

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

3
4 **July 17, 2019**

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

7
8 **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Chairman McKay called the meeting to
9 order at 12:00 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 Greg McKay, Chairman; Susan Herron, Vice-Chairman; Denise Bremer,
14 Secretary-Treasurer; Art Cross, Director; James Costalupes, Director.

15
16 **GUESTS PRESENT:** Fire Chief Ryan Sommers, NLTFPD; Sharon Cary,
17 NLTFPD; Geno Menchetti, Legal Counsel; Bryan Calder, NLTFPD; Mark
18 Regan, NLTFPD; Tia Rancourt, NLTFPD; Isaac Powning, NLTFPD; Dave
19 McClellan, NLTFPD; Steve Higley, NLTFPD; Justin Ashby, NLTFPD; April
20 Shackelford, NLTFPD; Michael Brown, R & R Partners; Judy Echols, Apollo
21 Neighborhood; Bill Echols, Apollo Neighborhood; Stephanie Stehling, Apollo
22 Neighborhood; and Dawn Zemo, Apollo Neighborhood.

23
24 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Approved as submitted.

25
26 **NRS 241.020 RE: PUBLIC COMMENT: This is a Time for the Public to**
27 **Comment on any Matter, Whether or Not it is Included on the**
28 **Agenda of this Meeting.**

29 Tracy Collins, Accountant for NLTFPD, presented Director Costalupes a
30 birthday cupcake and a card from the District. She led the group in the
31 birthday song. Director Costalupes said thank you.

32
33 **CONSENT AGENDA:** Consent agenda approved as submitted.

34
35 **Approval of Minutes of the May 22, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting**

36
37 **Review of Accounts Payable for May 2019.**

38
39 **Review of Accounts Payable for June 2019.**

40
41 **Approval of the May 2019 Monthly Management Report.**

42
43 **Approval of the June 2019 Monthly Management Report.**

44
45
46 **NEW BUSINESS:**

1
2 **1. Report to the NLTFPD Board of Directors, of the Apollo neighborhood**
3 **on their pilot project of Defensible Space and Fuel Reduction on**
4 **private and Forest Service Lands in their neighborhood. (Presented**
5 **by Dawn Zemo and Judy Echols)**

6 Ms. Zemo thanked the District for the opportunity to collaborate with the Fire
7 District and homeowners. Ms. Zemo gave a presentation to the Board which
8 is incorporated herewith by reference.
9

10 Director Costalupes questioned if any kind of agreement or contract was
11 made with any specific logging or tree feller company. Ms. Zemo said no,
12 they worked with whomever they could get a bid from and whomever was
13 available at the time which was Rockwood, Bushwhackers and others.
14 Director Costalupes suggested to work with licensed contractors. Ms. Zemo
15 also reiterated that Brian Garrett, USFS, also set guidelines requiring anyone
16 working on USFS lands to be a licensed contractor as well.
17

18 Director Cross questioned if grant funds are available for this type of project
19 work. Chief Powning replied that during this project, the challenge has been
20 the administrative aspects of working on USFS lands and adhering to the
21 'Good Neighbor Authority' (GNA) and the two different state adaptations for
22 California and Nevada. The GNA in Nevada gives NLTFPD the authority to
23 work on their lands but currently has no financial support component in
24 place, whereas the California GNA has both the authority to work on their
25 lands and the financial support (LTRA) component. Chief Powning stated that
26 yes, grant funds are available for these types of pilot programs however
27 when working on USFS lands, that affects the different funding options that
28 are available.
29

30 Chairman McKay commended Ms. Zemo and Ms. Echols for their efforts.
31

32 Director Herron thanked Ms. Zemo and Ms. Echols for their efforts and asked
33 to have a summary of their presentation made available to add to the
34 minutes. She also thanked Fire District staff for their support and oversight
35 of the project.
36

37 Director Bremer also applauded the efforts of Ms. Zemo and Ms. Echols.
38

39 Chief Sommers applauded the efforts of Ms. Zemo and Ms. Echols because
40 not only did they come to the Fire District with a situation but also, with a
41 solution.
42

43 **2. Presentation and update by R & R Partners (Presented by Lobbyist**
44 **Michael Brown)**

45
46 Mr. Brown gave a presentation to the Board which is incorporated herewith
47 by reference.
48

49 After Mr. Brown's presentation, Chairman McKay asked about the status of
50 ambulance transport business. Mr. Brown said that everything is still in place

1 and that he hopes we will reach out to Lea Lamborn because there will be
2 some changes that will take place with the MCO (managed care organization)
3 programs that will affect our Medicaid reimbursement rates. The State Health
4 Department was going to put it off for two years, which would have put us
5 two years behind receiving any funds once we go through our audits. The
6 State Chief's Association wrote a letter to the State and received a response
7 saying the State will continue to follow the principles as outlined and that in
8 January of 2020 we will start seeing the payments/reimbursements as well
9 as the MCO payments (which will affect Clark and Washoe counties). This is
10 significant because Washoe County has a lot of managed healthcare
11 participants. The cash inflow will open more windows and doors when it
12 comes to the amount that we can charge for the real services that are taking
13 place.

