1 2	NORTH LAKE TAHOE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
3 4	October 16, 2019
5	October 10, 2019
6 7	LOCATION: 863 Tanager, Incline Village, Nevada.
8 9	MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Chairman McKay called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.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: Greg McKay, Chairman; Susan Herron, Vice-Chairman; Denise Bremer, Secretary-Treasurer; Art Cross, Director.
15 16 17 18 19 20	GUESTS PRESENT: Fire Chief Ryan Sommers, NLTFPD; Sharon Cary, NLTFPD; Geno Menchetti, Legal Counsel; Bryan Calder, NLTFPD; Isaac Powning, NLTFPD; Jennifer Donohue, NLTFPD; Alan Green, NLTFPD; Tia Rancourt, NLTFPD; Carol Green, NLTFPD; Andreina Quiroz, NLTFPD; Karen Sommers.
21 22	APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Approved as submitted.
23 24 25	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.
26 27 28 29 30 31	Chief Sommers introduced the New Executive Administrative Assistant to the Board, he stated that NLTFPD is happy to have her and believes she will be a good fit. Board of Directors welcomed Andreina, Chief McKay stated it was nice to have a local girl.
32 33	CONSENT AGENDA: Consent agenda approved as submitted.
34 35 36	Approval of Minutes of the September 18, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting
37 38 39	Review of Accounts Payable for September 2019.
40 41	Approval of the September 2019 Monthly Management Report.
42	NEW BUSINESS:
44 45	1. Discussion for Possible Action Regarding the Board of Directors' Performance Evaluation of Fire Chief Ryan Sommers

and Possible Action to provide an increase in his annual compensation and renewal of his contract.

Public comment: Business Manager, Cary stated that Chief Sommers is a great boss, and deserves an increase. Chairman McKay agreed. Per Business Manager Cary weighted performance averages are included in Board of Director packages.

Chairman McKay stated that the record reflects that we have a high opinion of Chief Sommer's job performance. Vice-Chairman Herron complemented Chief Sommers by saying he was doing a good job and made a motion to increase his annual compensation by 5% seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Bremer.

Director Cross requested that as a Union member that any executive management compensation be in line the Union raises. From Director Cross's work experience, he believes that what is good for the flock should be good for the Shepard. Chairman McKay appreciates and thanked Director Cross for his opinion. The increase of 5% was unanimously approved.

Vice-Chairman Herron motioned to have section 4a on page 2 of 5 of Chief Sommers Employment Agreement changed to \$174,029.01 to reflect new salary increase.

Motion to accept employment agreement as presented, Vice-Chairman Herron is very happy to see that it was a five-year contract. Motion seconded by Secretary-Treasurer Bremer. Director Cross stated he had the same comments as before.

All in favor. Chairman McKay thanked Chief Sommers for his service.

2. Discussion for possible action to direct staff to continue negotiating with Washoe County regarding the increase in Dispatch service fees and to pursue alternative possibilities for service.

Chief Sommers stated that this would not be easy task as there will be a huge domino effect if we elect not to continue with Washoe. His opinion, expertise, and advice are that we should look for alternative solutions and he will work with Washoe County on a payment.

Chief Sommers had a meeting with the Sherriff and the Sherriff stated that our contract fee as of July 1st 2020 will be \$1,350,928.52 a year,

this is an increase of about \$1,052,000.00. Chief Sommers stated that Truckee Meadows would be paying the exact same amount. Truckee Meadows runs about 14,000 calls a year where we run 2,000-2,200 calls a year.

Chief Sommers stated that there is a staffing model on a PowerPoint presentation he could send to the Board. Chief Sommers stated there are three options, during his meeting with the Sheriff; option two is what they went for. Option number one is a little bit more dollar value so that one was taken off the table, the second and third option are at the same price. The staffing model for option two reflects on the organizational chart of dispatch. With the ruling out of this conceptual plan, they will have a director, as right now there is no Director. Currently five supervisors oversee the dispatch floor. Those five supervisors are not always on the same page. Chief Sommers has asked to have a Director in there for many years, one point of contact for all that agencies that they dispatch for, as currently they dispatch for Washoe County Sheriff's Office, Truckee Meadows Fire, Pyramid Fire, Gerlach, NLTFPD, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, and Pyramid Lake Police Department. We asked why pyramid is not on the scheme, they cannot get money out of them is what it came down to.

