

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

3
4 **May 22, 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; Jason Guinasso, Legal Counsel; Mark Regan, NLTFPD; Tia Rancourt,
18 NLTFPD; Isaac Powning, NLTFPD; Alan Green, NLTFPD; Erick Rodriguez,
19 NLTFPD; and Kimberly Guinasso, Hutchison & Steffen.

20
21 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Approved.

22
23 **NRS 241.020 RE: PUBLIC COMMENT: This is a Time for the Public to**
24 **Comment on any Matter, Whether or Not it is Included on the**
25 **Agenda of this Meeting.**

26 Fire Chief Sommers let the Board know he is the duty Chief for the District,
27 so if there were an emergent call he would have to leave the meeting.
28 Jason Guinasso introduced his partner and wife Kimberly Guinasso who could
29 from time to time, fill in when himself or Devon Reese are unable to attend
30 the Board meetings. Kimberly Guinasso has 15 years' experience with State
31 Legislature as a legislative counsel and is a founding partner in the law
32 group from its original inception. Chair McKay welcomed her and said he is a
33 great admirer of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB).

34
35 **CONSENT AGENDA:**

36 Chair McKay pointed out a minor error in the minutes from the
37 April 17, 2019, Board of Directors meeting. On page 8, line 20, the minutes
38 say, "the repairs to Station 13 front door" and it should read "the repairs to
39 Station 12 front door."

40 Consent agenda approved with changes.

41
42 **Approval of Minutes of the April 17, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting**

43
44 **Review of Accounts Payable for April 2019.**

45
46 **Approval of the April 2019 Monthly Management Report.**

1 **NEW BUSINESS:**

2
3 ***PUBLIC HEARING:**

4 **Discussion of and Possible Action to Approve the North Lake Tahoe**
5 **Fire Protection District's Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget as Presented**
6 **at the April 17, 2019 Budget Workshop Meeting.**

7 Chair McKay asked for comments or questions. Chair McKay said he spoke
8 with Fire Chief Sommers for 20 minutes this morning and his questions were
9 answered satisfactorily.

10 Director Bremer made a motion to approve the North Lake Tahoe Fire
11 Protection District's fiscal year 2019-2020 budget as presented at the April
12 17, 2019 budget workshop meeting. Director Herron seconded the motion.
13 Chair McKay asked if there were any more questions before the vote.
14 Director Cross asked if there could be a discussion regarding the boat
15 expense in the budget, as the current boat is 30 years old and the new one
16 will cost approximately \$330,000. Chair McKay said it was closer to
17 \$220,000. Director Cross asked how the District's Charter fits in with the
18 Sheriff and the Coast Guard with water rescue. Fire Chief Sommers said the
19 amount in the budget is a placeholder approved last year for the purchase of
20 a rescue boat. The purchase will not take place until possibly next fiscal
21 year. There are issues to settle before the boat can be purchased, such as a
22 place to store it, possibly a public pier, and then a lift added to the pier.
23 These issues will be settled before the purchase price is discussed and
24 agreed on by the Board. The staff did extensive research on the equipment
25 necessary for the types of rescue boats available, one of the issues facing
26 the current boat is it is not long enough for rough water. The estimates,
27 included in the request last fiscal year, detailed what is needed for the types
28 of rescues the District is called to do. As far as an agreement with the
29 Sheriff's Department, the District has no responsibility to perform search and
30 rescue. The response of the Coast Guard is not a reliable source for the
31 District to use. At this time, the EMS Responsibilities are not clearly defined.
32 The biggest expense with the boat is the cost of an adequate pump. At this
33 time, the current boat has a small floating trash pump. The possibility of
34 having a barge fire during a fireworks event is high, and with the current
35 boat, the District could not do anything to extinguish it.
36 Director Cross asked if the District has explored any federal grant revenues
37 to help offset the cost of the boat or asked the community for donations.
38 Fire Chief Sommers replied the District has applied for grants two times and
39 been turned down both times. As far as asking the community for donations,
40 the District has had conversations with the Parasol group and they are
41 researching it. To ask the community for donations the District needs to
42 have a clear idea of exactly what the purchase price and specifics are before
43 they ask for money.
44 The budgeted item is a placeholder not an exact amount for the purchase;
45 once the District has hard numbers and a boat with the proper equipment in

1 mind, it will be brought before the Board for discussion and approval. Fire
2 Chief Sommers said the District would continue to look into federal funding
3 for the purchase of the boat. Chair McKay said he would like to have a long
4 discussion and see more data on the calls from the last five years requiring
5 the boat, before the boat is purchased. Director Costalupes asked if the boat
6 would be used to fight house fires on the lake as well. Fire Chief Sommers
7 said he did a ride along with Fallen Leaf and their pump provides 1800 to
8 2000 gallons per minute. Chair McKay asked if there were any more
9 questions.

