

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

Friday, March 28, 2025

LOCATION: 863 Tanager, Incline Village, Nevada.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Chair Herron called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

***Roll Call of the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District Board of Directors:** Upon roll call, the following Board Members were present: Susan Herron, Chair; Charley Miller, Vice-Chairman; Phil Klein, Director; Ken Leijon, Director present virtually. Denise Bremer, Secretary-Treasurer, was absent.

***Guests present:** Fire Chief, Ryan Sommers, NLTFPD; Assistant Fire Chief, Russell Barnum, NLTFPD; Division Chief, Isaac Powning, NLTFPD; Fire Marshal, John James, NLTFPD; NLTFPD Legal Counsel; PIO Tia Rancourt, NLTFPD; Logistics Manager, Alan Green, NLTFPD; Accounting Manager, Thelesa Montoya-Neves, NLTFPD; Battalion Chief Casey Quinlan, NLTFPD; Engineer, Jeff Cutler, NLTFPD; Captain, Monte Santos, NLTFPD; Captain, Tommy Kokenge, NLTFPD; Engineer, Jason Knight, NLTFPD; FF Michael Lucey, NLTFPD; Captain, Jake Chatelle, NLTFPD; FF/PM Cory Crosby, NLTFPD; FF/PM Re Neilson, NLTFPD; FF/PM Jill Andersen, NLTFPD; FF/PM Nick Ryan, NLTFPD; FF/PM Jack Ryan, NLTFPD; FF/PM Sebastian Ramirez, NLTFPD; FF, Kerrie Tonking, NLTFPD; FF, Justin McKendry, NLTFPD; Public, Forest Duerksen; Public, Janis Neilson; Public, Michaela Tonking; Public, Donna Tonking; Public, Kip Tonking; Public, Miguel Flora.

***Approval of Agenda: Approved as submitted.**

***NRS 241.020 RE: Public Comment. This is a Time for the Public to Comment on any Matter, Whether or Not it is Included on the Agenda of this Meeting: No Public Comment.**

CONSENT AGENDA: Approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes of January 15, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting.

Review of Accounts Payable for January 2025.

Review of Accounts Payable for February 2025.

1 Approval of the January 2025 Monthly Management Report.

2
3 Approval of the February 2025 Monthly Management Report.

4
5
6 **OLD BUSINESS:**

7
8 None

9
10 **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 11
12 **1.** Badge Pinning Ceremony for new Firefighter/Paramedic Nicholas
13 Ryan, Firefighter Justin McKendry, Firefighter/Paramedic Rex
14 Neilson, and Firefighter Kerrie Tonking.

15
16 Chief Sommers presented the new four new employees and advised
17 they had been previously pinned upon completion of the Fire
18 Academy and would now be pinned before the Board.

19
20 Firefighter/Paramedic (FF/PM) Nicholas Ryan was introduced to the
21 Board and was pinned by his brother, FF/PM Jack Ryan.

22
23 FF Justin McKendry was introduced to the Board and was pinned by
24 his friend, Miguel Flora.

25
26 FF/PM Rex Neilson was introduced to the Board and was pinned by
27 his spouse, Janis Neilson.

28
29 FF Kerrie Tonking was introduced to the Board and was pinned by
30 her father, Kip Tonking.

31
32 Chair Herron congratulated the new hires and welcomed them to the
33 North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District.

34
35 Chair Herron excused guests from the Board meeting to enjoy
36 refreshments.

- 37
38 **2.** Discussion of and Possible Action to accept the Fiscal Year 2023-2024
39 Audit Report from Eide Bailly, presented by Chief Financial Officer
40 Signorelli.

41
42 Chief Financial Officer Jackie Signorelli introduced Kurt Schlicker,
43 Audit Partner with Eide Bailly and recommended the Board accept

1 the audited statements for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024.

2
3 A formal presentation of the audit findings was delivered by Mr.
4 Schlicker. A recording of the presentation is available to the public
5 and may be accessed through NLTFPD Administration Office or
6 www.nltfpd.org.

7
8 The Board of Directors (BOD) did not have any questions and said
9 they appreciated the presentation.

10
11 Director Klein made a motion to accept the Fiscal Year 2023-2024
12 Audit Report from Eide Bailly.

13
14 Vice-Chair Miller seconded the motion.

15
16 Chair Herron called the question.

17
18 Motion passes 3 to 0.

- 19
20 **3.** Discussion of and Possible Action to Award the Contract for the North
21 Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District's (NLTFPD) Annual Audit for Fiscal
22 Year 2024-2025 to Eide Bailly, presented by Chief Financial Officer
23 Signorelli.

24
25 Chair Herron asked if there were any questions on this agenda item.

26
27 Vice-Chair Miller made a motion to Award the Contract for the
28 NLTFPD Annual Audit for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to Eide Bailly.

29
30 Director Klein seconded the motion.

31
32 Chair Herron called the question.

33
34 All in favor.

35
36 **REPORTS:**

37
38 ***Legal Reports**

39
40 Legal Counsel Paul Cotsonis had no report for BOD.

41
42 ***BOD Reports**

43
44 No report.

***Fire Chief Report presented by Fire Chief Sommers.**

Chief Sommers reported on the following items:

Chief Sommers will be presenting the Public Safety Pier to the new Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) Board at their request and advised he will be asking that it is changed to the First Responder Pier.

Chief Sommers added that this project has already received approval from TRPA for a location somewhere in the Incline Village–Crystal Bay area. We've conducted substantial research and continue to work closely with TRPA on the feasibility. At this time, the only viable site appears to be just off Burnt Cedar Beach. Chief Sommers advised that all he is asking from IVGID is permission to explore this option. We're not saying it will happen — we simply need the opportunity to assess whether the site is truly viable. If it proves feasible, the next step would be to identify potential funding sources.

