1 2	NORTH LAKE TAHOE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
3 4	APRIL 12, 2017
5 6	LOCATION: 863 Tanager, Incline Village, Nevada.
7 8 9	MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Chairman Perry called the meeting to order at 09:01 a.m.
10 11 12 13 14	ROLL CALL OF THE NORTH LAKE TAHOE FIRE PROTECTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Upon roll call, the following Board Members were present Dennis Perry, Chair; Susan Herron, Vice-Chair; Denise Bremer, Secretary Treasurer; James Costalupes, Director; Greg McKay, Director.
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	GUESTS PRESENT: Via telephone Devon Reese, Legal Counsel; Ryan Sommers, Fire Chief; Sharon Cary, Business Manager; Bryan Calder, Assistant Fire Chief; Jeff Sambrano, Battalion Chief; Steve Eikam, Battalion Chief; Carol Green, NLTFPD; Isaac Powning, NLTFPD; Erick Rodriguez, NLTFPD; Tim Allen, NLTFPD; Jason Knight, NLTFPD; Thomas Rores, NLTFPD; Scott Peterson, NLTFPD; Tia Rancourt, NLTFPD; Jim Nadeau, Director of Government Affairs in Northern Nevada with Carrara Nevada; Mike Young, Incline Village Board of Realtors; and Beckie Dunn-Spomer, NLTFPD.
25 26	APPROVAL OF AGENDA : Chairman Perry asked for changes to the agendas, hearing none, deemed the agenda approved as submitted.
27 28 29 30 31	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. There were no public comments made at this time.
32	CONSENT AGENDA
34 35 36 37	APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 15, 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING. Director Herron said there were a couple typos that were insignificant and did not change the intent.
38	REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE FOR MARCH 2017.
40 41	APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 2017 MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT.
42 43 44	Chairman Perry, hearing no further changes to the Consent Agenda, deemed the Consent Agenda items approved as revised.
45 46	NEW BUSINESS:

Review and Discussion of the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Preliminary Budget. (Presented by Business Manager, Sharon Cary)

Chairman Perry turned the meeting over to Fire Chief Sommers. Fire Chief Sommers thanked the Board members for attending the meeting at an earlier time to discuss the NLTFPD budget as required by NRS. Fire Chief Sommers informed the Board of the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the appeal on the tax revolt issue with the Village League to Save Incline Assets, Inc. vs. the Nevada State Board of Equalization, Washoe County, Washoe County Treasurer and Washoe County Assessor. The decision is in the hands of Nevada State Board of Equalization. At this time, there is no exact dollar amount owed and it will not be determined until later this fall. The District was provided an estimate of \$6 million and that is reflected in the fiscal year 2017-18 budget. Fire Chief Sommers asked that if there were any questions to please meet with him one on one. Director McKay asked, if the State Board of Equalization does not meet until August, will it take that long to determine what amount will be owed, or will it be later this fall before the District will know how much is owed. Fire Chief Sommers responded that in the ruling there was no time frame for them to make a decision. Chairman Perry mentioned that in the meantime the District is still paying high interest on the monies owed. Fire Chief Sommers asked Devon Reese, Legal Counsel if he missed anything. Mr. Reese replied that at this time there is nothing new and he will keep Fire Chief Sommers and the Board informed of any changes.

Fire Chief Sommers turned the explanation of the budget over to Business Manager, Sharon Cary to explain and discuss.

Business Manager Cary reviewed the budget summary on page 1 of the budget binder. The proposed tax rate for the District is .6291 for this current year. This tax rate has not changed for the last 4 years and is lower than the State's proposed tax rate of .6549. Property tax revenue increased, almost 5%, due to the increase of \$90,000,000 in assessed property values in our District. Using the .6291 rate it will give the District a purposed \$8,726,876.00 in property tax revenue for the FY 17-18. Director Herron asked if we turned down the .6549 rate. Business Manager Cary responded that yes we turned down the higher rate to stay consistent and conservative in our budgeting. She asked for other questions, there were none.