Chief Sommers is asking the Board for authorization to start looking for other avenues for a Dispatch. Chief Sommers reiterated that it will not be easy, because it is a magnitude of all types of stuff such as the way we operate, our pre-alerts, how stations are alerted could be totally different, the channel spectrum we are on when it comes to radio. Things like, do we go back to VHF, putting dispatchers on staff. Infrastructure will still have to be in place. Chief Sommers confirmed that he would like the authority to look at different options for us when it comes to dispatching. There is a 120-day cancelation clause with our current contract, if we are 120-days out and do not have a viable option we can go month to month with current dispatch until something is final.

A couple of options, the Basin Chiefs have approached Tahoe Transportation Authority and brought their concerns about dispatching and the basics along with how nice it would be to all be on one dispatch center. This meeting with Tahoe Transportation Authority is gaining some ground and per Chief Sommers, it is gaining more speed than expected.

On Friday October 18, 2019, a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) representative will be walking through the dispatch center to see how it operates. This walkthrough will be done to all Basin Dispatch Centers to see how everybody operates. DHS has come

forward stating that there is a good possibility of an avenue for funding for a Basin Dispatch Center with Federal funds, this is an option but it is still a few years out. Location (place/building) of where center would be needs to be figured out.

The other option that we have as an agency is Grass Valley Emergency Command Center. They are ran by Cal Fire. They dispatch everything from the State Line on the North End to Clear to Lake Valley, including Northstar, Truckee, Alpine Meadows, and Squaw. Grass Valley Emergency Command Center has stated that they would entertain dispatching us. Chief Sommers has asked Grass Valley Emergency Command Center to research the liability of transferring 911 over state lines. Grass Valley Emergency Command Center is looking at that, as those contracts do exist and we will look at see if we can get on something like that. Grass Valley Emergency Command Center has stated we would pay close to if no more to what we currently pay Washoe County Sheriff's office, which is \$300,000.00 a year.

Chief Sommers confirmed that there would be some hoops to jump through but they are turnkey, with as many times as we go over to North Tahoe, there is daily communication with Grass Valley Emergency Command Center. Chief Sommers stated that it would just be narrowing down to station alerting, and a transfer of 911 calls, which is huge for Chief Sommers. Chief Sommers confirmed that he has done some research because every Nevada line whether cell phone or land lane, citizens pay a 911 tax, and Chief Sommers would not like any rebuttal from that aspect of it. Chief Sommers is trying to do his due diligence for rebuttal in the case of somebody saying they are paying these 911 taxes to the State of Nevada yet they are talking to somebody in California. Currently in Reno, they take the 911 call and transfer to a private ambulance company and no one is complaining about that, that he knows of per say when it comes to the 911 tax.

Chief Sommers hopes he has summarized the issue well enough for the Board and that the Board understands the situation we are facing.

Legal Counsel Geno Menchetti asked the Chief if could summarize briefly how the Sheriff justifies that increase.

Chief Sommers stated that in the PowerPoint presentation, the approximate budget if figured out for the center as a whole. The budget is \$5.4 million dollars and some change. The budget includes a new director, a new supervisor, six new dispatcher, and 12% indirect cost. Chief Sommers explained that there are four consoles on the Washoe County side, what that means is there are four dispatchers in

front of the radio and the computers, one console for Truckee Meadows, one console for NLTFPD, and two consoles for Washoe County because they run two frequencies daily, two channels daily. They also have call takers from 1000 hours to 2200 hours, which is a fixed position 7 days a week during those hours. Chief Sommers stated that our cost is the \$5.4 million dollars divided by four but Washoe County will be picking up \$2.7 million. Therefore, they are divided by four consoles, but two of them are owned by Washoe County. Washoe County states that their portion would be \$2.7 million, NLTFPD is \$1.3 million, and Truckee Meadows is \$1.3 million. That is the justification they have.

Chief Sommers stated that at one point NLTFPD and Truckee Meadows shared a channel, which did not work. Chief Sommers stated he was very honest and blunt about it. The current supervision in the dispatch center does not enforce radio etiquette or professionalism. Chief Sommers reflected on a situation when Chief Brown was here, he attempted to report a forklift that had taken down power lines across the street from the station, with sparks flying between poles, he was told to standby as they were dispatching an incident for Truckee Meadows. That was when Chief Brow said we needed our own channel.

Chief Sommers stated that if the Board wished to entertain that, we could come up with strenuous policies and more strict policies on radio etiquette, that may lower the cost with Washoe County but the concurrent configuration in what we wish is to have is our own console.