10 Chair McKay said he was surprised at the need to repair and replace parts of
11 the heating and cooling systems in Station 11, as it is a newer a station.
12 Chair McKay called for a vote. The vote passed unanimously.

13
14 **OLD BUSINESS:**

15 None

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17 **REPORTS:**

18
19 ***Legal Counsel Reports** – (Legal Counsel, Jason Guinasso)

20 None

21
22 ***Board of Director Comments/Reports:**

23 Director Herron would like to have a report on the June agenda, from
24 Ms. Zemo on the defensible space pilot program in the Apollo neighborhood.

25
26 ***Fire Chief's Report.**

27 Fire Chief Sommers said he was invited to attend the Governor's Briefing on
28 the upcoming wildland fire season. The Governor asked many important
29 questions as a new governor.

30 Last week Fire Chief Sommers and Chief Ferguson presented at a summit for
31 wildland fire agreements.

32 Fire Chief Sommers discussed the conversations being had regarding the
33 Fire Reciprocal Act of 2009 and revised in 2011; the act states the Federal
34 Government (i.e., the United States Forest Service (USFS)) cannot directly
35 pay local governments for fire responses outside of local jurisdiction. The
36 discussion is being had because the District responds to multiple USFS fires
37 throughout the year. The current agreement in place is still good for four
38 years and it is a good possibility the issues will be resolved before the
39 agreement is complete.

40 Fire Chief Sommers wanted the Board to be aware of what is being
41 discussed, regarding the piles on Highway 28. Division Chief Powning is in
42 conversations to complete the work this season.

43 On May 25, 2019, Ace Hardware will be having their annual Memorial Day
44 event. The Incline Village Board of Realtors (IVBOR) will have a table with
45 information on "Keeping Your Home Safe." IVBOR will be giving out smoke

1 alarms in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) the
2 District has with the IVBOR. The District will have an engine and a few staff
3 members from the Fuels Division to answer questions.

4 Fire Chief Sommers informed the Board, the District is switching liability and
5 comprehensive insurance carrier to Michael Menath Insurance.

6 Director Herron said she wanted to compliment Fire Chief Sommers on his
7 participation in talks with the local power companies regarding shut downs
8 when wildland fire danger is high to avoid catastrophic damage.

9 Fire Chief Sommers told the power companies that he would make sure
10 Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) is notified during a
11 power shut down, to insure there is no miscommunication between agencies
12 during emergencies. Director McKay asked about removing the overgrowth
13 around the power lines in the Diamond Peak on USFS land.

14 Fire Chief Sommers said he would be attending a meeting today where the
15 Governor will be signing Nevada SB-329. SB-329 was created by Fire Chiefs
16 and will require power companies to remove fuels surrounding power lines
17 statewide.

18
19 ***Chief Officers Reports.**

20 Fire Marshal Regan said the District participated in an evacuation class at the
21 Chateau where about 195 people attended.

22 Last month there was live burn training for investigation proposes in Carson
23 City, and this week there is wildland investigation training in Douglas County
24 allowing for more investigators to be trained.

25 Fire Marshal Regan addressed the comments made in last month's meeting
26 regarding wood rot from sheet metal flashing being required and installed on
27 deck joists. Fire Marshal Regan said the District is working with architect
28 Dale Smith to add more details regarding installation and other options
29 available to contractors.

30 Fire Marshal Regan said he is reviewing the current fee schedule and will
31 have it ready for Board approval in the next two months.

32 Fire Marshal Reagan said there was a media-training day this month, put on
33 by East Fork Fire, there were approximately 60 media members who
34 attended.

35 Director Cross asked if there is an update on the County involvement in
36 vacation rentals. Fire Marshal Regan said the County voted to form a
37 committee to review the issues regarding vacation and short-term rentals.
38 However, the committee has not yet met.

39 Director Cross asked if the committee would discuss requiring inspections
40 and permits.

41 Fire Marshal Regan said it is too early to say for sure what the committee
42 will discuss; however, the County Board required someone from the fire
43 department to be on the Board and have made a list of priorities for the
44 committee.

45 Director Herron pointed out there will be a retirement party on May 29,

1 2019, for John Slaughter (County Manager).It would be an informal
2 opportunity for Board members to communicate with the County
3 Commissioners and build relationships.