Business Manager Cary moved on to explain the four different funds the District has - General, Capital Projects, Debt Service, and the Ambulance funds. All monies are received in the General Fund with exception of the Ambulance Fund which charges for services. The District has chosen to budget for FY 17-18 without transferring any money into the Capital Projects Fund or the Debt Service Fund. This will save money in the General Fund to cover the anticipated expenditures for repayment to the residents in the appeal of the lawsuit with the Village League to Save Incline Assets, Inc. vs.

the Nevada State Board of Equalization, Washoe County, Washoe County Treasurer and Washoe County Assessor.

The estimated revenues for consolidated tax have gone up 8% to \$4,000,000.00. Fuels reimbursements of \$2,517,792.00 are based on grant revenue, fuels reduction work, and offsite fire services. Permit fees are estimated to be \$104,786.00; CPR classes and other income is static. Total expenses estimated for FY17-18 are \$18,189,252.00. The Ambulance Fund transfer is increased by \$100,000.00 to cover an increase in budget requests. The Property Tax Refund of \$1,800,000.00 and Property Tax Refund interest of \$1,250,000.00 are an estimate of one half of the \$6 Million owed for the tax revolt refunds expected at the end of FY17-18. This will leave the District in a negative position of -\$2,549,454.00. The District has an estimated beginning fund balance of \$7,451,193.00. If you subtract the negative net change, there will be an estimated ending fund of \$5,199,466.00 at the end of FY 17-18.

Chairman Perry inquired about the District's remaining fund balance and what we are required to have. Business Manager Cary explained that on page 23, under the 5 Year Plan tab, the District is required to keep 4% of our operating expenses from the previous year, which is \$593,661.00. This is the NRS required ending fund balance. Currently, our ending fund balance is \$5,199,466.00. Business Manager Cary explained that in FY 2020-21 the ending fund balance required amount of \$708,435.00, comes close to the District's estimated ending fund balance of \$975,966.00. If the expenses stay the same, some changes will need to be made before FY 2021-22. These estimates are dependent on the expected tax revolt refund. Director McKay asked if the Washoe County Treasurer spreads this out over two years and would they take it out of our incoming payments. Business Manager Cary explained that, in the past, the Washoe County took it directly out of our property tax payments, as they established a payback schedule.

Director McKay inquired as to why there was not an allotment to the Debt Service Fund. Business Manager Cary responded there is no amount. Business Manager Cary explained that in FY18-19, the transfers to Debt Service and Capital Projects would resume. Business Manager Cary informed the Board that Chairman Perry had asked about financing the payments to the Washoe County Treasurer for the judgement in the tax revolt appeal. According to Mr. Johnson, JNA Consulting Group, LLC, a Public Finance Advisor, the District cannot finance a judgement. Business Manager Cary reminded the Board that this is worst-case scenario estimate and there are many things that can be done before we reach FY 2021-22.

Business Manager Cary then reviewed the summary of expenses starting on page 2 of the budget binder. She explained that most of the salaries have stayed static with only a contractual increase. She pointed out that in benefits there would be a savings throughout all departments totaling approximately \$150,000.00 due to a change in healthcare providers. On page 3, in Administrative Services, she explained that the Service and Supplies category of \$461,000.00 covers all of the operating expenses for the District. On page 4, the budget shows a full-time and a part-time IT person so there is a decrease in Salaries and Wages from last year. Director McKay inquired if the problems with our network had been resolved. Fire Chief Sommers replied, yes, he believes they have.

Business Manager Cary discussed that our Master Vehicle Technician is retiring, but until then there are still two full time mechanics for this department.