Chief Sommers confirmed that with Grass Valley, we would not have our own channel. Chief Sommers stated that the difference is that Grass Valley is staffed with a Battalion Chief, five Fire Captains, and eight Firefighters and those are the ones on the radios. They know the radio etiquette and professionalism; they kick people off the channel when and if they are just talking back and forth to each other. They are also an ECC (Emergency Command Center); they take command of an incident until the first arriving field (inaudible). That a Battalion Chief is standing in the background calling all the shots, what they are going to send what they are not going to send, who to call and who not to call. There is a lot to be said for Firefighters being dispatched by Firefighters.

Legal Counsel Geno questioned if there was any value in all of the stuff that we have done in the past years, such as buying equipment, updating procedures. Is there any type of credit for everything that has already been purchased? Chief Sommers responded that they spoke about that very little at the meeting and the basic outcome is that everything we have done was many years ago. Chief Sommers stated that Washoe County has taken over the costs like the licensing for the Pre-Arrivals, the Emergency Medical Dispatch that we go through with EFD/EMD. Chief Sommers explained that the E 911 Board pays for that now because that is part of those taxes that they can spend those monies and it helps out with the County as a whole. Chief Sommers stated that they pay those permit fees now, we no longer do that for them anymore. Chief Sommers thinks that option has expired.

Director Cross asked if the DHS in the Basin Dispatching would be fire or all emergencies. Chief Sommers responded that there are stipulations from DHS on that. It would be all first responders under one roof but they would like to see another dispatch center closed. Chief Sommers does not know if it would be a state, local, or Federal Dispatch Center that would close. DHS has more pull if we can say that we are truly consolidating by closing one and then bringing in all these agencies under one roof.

Director Cross asked how many dispatch facilities are in the basin. Chief Sommers stated that truly in the Basin, there is one, in South Lake Tahoe but they will close if we go through DHS.

Chairman McKay asked if Forest Service was interested in the arrangement. Chief Sommers responded that Forest Service is interested and that is what helped us with DHS. Chief Sommers said the Forest Service being the TMU are currently being dispatched out of Camino. They too are very interested. Cal Fire, on both sides, there are two units within the basin, the El Dorado unit and the Nevada/Placer County Unit, are both very interested for their Lake assets to be dispatched. Douglas County is interested as they are being dispatched out of Minden. Camino, Minden, Grass Valley, Reno, and South Lake Tahoe are the current dispatch centers.

Chief Sommers stated he has five radios in his truck, over the radio, you hear a request for one thing, and the outcome is completely different. Chief Sommers believes there is huge potential, but also knows it is years down the road.

Vice-Chairman Herron questioned if Chief Sommers was leaning more toward Grass Valley as an interim. Chief Sommers answered, yes. Vice-Chairman Herron questioned if they were amenable to it, which Chief Sommers stated that the Battalion Chief is on board, the unit Chief would like to further research as it has only been in passing. As of now, they dispatch 23 agencies; most of them on the West side of the slope on different channels and that is why their staffing is so high and so many people in there.

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Vice-Chairman Herron asked if Washoe County shared what the 911tax revenue was. Chief Sommers stated that he asked Washoe County and they could not supply him with that information. Chief Sommers asked Washoe County what we get from that and Washoe County stated it was only equipment. Once Chief Sommers obtains more direction from the Board he is going to double check on that by calling a Board Member to ask for a copy of the budget.

Vice-Chairman Herron asked for confirmation on if we would be a quarter partner in this project without any kind of say in anything that goes on like hiring of all the staff.

Vice-Chairman Herron asked if Chief Sommers had been provided with a plan on when they were going to do it. Chief Sommers stated he was not provided with a plan. Chief Sommers added that they have only been fully staffed one time for about nine days for the past three years that he has been the Chief. Assistant Chief Calder added that there is an ongoing battle.

Chairman McKay wondered if by lowering this cost, the Sherriff's may know more about primary objectives if by putting more boots on the ground out there this may free up some money that they support dispatch with that they can use for additional personnel. Chief Sommers asked if, Chairman McKay was asking that if we went with them and they pay this, that this might give them some more money. Chairman McKay answered no, that he was saying that the rationale is they cover the cost of the dispatch center and can have more people on the ground, which does not make it better for us. Chief Sommers stated that he does not think they ever thought we would leave.

Chairman McKay stated that we did a good job presenting our options, positive and negatives and he is conscious of our long time relationship with the Sherriff and he does not know how much that would change as far as an incident goes, and if they put us in a corner, we may have no choice.