14
15 **OLD BUSINESS:**

16 None

17
18 **REPORTS:**

19
20 ***Legal Counsel Reports – (Legal Counsel, Geno Menchetti)**

21 None

22
23 ***Board of Director Comments/Reports:**

24 Director Cross asked Fire Marshal Regan for update of the education
25 campaign for short-term rental program. Fire Marshal Regan said he would
26 cover that question in his Chief Report.

27
28 ***Fire Chief's Report.**

29
30 Chief Sommers referenced Senate Bill 329 and some issues that are coming
31 out of that; one of those being the anticipated power outages that will be
32 scheduled. He will be attending a town hall meeting tonight as part of a
33 panel, along with Washoe County Emergency Manager and other first
34 responders. More information to come on this issue after the meetings take
35 place.

36
37 Tuesday, August 20th will be the Lake Tahoe Summit sponsored by Senator
38 Feinstein at Valhalla in South Lake Tahoe. The Chief asked that if anyone is
39 interested in attending to please let him know and he would add them to the
40 invite list.

41
42 There's been a lot of discussion going on between CAL OES (California Office
43 of Emergency Services) and the CFAA (the California Fire for Assistance
44 Agreement). It's an agreement that allows State and local governments to
45 participate and/or suppress Forest Service fires; mostly in California. That
46 agreement expires at the end of the year. There is uncertainty if that
47 agreement will be renewed. There is a trickle-down effect to us in Region 4.

1 To summarize, what this means is that the Fire Reciprocal Act that was
2 written in 1950's and updated in 2009, states that it is illegal for the Forest
3 Service to pay local jurisdictions for wildfire suppression outside of their
4 adjoining forest. To summarize, after January 1, 2020, for example, we can
5 go to a fire in the Truckee Meadows Unit and help them suppress it and get
6 reimbursed. Our fire suppression efforts anywhere beyond the Tahoe Basin,
7 will not be reimbursed. There is serious backlash going on with this. The
8 Forest Service personnel, at our level, understand they do not have the
9 resources or assets to suppress these fires; it's the overhead and
10 administration in Washington DC that think they don't need our help. On a
11 local and State level, we are coming together to do our best to clarify this
12 agreement language.

13
14 There's a lot talk right now about water evacuations with respect to a
15 wildland fire event. A lot of meetings are taking place in South Lake Tahoe.
16 We have not attended these meetings just yet. Division Chief, Chris
17 Anthony, CAL FIRE has been updating Regional Chiefs with the initial
18 discussions.

19
20 The Parasol Tahoe Community Foundation (PTCF) contacted myself and
21 Chief Powning about potential available funds they can put towards
22 educating our community about defensible space, the wildfire threat, and
23 what homeowners can do. We would start by doing a defensible space
24 evaluation of their building and then our hand crew would perform the work
25 (as in-kind grant match) and then PTCF would put up signage for a self-
26 guided walking tour that explains what was done and visually depict what
27 proper defensible space looks like.

28
29 Last week, University of Nevada Reno came up to film a mini-documentary
30 on the ALERT Wildfire program and they spent quite a bit of them with him
31 doing an interview which should be coming out soon.

32
33 Fire Responses – Myself, Chief Powning, and IT Manager Alan Green were
34 deployed to the Jasper Incident Saturday, July 15th. It was a quick
35 assignment.

36
37 One of our Engineers, who spent 27 years in service with the District, Norm
38 Songey passed away. His celebration of life service will be Saturday, July
39 20th, 12 p.m.at the Cornerstone Community Church. All are welcome to
40 attend.

41 ***Chief Officers Reports.**

42 Assistant Fire Chief Calder presented a recap of July 4th activities: it was a
43 great team effort between prevention, fuels, our line personnel, IVGID and
44 Washoe County Sheriff. It was the smoothest event that he has been
45 involved with thus far. It was downscaled a bit this year, and he thinks
46

1 we've found the sweet spot in terms of size of event. We had our jet skis
2 and boat out for the fireworks as well as the military demonstrations. We
3 had two emergency medical services tents set up along with a mobile utility
4 task vehicle. We had our advanced life support equipment on which allowed
5 us keep ambulances from having to come in and out all the time unless
6 patients were transported. We had about a dozen patient contacts and
7 several transports.

