction and appeals process and that we would also be withdrawing the
8 objection to the current procedural posture and moving forward with the
9 settlement amount of \$192,000.

10 Director Warner expressed that while he supports Legal Counsel's direction,
11 it is an unfortunate outcome to have to settle for the reduced amount of
12 funds.

13
14 **OLD BUSINESS:** None.

15
16 **REPORTS:**

17 **A. Legal Counsel Reports** None.

18
19 **B. Board of Directors Comments/ Reports** None.

20
21 **C. Fire Chief Reports**

22 Interim Chief Sommers informed the Board of Directors that at about 3am
23 on Sunday, August 7th, the District responded to a fatal structure fire. It has
24 been rough on the District, the neighborhood and the family involved. The
25 District will continue to follow up with the employees to make sure everyone
26 is ok. There have been some rumors about the response time to the incident
27 that are incorrect. The real response time was 4 minutes and 28 seconds for
28 the first engine to arrive on scene. We thank East Fork Fire, Truckee Fire and
29 the Insurance Adjuster who have all come and helped with the scene and
30 investigation.

31 Fire Inspector Jennifer Donohue informed the Board that the case is still
32 under investigation and we are still waiting for reports from the medical
33 examiner's office. 16 – 17 man hours between Assistant Fire Marshal Mark
34 Regan and Fire Inspector Jennifer Donohue have been spent in attempts to
35 determine the cause of the fire. The District is able to rule out 3 of the 4
36 potential causes of the fire but we are not ready to release the entire
37 detailed report yet. The community meeting was rescheduled and Interim
38 Chief Sommers and Chair Herron will attend when it does get rescheduled to
39 help communicate with the neighborhood.

40 A Type 3 Engine has been sent to California to help back-fill for incidents this
41 season. The Wildland Crew is on the Strawberry Fire and there was a fatality
42 on that incident (none of our crew was involved but it was adjacent to their
43 position on the fire). The District will pull them when they return to District
44 and make sure that they receive the support they need regarding that
45 incident.

46 August 29th is the Tahoe Fund Dinner at Sand Harbor and the District has

1 been asked to provide an ambulance for that event. However, we will most
2 likely not be reimbursed for that time. Heller, Feinstein and Boxer will be
3 attending that event. August 31st will be the Tahoe Summit event and we
4 are working with the Sheriff's Office, Secret Service and other agencies to
5 help provide support for that event. The District does not plan on staffing an
6 ambulance at that event and have not been requested to as of yet, but Chief
7 Sommers will keep the Board updated as things unfold.

8 Interim Chief Sommers has contacted Tahoe Douglas FPD about some of the
9 overages they are receiving from the NV Fire Safe Counsel Bankruptcy.
10 NLTFPD and Tahoe Douglas will work together to see that if they are paid an
11 overage, what fuels work or agreement can be made between the two
12 Districts so that we can get some of what we are owed while providing
13 services to their District as well. Truckee Meadows may also receive an
14 overage and will also be involved in discussions about how these overages
15 may be repaid and distributed more evenly among the Districts.

16 **D. Chief Officers Reports**

17 Battalion Chief Jeff Sambrano wanted to thank the Board of Directors on
18 approving the agenda item to purchase the two ambulances as they are
19 much needed in the District. The line personnel appreciate the support the
20 Board has given to the District thus far.

21 **E. Business Manager Reports**

22 Business Manager Sharon Cary informed the Board that the auditors will be
23 here September 6th for two weeks.

24 **F. Public Education Information Officer Reports**

25 Tia Rancourt said that the Paramedic Refresher is getting ready and
26 prepared as we speak. Vendor letters and registration are continuing to
27 move forward as we inch closer to early December.

28 **NRS 241.020 RE: PUBLIC COMMENT. This is a time for the public to 29 comment on any matter, whether or not it is Included on the agenda 30 of this meeting.**

31 Interim Chief Sommers informed the Board that last Friday the District
32 hosted a memorial service for Ron Cromwell and wanted to thank the Board
33 of Directors for allowing that to happen. The family and community were
34 both very appreciative of the event and District's assistance with it.

35 **Meeting Adjournment.** Chair Herron adjourned the meeting at 12:51 p.m.
36
37
38
39

40
41
42
43
44
45
46 _____
Elizabeth Erdelyi, Secretary

Susan Herron, Chair