In the Operation and Suppression budget there will be a two position savings because the budget is based on a full staff. Rescue budget is for supplies and services only, no wages. Public Education is staying the same. On pages 8, 8A & 8B is a description of what the Public Education program consists of along with the Public Information Officer's budget. Prevention Administration budget covers our Assistant Fire Marshal and Fire Inspector. Public ED/CPR covers our CPR Coordinator and his program supplies. Chairman Perry asked if he is a contract employee and Business Manager Cary replied yes. Fuels Managements budget is mostly covered by Grants and out of District fires. Business Manager Cary explained there would be an estimated \$7 million in grant money coming from different sources to help fund the fuels projects listed on page 11A in the budget binder. Chairman Perry asked if the District still pays the \$500,000.00 to fuels. Business Manager Cary said yes, the District still is responsible for \$500,000.00 in the Fuels Budget. Director McKay asked if that \$7 million is spread over time. Business Manager Cary and Fuels Management Officer Isaac Powning replied that it varies depending on the grants however it is estimated to be spread over the next four to five years.

Business Manager Cary discussed the transfers out on page 12 in the budget binder, showing no transfers to Debt Service or Capital Projects for FY 17-18, in order to save for the expected tax revolt refund payments. The Ambulance Fund pays for nine fire fighter paramedics and related expenses. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) requires the District to record the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) liability, as a means to inform the public what the cost would be for an unexpected lapse of funding by PERS.

Business Manager Cary then reviewed the Operating Requests located on page 14 of the budget binder. The following items were discussed:

- 1. Ambulance Fund/EMS: The five new self-loading Stryker gurneys and installation of those gurneys that were paid for by a grant have a seven year service agreement cost of \$36,780.00.
- 2. Operations & Supplies: An increase of \$29,000.00 for the replacement and purchase of new Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for new

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- hires and Shift personnel including Turnouts, Structure boots and Wildland clothing.
 - 3. Rescue: A request for \$3,375.00 to purchase Telecrib Jr. Struts for Type 1 engines which will assist in over the side of the road rescue and extraction, and \$700.00 for two transceivers, replacement parts and supplies to assist with land and avalanche rescues.
- Fuels: There are adjustments in budget line items to purchase replacement radios. A request to increase the approved salary ranges annually based on an Annual Cost of Living Adjustment. The estimated increase for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 is \$6,136. This will allow the District to maintain retention and keep pace with the rest of the nation in such programs and will reward our current staff that are topped out in their respective ranges but remain committed to our program.

The total General Fund amount from the Operations Requests made on page 14 would be \$75,987.00. This includes the changes and additions listed above.

Business Manager Cary then directed the Board's attention to Capital Projects on page 16. The current requests for FY 17-18 under Capital Projects include the following:

- 1. Buildings & Improvements: \$15,000.00 to repair the front door of Station 12. It has been damaged by snow and weather related incidents and needs a dormer placed over it to protect and maintain the life of existing structure.
- 2. Vehicles: \$70,000.00 to replace an outdated Mechanics Utility vehicle 27 and \$40,000.00 to continue saving to replace a crew carrier. The 28 outdated vehicles and equipment are being sold at auction; six 29 vehicles and other equipment have been sold for a total of \$25,149.00 30 and credited in the "sale of fixed assets" on page 15 of the budget 31 32 binder. Director McKay asked how the District is selling these items. Fire Chief Sommers responded that after seeking legal advice, the 33 District sold a couple of items out right and the rest were sold at 34 auction in Reno. 35
 - 3. Technology: \$7,800.00 for a new domain server that will replace the Districts current server that is eight years old, \$6,000.00 for replacement of computers five years old or older, and \$12,000.00 for two new Panasonic MDC tough books laptops.
- 4. Equipment: \$171,424.00 is to replace half of the ZOLL cardiac 40 monitors; the current monitors were purchased through a grant in 41 2010 and were state of the art technology at that time. The monitors 42 in service now are out dated and not compliant with American Heart 43 Association guidelines. The price quoted is part of an agreement made 44 with the Lake Tahoe Regional Chiefs and Zoll three years ago to 45 reduce the price by approximately \$65,000.00 overall. Director Herron 46 asked if the time frame is still available for the quote. Battalion Chief 47

Sambrano answered yes and there will be an additional savings of approximately \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 in the coming years by having one of our staff trained to maintain and service these monitors. Director McKay asked if there was trade in value for the current monitors. Battalion Chief Sambrano answered yes approximately \$2,000.00 per monitor and the District will keep a couple to have as back up. Director Herron asked if we have to purchase them now or if it can wait till the beginning of the next fiscal year. Battalion Chief Sambrano said yes, they will be ordered now and paid for at the beginning of the FY 2017-18 budgets.