8
9 The day after the 4th of July, Chief Sommers received an email regarding two
10 calls we had right as the fireworks were ending, both at the Lone Eagle.
11 Right as people were trying to get out, our line personnel were trying to gain
12 access to the patients having issues. As our crew was trying to get to a
13 patient having a serious medical issue, his wife noted that our crew was
14 efficient, helpful and provided problematical care whilst at the same time
15 being kind helping them at a very difficult time. They have a vacation home
16 here in Incline and are very happy to know that we have such outstanding
17 firefighter/paramedics. It's not always easy to show compassion and
18 kindness in the middle of a chaotic situation but once again our guys were
19 able to do that.

20
21 Fire Marshal Mark Regan said that he would like to echo Chief Calder's
22 comments regarding the 4th of July. It was a team effort, thank you to the
23 Staff and the folks doing the permitting. I'd like to thank Shelia and Indra
24 with IVGID, and the Visitors Bureau/Incline-Crystal Bay Firework Coalition
25 Group with Andy Whyman. Communications went very well.

26
27 Prevention Report – from July 1 of last year to June 30th, prevention along
28 with Fuels Department did 632 plan reviews and correction reviews (includes
29 any type of building permit, pre-TRPA permits, and fire alarm suppression
30 systems and the corrections; up 146 from last year; up from 307 two years
31 ago). Construction is moving along, not a lot of big projects, but a lot of
32 projects in general. Out of those inspections, 73 were pre-TRPA so again the
33 Fuels Department, specifically Zac Bray, is trying to manage that. We strive
34 for a ten-day turnaround, sometimes we go a bit beyond that when we have
35 a large influx of plans that come in. He thanked both Jennifer and Zac for
36 their hard work and putting in extra hours to make sure the plans get done
37 in a timely manner.

38
39 We billed out approximately \$88,000, a bit down from last year and the
40 reason being is that amount also included citations and the type of projects
41 that we had last year were larger projects (i.e. Boulder Bay); and this year
42 we didn't get the 2nd phase of Boulder Bay and Cal Neva like we were
43 anticipating, which will bring in approximately \$40,000 - \$50,000 in permit
44 fees. The citations numbers are down as a result of prevention and the line
45 personnel going over to Sierra Nevada College (SNC) and spending time
46 educating SNC Staff and students. With the support of Chief Sommers and

1 approval to utilize the citation funds to bring in the "After the Fire" education
2 program; this program is now taught by line personnel every semester
3 which is helping to keep citation numbers down. Now when we do have an
4 activated fire alarm, the line personnel take the time and inspects every
5 single room. The education has helped; citations went from \$15,000 (30-40
6 citations a year) to 4 citations written this last year. We are seeing a
7 fluctuation in fees because although we have more projects, they are not the
8 mega projects we've had in the past. The prediction that he was thinking
9 was around \$90,000 when he proposed the additional position and so we're
10 right in the ball park as we brought in \$117,000 last year so we have
11 difference of \$27,000.

12
13 Vacation rentals – we're working with Washoe County; they did vote to
14 move forward with regulations on vacation rentals. They did meet with Host
15 Compliance which is a company that two years ago he mentioned. They are
16 the company that will filter out all the vacation rentals; they were able to do
17 a contract with Host Compliance prior to having regulations in place. We met
18 with them on June 24th and Washoe County met with them on July 11th. The
19 discussions focused on: 1) safety, 2) being equal across the board (property
20 management companies vs online companies), and 3) inspections – fees,
21 money and personnel and how all this will come into play; the room tax
22 collected right now does not come back to the community or for inspections,
23 but rather goes to the Reno Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority.

24
25 There is another invite only meeting coming up with Washoe County and top
26 property managers –Vacation Station, Sun Bear, Incline Vacation Rentals
27 and Goldfish Properties to talk about what their positives/negatives are.
28 They will meet with Washoe County on the 24th. Realistic timeframe for
29 proposed regulation verbiage to come out will likely be beginning of next
30 year. We discussed some ideas with the property management companies
31 such as doing home safety inspections the first year as a 'Train the Trainer'
32 and then in five years the property management company does their own for
33 a discounted rate for example. Also, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency is
34 having a vacation rental meeting right now at 1pm so he won't be able to
35 give you an update on that today.

36
37 We did have some complaints over the 4th of July on vacation rentals such as
38 overcrowding, people using tiki torches, and campfires in the backyard.
39 However, we also went into properties that were not vacation rentals and
40 that were not following rules and regulations on campfires.
41 The word is getting out there, we are seeing more permits for gas fire pits
42 and the community is getting involved when they see smoke or fire, they are
43 calling us and letting us know.

44
45 Director Cross asked if the Host Compliance data will be available to the
46 Board? Fire Marshal Regan said yes, it will be available, and that Washoe

1 County signed a contract with them for \$15,000. We have not been notified
2 if that cost will be passed down to us yet such as being incorporated into
3 fees.