Vice-Chairman Herron asked if we had any thoughts about how we might pay for it. Business Manager Cary answered no and she is hopeful that if we have to pay for it, that there is a better solution. Chief Sommers stated that we had caught wind of an increase to our dispatch fees. The original was 100%, \$600,000.00. Chief Sommers and Business Manager Cary had geared a budget process for that. Two weeks before the last Board Meeting, so six weeks ago was when the District was handed this figure and that made it very hard as we had already been past the budget process to do this. Chief Sommers stated he does not think they did that on purpose, but also thinks they did not take into consideration anybody else's budget process or constraints when they came up with these figures.

Secretary-Treasurer Bremer questioned what Gerlach was saying about this because they are not paying either. Chief Sommers answered that Gerlach falls under Truckee Meadows as they are within Washoe County. Gerlach falls under Truckee Meadow's agreement, and Chief Sommers confirmed that he does not know what Truckee Meadows will charge Gerlach.

Secretary-Treasurer Bremer asked if anyone has had a conversation with Truckee Meadows so that they can pick up more of this tab, like the Sheriffs or anybody. Chief Sommers answered that, in the meeting that they had, Chief Moore was present and he thought it was totally fine as he pays over \$800,000.00 in Dispatch services. Chief Moore did not think this increase was that big of a deal. Chief Sommers stated that they went to one other agency that resides within the dispatch center and that agency stated that they did not want to dispatch for Reno Fire. The City of Reno rumor is that, they occupy the same dispatch floor in Reno. They will be leaving. They will be taking their equipment and moving to the RGJ building as the City of Reno has just purchased the building.

Chairman McKay asked if there were any more questions or comments.

Vice-Chairman Herron made a motion to direct staff to continue negotiating with Washoe County regarding the increase in Dispatch service fees and to pursue alternative possibilities for service. Motion seconded by Director Cross.

Vice-Chairman Herron confirmed with the Board and Chief Sommers that with the 120-day cancellation clause we need to have a decision made around March but by February we should have some options.

All in favor, no one opposed.

REPORTS:

*Legal Counsel Reports - (Legal Counsel, Geno Menchetti)
None

*Board of Director Comments/Reports: None

*Fire Chief's Report.

Fire Marshal Regan will be retiring in the near future, he is currently on leave that he has with the District. Jennifer Donohue, who was the Fire Inspector, has agreed to take the Interim Fire Marshal position until we come up with a game plan on how we are going to fill our Fire Marshal position. We are exploring different avenues with that, but until then Welcome Jennifer to that position.

Chairman McKay thanked Jennifer for stepping up and let her know the Board appreciates that very much.

Short-Term Rental update, Chief Sommers, Interim Fire Marshal Donohue and Washoe County have met. Interim Fire Marshal Donohue has been doing most of the work, there is a draft of a document that is out, the District has been asked not to release the document to the public until more details are worked out. The document will be taken before the County Commissioners; Chief Sommers can provide meeting information if anyone on the Board would like to attend. By then, the Board should have seen the document that they will present to the Commissioners.

Washoe County has come out with a new Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, a rough draft for now that Chief Sommers will input on and once the final product is out, Chief Sommers will be giving a copy to the Board.

Last thing to report from Chief Sommers is that our current Assistant Chief Bryan Calder has announced his retirement; we will be going through the process of replacing him. Chief Sommers complemented Assistant Chief Calder stating that he has done a great job. Assistant Chief Calder will be with us for a few more months, but are going to be starting that process. Chief Sommers thanked Assistant Chief Calder for his service. End of Report.

*Chief Officers Reports.

Assistant Chief Calder stated we are finishing out our focus on technical rescue training. The confined space training will be complete by the end of this month into beginning of next month. IVGID will be included in some of that training as they provide a confined space for the District. There are two new hires, Firefighter Paramedic, and a Firefighter, starting tomorrow, 10/17/2019; one of them is local who is currently working at the airport, the other one is coming from REMSA. Chief Calder expressed his excitement about both of them and for both of them because this is a wonderful opportunity. The two new hires will start with two days in district starting tomorrow 10/17/2019, Thursday and most of the day Friday 10/18/2019. They will have their

Personal Protection gear issued and we will have them exposed to our equipment here to include, hose, ladder, and protective gear before they attend the Academy on Monday. They will commence at the Academy on Monday 10/21/2019 that will continue through the third week in January. The Academy has been extended out until then due to the Holidays. The new hires will be at the Academy for 14 weeks. Assistant Chief Calder informed the Board that Captain Ashby will be our Representative at the Academy as they have asked him to assume the number two spot at the Academy. Chief Calder complemented Captain Ashby for the amazing job he does and thanks him for his commitment, as the Academy is ten-hour days, 5 days a week. End of report.