There is an estimated \$20,000.00, which is for ongoing replacement of radios, and \$12,250.00 for replacement of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) cylinders.

The bottom line for Capital expenditures is \$354,474.00. This amount is coming out of the Capital Projects Fund balance, with \$40,000.00 from Fuels Management. Business Manager Cary explained in FY 18-19 budget columns, on page 16 of the budget binder, it shows the District is planning to purchase a Type 1 engine, an ambulance, a utility vehicle and a water rescue vessel for approximately \$2,000,000.00. With the repayment of over \$6,000,000 to the taxpayers of Incline Village and Crystal Bay, the District will need to finance these purchases. Director Costalupes asked if by purchasing the vessel would the District be duplicating services of the Coast Guard and the Sheriff's Department, and what kind of vessel is being suggested for \$200,000.00. Chairman Perry asked Battalion Chief Eikam to respond to this question. Battalion Chief Eikam answered that the Coast Guard and the Sheriff's Department have a longer response time and do not have medical services available on the water. The vessel the District currently has is a 1988, 19 foot Boston Whaler that needs a new motor; it also takes on water and is not suitable for rescue and lifesaving missions as it is. The District has specific requirements for the new vessel because of unique circumstances; it must allow for a dryer environment on board, shallow water access and a high pressure water pump for fire rescue. Grants have been sought to obtain this vessel in the past few years but have not been successful. Fire Chief Sommers commented that this subject will be brought before the Board again next year before these purchases are made and every effort will be made to obtain grant funding, if possible.

Debt Service is explained on page 17 and 18 of the budget binder and shows there is a balance of \$3,223,000.00 at the end of FY 2016-17, the balance at the end of 2017-18 will be reduced to \$2,797,000.00.

Business Manager Cary briefly reviewed the last few pages of the budget binder. She pointed out pages 20 -22 are the analysis and include the approved salary ranges and overall General fund costs, she reminded the Board that we had already discussed the 5 year plan on page 23 and 24 earlier in the meeting. She pointed out highlighted portions in the General

- Fund detail on page 25 and 27 to show a decrease in Professional Services
- for a Lobbyist that will not be needed in 2018, Gas and telephone will also
- be reduced in this next fiscal budget. On page 32, Operations shows the PPE
- 4 increased for turnouts requested and the Building Maintenance went down.
- 5 Vehicle Maintenance has increased to \$56,040.00 due to the age of the
- 6 Districts rolling stock, thus the need for new equipment in FY 2017-2018.
- 7 The Reimbursements expense for offsite fires has been increased to a
- 8 realistic number based on actual expenses over the last few years for shift
- 9 personnel and equipment. This amount is offset by fire revenues to the
- 10 District.
- 11 Vehicle Maintenance and Vehicle fuel for the Fuels Division have been split to
- see actual costs of fuel and maintenance separately.
- Business Manager Cary asked if there were questions. Director McKay asked
- if the \$1,250,000.00 in the Capital Projects Fund detail is for new
- equipment. Fire Chief Sommers and Business Manager Cary answered that
- yes as discussed earlier, this amount is for two new Type 1 engines and will
- 17 be financed.
- Director Herron asked when the final decision on the budget needed to be
- made. Business Manager Cary informed the Board that the official budget
- approval meeting will be on May 17, 2017 and must be turned in to the
- 21 State by June 1, 2017.
- 22 Director Bremer asked why the salaries and wages on page 9 went up by
- \$40,000.00. Fire Chief Sommers responded that amount is budgeted for the
- current Assistant Fire Marshal's salary base, to be brought up to the
- 25 Battalion Chief's wages so he may act as a Battalion Chief or Fire Marshal
- when needed since he has the proper credentials.
- The Board thanked the staff and administration for their efforts in putting together the budget binders and additional information for the meeting.
- 29 30 **OLD BUSINESS**: None.