4
5 Director Cross asked a question regarding being proactive about inspection
6 program or does that need to be directed by Washoe County? Fire Marshal
7 Regan said that Washoe County needs to come up with some sort of
8 regulation proposal and is still gathering information. Once we have that
9 direction, we'll have better idea of the details. If the Board elected to look at
10 the education agreement that we have that will expire in October, we can
11 look at doing public input meetings, or run along the side of Washoe County
12 and have some kind of inspection program like we do for our businesses
13 right now or mirror what Washoe County is doing.

14
15 Director Cross asked, would you venture to say that Washoe County/North
16 Lake Tahoe Fire Protection inspection program would look like for example,
17 Park City, Utah, South Lake Tahoe, Douglas County; all the other places
18 they've already implemented these inspections on short-term rentals? Fire
19 Marshal Regan answered that they're all going to look similar. We've looked
20 at Henderson, Park City, the draft resolution that he presented a couple
21 years ago and all the resolutions and agreements around the lake. They will
22 look at what will benefit the community to make it safe and look at some of
23 the resolutions in place, including resolution 17-1 and talking to the property
24 managers on occupancy and potentially increasing those numbers while
25 taking into consideration the parking implications of doing that as well.

26
27 ***Fuels Management Reports.**

28 Fuels Division Chief Isaac Powning reported that these numbers are up to
29 July 1st: For Defensible Space Evaluations, we've completed 183, with 53
30 being in compliance. Chipping in NLTFPD – 87 residents and in North Tahoe,
31 215. Acres treated – 65 acres here in town, 15 in North Tahoe jurisdiction
32 for a total of 80 acres treated in 4 weeks. As far as fire response, Rifle Peak
33 was on the Jasper incident the last 3 days and Slide Mountain was at the
34 Airport Two fire in Markleeville and got back from that last night. We
35 conducted our Block Party on Lariat Circle last week, we had 50 attendees.

36
37 ***Business Manager Reports.**

38 Business Manager Sharon Cary reported that she is working on finalizing
39 year end numbers and getting ready for auditors.

40
41 ***Public Education Information Officer Reports.**

42 Public Education/Information Officer Tia Rancourt reported: EMS Week in
43 May, we visited Lake Tahoe School and the elementary school, reaching 260
44 students. Memorial Day weekend we did an event with ACE Village Hardware
45 and the realtors focusing on Home Safety Education. Myself and Jeffrey
46 Smith had an information table along with the on-duty crew. We saw

1 approximately 100 folks. Lake Tahoe Wildfire Awareness month was in June,
 2 we held our 'Wilder Than Wild' movie night the end of May at Sierra Nevada
 3 College. Our panel members included: US Forest Service, Washoe County
 4 Sheriff's Office, Washoe County Emergency Management and NV Energy. We
 5 had about 70 folks attend that event. Summer Water Safety program was
 6 the last pub ed event for the school year, in June. This program is for the 3rd
 7 - 5th graders, and we had the Lake Tahoe School join us this year as well at
 8 Ski Beach. We saw about 180 students, thank you to the on-duty crew and
 9 Alan Green for helping with that event. Thank you to Marge and Manny
 10 Sylvester for supporting our Pancake Breakfast this year, we came in around
 11 \$3,300 for costs this year and we served approximately 850-1,000 people.
 12 The event went very well, it was nice to set up 2 days prior to the event with
 13 C shift and we had A shift on-duty the day of the event; thank you to all for
 14 your help and thank you to Rifle Peak hand crew and Alan Green. CPR
 15 numbers - we had 89 classes and certified 549 students over the last two
 16 months.

17
 18 ***Local 2139 Union Reports.**


19 Steve Higley, Vice President, Local 2139, stated he concurs with Chief
 20 Calder, that the pancake breakfast was the smoothest that he's seen in 19
 21 years. The union printed battle born themed t-shirts this year and sold them
 22 at the pancake breakfast. The proceeds go to children's cancer and the
 23 Northern Nevada Children's Cancer Foundation. They had the most sales this
 24 year as we made \$3,880. Thank you to the community for their generous
 25 donations.

26
 27 **NRS 241.020 RE: PUBLIC COMMENT. This is a time for the public to**
 28 **comment on any matter, whether or not it is Included on the agenda**
 29 **of this meeting.**

30
 31 Chairman McKay asked who the crew was that worked on Kyle Parsons so he
 32 can thank them. Chief Calder acknowledged that he would get the
 33 information for Director McKay.

34
 35 **Meeting Adjournment.** Chairman McKay adjourned the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

36
 37 
 38 _____
 Tia Rancourt, Acting Secretary

36
 37 
 38 _____
 Greg McKay, Chairman