4
5 ***Fuels Management Reports.**

6 Division Chief Powning said the District's seasonal Defensible Space
7 Inspector started on Monday and the Defensible Space Evaluation (DSE) sign
8 up is filling up fast: there were 12 on the first day, so it will be a busy
9 season.

10 The seasonal hand crew is starting on June 3, 2019, and Slide Mountain will
11 be available nationwide on June 10, 2019. Rifle Peak will be local, unless
12 otherwise directed by the Fire Chief.

13 The three grants the District applied for are still in process.

14 Division Chief Powning touched on the USFS situation discussed by Fire Chief
15 Sommers in his report and said himself and Erick Rodriguez have been in
16 contact with the agencies involved and are confident the situation will not
17 affect the District adversely.

18 Division Chief Powning said he was able to meet with a contact from the
19 USFS regarding the piles around Fairview and should be able to burn them
20 this season.

21 Director McKay asked about the piles on State lands. Division Chief Powning
22 said the State is working on removing them.

23 Director Costalupes asked if the District would still provide mutual aid to
24 USFS in four years if the situation does not resolve itself.

25 Division Chief Powning said he has spoken with contacts from Bureau of
26 Land Management (BLM) and Department of Interior (DOI) and the
27 agreements the District has with them will stay in place. There has been a
28 lot of interest in this subject. Senator Feinstein is very involved and is
29 determined to find a solution to this issue. Fire Chief Sommers said the
30 committee formed by Nevada ACR-4 to study Wildfire responses would be
31 reviewing this as well.

32
33 ***Business Manager Reports.**

34 Business Manager Cary thanked the Board for approving the budget and
35 advised there were copies to be signed by all board members.

36 Business Manager Cary discussed the Other Post Retirement Benefits (OPEB)
37 audit being conducted, she said the auditors have finished the fieldwork and
38 the District is just waiting on the report.

39 Business Manager Cary said with the change in insurance companies to
40 Michael Menath Insurance will make Michael Menath the District's Broker of
41 Record, regarding liability, comprehension, and workers compensation
42 insurance.

43
44 ***Public Education Information Officer Reports.**

45 Tia Rancourt PIO said the Community Blood Drive was a success there were

1 68 donors. PIO Rancourt thanked Director Bremer for attending and
2 donating.

3 The District participated in the Recreation Center's Easter egg hunt, one of
4 the Districts Firefighter/Paramedic dressed up as Sparky, and it was a great
5 event. Thank you, to B shift for being supportive and FF/PM Nolan for being
6 Sparky.

7 Nevada Wildfire awareness month is May and the theme is "Wildfires
8 Happen, Is Your Community Prepared?"

9 Lake Tahoe Wildfire awareness month is June and the District will be hosting
10 the "Wilder than Wild" movie event on May 30, 2019 at Sierra Nevada
11 College. There has been a huge response so the event should be standing
12 room only.

13 EMS Week is next week and there will be ambulance tours at Lake Tahoe
14 School and Incline Elementary School.

15 Summer Water Safety Day is Wednesday, June 5, 2019, down on the beach
16 with IVGID and the Coast Guard. There will be safety stations and lunch for
17 the third through fifth graders from Lake Tahoe School and Incline
18 Elementary School.

19 The District's Pancake Breakfast plans are underway; it is scheduled for
20 Friday, July 5, 2019, from 8 am to 10 am. The new griddles arrived in April
21 and the District received a donation of \$4,000.00, from Manny Sylvester, to
22 cover the costs. PIO Rancourt said there would be an email going out this
23 afternoon asking for assistance from the staff and Board.

24 There were 54 CPR classes with 309 students this month.

25 Chair McKay asked PIO Rancourt to share about the North Tahoe Fire
26 Protection District's (NTFPD) employee appreciation event.

27 PIO Rancourt said the event was wonderful, she and FF/PM Sacci went, and
28 he was dressed as Sparky. The NTFPD presented Chris May with the
29 Firefighter of the year award, many other awards were given out and there
30 were photo booths and other activities. PIO Rancourt said she came back
31 with lots of ideas and presented them to Fire Chief Sommers and Battalion
32 Chief Green for the District's upcoming employee appreciation ceremony.

33
34 ***Local 2139 Union Reports.**

35 No report

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37 **NRS 241.020 RE: PUBLIC COMMENT. This is a time for the public to**
38 **comment on any matter, whether or not it is Included on the agenda**
39 **of this meeting.** None

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41 **Meeting Adjournment.** Chairman McKay adjourned the meeting at 12:41
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45 _____
Beckie Dunn-Spomer, Secretary

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Greg McKay, Chairman