REPORTS.

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*Legal Counsel Reports. (Legal Counsel, Devon Reese)

Devon Reese, legal counsel via phone, said, there is nothing new to report and he would keep the Board and Fire Chief Sommers updated on any changes with the appeal on the tax revolt issue with the Village League to Save Incline Assets, Inc. vs. the Nevada State Board of Equalization,

Save Incline Assets, Inc. vs. the Nevada State Board of Equalization, Washoe County, Washoe County Treasurer and Washoe County Assessor.

*Board of Director Comments/Reports. None

*Fire Chief Reports. (Fire Chief, Ryan Sommers)

- 44 Fire Chief Sommers explained that Assistant Chief Calder has taken the lead
- on working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and
- Disaster Declaration #4303 to recoup expenses from the purchase of the
- loader and accessing our emergency water supplies (Hydrants). There have

- been 72 hours of use on the new loader and 90% of the hydrants have been
- 2 located. FEMA has declared a second Disaster Declaration #4307 for Washoe
- 3 County that will provide an additional 30 days to claim expenses for the
- 4 District.
- 5 Fire Chief Sommers has been invited to attend a roundtable with
- 6 Congressman Tom McClintock of the 4th Congressional District of California
- on the April 19, 2017 at the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit in South
- 8 Lake Tahoe, if you would like an invitation or more information let him know.
- 9 The Military put out an excellent document on the potential spring runoff and
- 10 flooding scenario for the Northern part of the State. The document is
- available to anyone, if they would like to see it contact Fire Chief Sommers.
- Fire Chief Sommers received an email from the District's Insurance adjustor
- with an offer to close the claim on the wrecked ambulance, however there
- needs to be more investigating done by Fire Chief Sommers and Braun
- before the District accepts their offer. The Department of Insurance wants to
- close the claim based on the adjustors email but Fire Chief Sommers wants
- to make sure it is a fair amount for both parties before he agrees.
- Fire Chief Sommers presented a job description of our Compliance Officer
- and the explanation of Defensible Space Inspector for the Board to review, if
- there are any question please contact Fire Chief Sommers.
- 21 Fire Chief Sommers asked for questions. Director Costalupes asked what the
- 22 final purchase price for the loader the District purchased last month was.
- 23 Fire Chief Sommers responded \$120,000.00 with four attachments. Director
- 24 Costalupes made the statement at the last meeting he had been very
- excited about the loader; however after the meeting last month he was
- disappointed with the size, he felt it was too small. However if it's working
- well then he thinks it will be great. Fire Chief Sommers acknowledged his
- comment and said that so far the operators using the loader feel it is doing
- the job it was intended for. It meets the guidelines and will comply with the
- 30 quality for FEMA's requirements for reimbursement. Chairman Perry asked if
- that process has started yet. Fire Chief Sommers said yes and that there
- was a FEMA kick off meeting and they will be back on the April 18, 2017; he
- invited any of the Board to join the meeting. At the kick off meeting there
- was a representative from all of the areas of FEMA that the District would
- was a representative from all of the areas of 1 LW/V that the District Would
- need or request funds from. Fire Chief Sommers took them on a tour of the
- 36 District and showed them the extent of the situation. Assistant Fire Chief
- 37 Calder brought to the attention of the Board that there will be an extensive
- amount of paperwork entailed to recoup the expenses however FEMA has
- provided a representative to help with this process and that representative
- will be at the meeting on the 18th.

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*Chief Officers Reports. (Assistant Fire Chief, Bryan Calder)

Assistant Fire Chief Calder said the call volume that had been running about 50% above normal has leveled out and this has allowed the shifts to focus on regular duties like the upcoming Wildland fire season training. The three new Fire Fighter Paramedics are focusing on the Emergency Medical Services

and the probationary process for the next 9 months.