Battalion Chief Green, took a moment to compliment the crew on the burn as they did a spectacular job. Battalion Chief Green stated that, it was one of the best burns she has seen. Battalion Chief Green confirmed that burn looked very good, as well as that she spoke to homeowners who expressed that they were very happy about what we did and how things turned out. Battalion Chief Green assured homeowners that we would have a little extra presence with cold front coming in and everyone in the neighborhood was very happy about it. End of report.

*Fuels Management Reports.

Fuels Division Chief Powning reported that the burn was finally done, it was a 21 acre burn. Chief Powning stated that in his time with the District, this is one of biggest burns that has been done. Chief Powning expressed that he thrilled with the fire effects as well as the smoke as the smoke was light for town.

Chief Powning reported statistic updates from January 1st-October 1st, DSE has completed 760 inspections, of those 229 were compliant. Chipping was lighter this year than last year, North Tahoe had 539, 265 done at North Lake Tahoe. Trees cut and pile, here locally in town we did about 85 acres, and in North Tahoe 69 acres were done. There was over 153 acres of cutting this year, which is the biggest year so far. On incidents, the crews only spent 49 days total compared to 120-130 days. The single resource folks that come out of Fuels only spent 45 days on fires this year versus 150-160. These statistics have contributed to why all those acres were able to be done.

Chief Powning confirmed that the last day for Chipping is the 25th of this month. Currently the crews will be finishing the backlog on that as well as the solicited DSE.

Chief Powning confirmed that construction inspections and compliance would still be performed.

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November 22nd will be the lay-off date for the seasonal crews.

Chairman McKay inquired about burning Winter Piles. Chief Powning confirmed that they have a lot to burn, currently at 260 acres.

Chairman McKay asked if Chief Powning is planning more prescribed burns weather permitting. Chief Powning responded that he is planning more burns, weather permitting for Monday 10/21/2019. Chief Powning elaborated that this year has been funky for the burns due to the battle of two extremes, the lower RH's because of the dry fronts that are coming through, and then the lack of ventilation.

Chairman McKay asked Chief Powning where all the cutting was done this year. Chief Powning answered that the cutting was done here in town on NV Regional Project behind Sweetwater Rd, T-7 area, some cutting has happened off of Barbara St, but most of it has happened on the East side of town.

*Business Manager Reports.

Business Manager Cary reported that the auditors are still here and they will probably be here for another week. Some preliminary numbers for year-end, they may change if the auditors find something to adjust. Business Manager Cary stated that the Total Revenue is, \$17,089,000.00 compared to a Budget Revenue of \$16,973,000.00. Business Manager Cary confirmed that we are ahead of plan by \$116,000.00. Business Manager Cary, reported that salaries and wages were higher than budgeted. We budgeted \$7,464,769.00 it came in at \$7,553,435.00 due to all the fires we went to last year. Therefore we are over by \$88,666.00

Business Manager Cary reported that the District made \$126,522.00.

No additional questions from the Board.

Business Manager Cary stated she will have preliminary year-end financial statements for the Board and they will be in the Directors mailboxes in Admin Office.

Business Manager Cary will meet with the Secretary-Treasurer Bremer to go over financial statements.

*Public Education Information Officer Reports.

Public Education/Information Officer Rancourt reported that she is preparing for Fire Prevention Week tours. She began the tours yesterday, 10/15/2019, at a preschool, and the tours will continue through the rest of the month of October and probably go into November.

FEMA grant update. The audit is still living. We received a phone call and they went through review, and they got back to us, there are three areas that we need to get back to them, it is nothing major, it is more procedural, PIO Rancourt will work on that and report back to us.

We had an event last weekend. The on duty crews attended the Cornerstone Community Church BBQ.

Paramedic Refresher update, currently there are 146 people signed up and seven vendors attending so far.

Director Cross complimented the Social Media updates on Facebook. Director Cross stated they are awesome and it is great to reach out to the community, keep the community involved and letting them know we are here.

PIO Rancourt confirmed that Trail of Treats and Terror is scheduled for next Thursday, 10/24/2019, from 4pm-7pm and that we will be there passing out glow sticks.

*Local 2139 Union Reports.

None

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.

Chairman McKay was congratulated for the birth of his first grandchild.

Meeting Adjournment. Chairman McKay adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

Andreina Quiroz, Secretar

Greg McKay, Chairmań