Chief Sommers and Division Chief (DC) Powning attended an IVGID meeting for a Fuels Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). There is potential for an increase in fees by IVGID. Chief Sommers has asked for meetings with IVGID Trustees, Director Klein and NLTFPD for further education.

Director Klein referenced a news article on the Tahoe Daily News and said the article commented on the \$200,000. Director Klein stated that it is clear to him from reading that is that two of the newer trustees do not realize how much cost there is, that IVGID is not paying for, but they are getting the benefit of. He added that if the grants that are offsetting their costs were not in place, then their price would increase because they must get this stuff cleared. In addition to the notes and the conversation conducted, Director Klein believes that we should have a very clear chart that lays out the full cost of IVGID's clearing and Fuels Management, and what their financial responsibility would be should the grants not be in place.

Vice-Chair Miller asked if the \$200,000 is a match. Chief Sommers explained the \$200,000 funds, along with the process of true work, grant finding and grant matching along with utilizing funds on homeowners' backyards for trees on IVGID lands or cleanup on the golf course.

The discussion continued with true costs, resources to continue annual clearings, and the history of the agreement.

Chair Herron advised Director Klein to be working on this with Chief Sommers due to a conflict of interest.

1 Washoe County Fire Consolidation Bill, Chief Sommers is doing his best to
2 keep the district out of that, however, at the suggestion of the district's
3 lobbyist, this will be an agenda item at the next BOD meeting for guidance
4 on the approach of the Bill.

5 Chief Sommers will be traveling to Washington DC on Sunday to attend
6 meetings with Politicians on different topics to include fire billing. Chief
7 Sommers will also be introducing himself to the Western Fire Chiefs
8 Association as he has been asked to be part of a National Wildfire Policy
9 Committee representing the State of Nevada (NV).

10
11 Chief Sommers has been appointed to the IMAC committee and advised he
12 sent the BOD the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) audit documents.

13
14 Chief Sommers addressed an article about evacuations and is working with
15 area Chiefs to address the article.

16
17 End of report.

18
19 Vice-Chair Miller asked for more information about the pier.

20
21 Chief Sommers explained the use of the pier and the agencies that would
22 have access to the pier.

23
24 ***Chief Officers Report presented by Assistant Fire Chief Barnum.**

25
26 Assistant Fire Chief (AFC) Barnum reported on the following:

27
28 Donation of 240 pieces of old Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)
29 have been donated to a Fire Department in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

30
31 At Chief Sommers request, AFC Barnum located outside leadership training
32 who was brought in and the training was completed by all shifts with good
33 feedback.

34
35 Captains Academy will be held in preparation for the Captains Promotional
36 Exam that will be held May 11th, 2025.

37
38 Hyatt donated cottages for 48 hours for training. AFC Barnum thanked them
39 for their donation as it was helpful.

40
41 Training has been focused on search, trauma scenarios and orienting the
42 new employees.

43
44 Old jet skis, trailer, and training tower have been sold. The boat will be put

1 in the water next month at Sand Harbor.

2
3 Ambulance rates will be adjusted come July 1; it will equate to about a 5%
4 increase.

5 AFC Barnum will be meeting with California Mutual Aid partners to discuss
6 boundary drops and ways to more efficiently deliver care.

7
8 End or report.

9
10 ***Prevention Report presented by Fire Marshal James.**

11
12 Fire Prevention reports were submitted as part of the Board packet.

13
14 Fire Marshal (FM) James reported the fee schedule is being looked to update
15 accordingly.

16
17 End of report.

18
19 ***Fuels Management Report as presented by Division Chief Powning.**

20
21 DC Powning reported on the following:

22
23 Seasonal hiring has been completed, new hires will start on May 12th and
24 returning seasonals will be brought on May 19th.

25
26 Some of the fuels crews are on vacation or training.

27
28 Work with NDF continues.

29
30 End of report.

31
32 ***Chief Financial Report presented by Chief Financial Officer Signorelli.**

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34 CFO Signorelli's report has been submitted as part of the Board packet.

35
36 CFO Signorelli introduced Thelesa Montoya-Neves who was hired as the
37 Accounting Manager.

38
39 Thelesa Montoya-Neves introduced herself to the Board and shared her
40 experience and background.

41
42 ***Public Education Information Officer Report presented by PIO**
43 **Rancourt.**
44

1 Public Information Officer (PIO) reports were included in the Board packet.

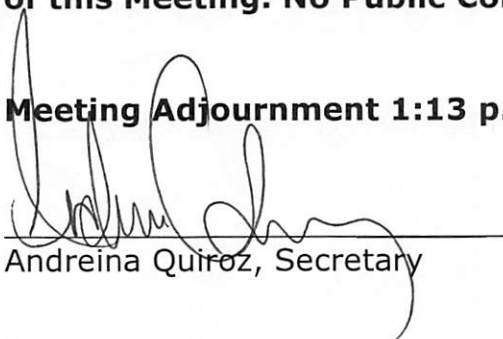
2
3 PIO Rancourt advised that the PIO job announcement has been posted and
4 advised that her final day with the district will be August 22nd, 2025.

5 ***Local Union 2139**

6
7 No report.

8
9 ***NRS 241.020 RE: Public Comment. This is a Time for the Public to**
10 **Comment on any Matter, Whether or Not it is Included on the Agenda**
11 **of this Meeting. No Public Comment.**

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14 **Meeting Adjournment 1:13 p.m.**

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18 Andreina Quiroz, Secretary

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Susan Herron, Chairman