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*Fuels Management Reports. (Fuels Management Officer, Isaac Powning)

The hiring process is completed for the seasonal employees and they are 4 expected to start on May 22, 2017 depending on Mother Nature. The fuels 5 department is participating in training and instructing. Last week, Fuels team 6 members participated in a leadership course with the Fire Adaptive 7 Communities and Forest Schafer. Fuels Management Officer Powning said he 8 has been prioritizing projects for local and other districts with cooperating 9 agreements to the North of us along with working on the Local Government 10 and Tahoe Basin (XTB) preparation. In the next couple weeks, the fuels 11 team is planning to start pile burning on the U.S. Forest Service urban lots 12 along Jennifer and others areas; approximately 12 acres and weather 13 permitting and then addressing the debris removal included in the FEMA 14 projects. Fuels Management Officer Powning asked for any questions. 15 Director Costalupes asked about the piles on Incline Way near the car wash. 16 Fuels Management Officer Powning informed the Board that those piles are 17 U.S. Forest Service responsibility and they will be addressing those. Director 18 McKay asked what percentage of the \$2,500,000.00 in program revenue 19 were offsite verses in District. Fuels Management Officer Powning responded 20 that the offsite revenue was approximately \$1,600,000.00 and it was a 21 banner year. Director McKay asked what the numbers were for the fuels 22 crews for this year. Fuels Management Officer Powning responded there is a 23 20-person crew and a 10-person crew with six extra students this year. The 24 fuels team will have a busy year with all the extra fuels materials due to the 25 weather. Fire Chief Sommers brought to the attention of the Board that 26 Truckee Fire has approached us to assist in their fuels materials chipping this 27 season for local township areas only and it would be an additional revenue 28 source, if the District agrees to the offer. No agreement has been made yet. 29 Fire Chief Sommers clarified the XTB information that Fuels Management 30 Officer Powning talked about previously; Fuels Management Officer Powning 31 32 has been preparing and gathering information on the candidates from all over the Basin that wants to participate in the California Governor's Office of 33 Emergency Services (Cal OES) fires. In order to participate, they must go 34 through an extensive review and this will be happening this Friday in the 35 training room of Station 11. Cal OES has set Nevada as their review board 36 so as Chair, Fire Chief Sommers will be conducting this review panel. 37

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*Business Manager Reports. (Business Manager, Sharon Cary) Business Manger Cary thanked Director Bremer for coming by and reviewing the District's internal financial statements and reminded the Board that on May 17, 2017 the budget needs to be approved.

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*Public Education Information Officer Reports. (Tia Rancourt, PIO) Emergency Preparedness brochures are done and available, they will be distributed to the district. Thanks to Fire Chief Sommers for picking them up in Reno.

- 1 CPR courses were taught at the Middle school last month by A shift and it went great, thank you for all those who helped.
- 3 Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) was taught at the Middle school by the
- 4 High School leadership students, this is an annual advent and we are looking
- 5 at updating the content of the program for next year to keep it fresh and
- 6 interesting.
- 7 Channel 2 and 4 were out to cover our Adopt a Hydrant program.
- 8 "After the Fire" movie was shared at Sierra Nevada College and at the High
- 9 School, coordinated by the District Prevention division.
- 10 The Blood Drive is rescheduled for the April 18, 2017 at Station 11.
- Annual Media training day is May 3, 2017 in Reno at Truckee Meadows
- 12 Community College. There are 25 people signed up with Channel 2, 8 and
- 13 the Reno Gazette Journal participating so far.
- 14 Preparing for Lake Tahoe Wildfire Awareness week in June, the theme is
- remembering the Angora Fire; there is a lot of work behind the scenes to make it happen.

*Local 2139 Union Reports. (Local President, Captain Green)

No report, Captain Green thanked the Board for their time last month listening to her report and presentation.

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- 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. There were no public comments made at this
- 24 **Agenda of this Meeting.** There were no public comments made at this time.

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Meeting Adjournment. Chairman Perry adjourned the meeting at 10:53am

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Beckie Dunn-Spomer, Secretary

Dennis Perry, Chairman