

NORTH TAHOE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board of Directors Regular Meeting
NTFPD Station 51 Public Safety Center
222 Fairway Drive, Tahoe City, California

Wednesday
May 15, 2019 – 4:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m. by President Baffone.

2. Roll Call

Attending:

Board Present

Directors Baffone, Correa, Doyle, Loverde (out 6:52 pm), and Ragan. A quorum was established.

Staff Present

Fire Chief Schwartz
Division Chief Steve Simons
Director of Finance Kim Eason
Battalion Chief Steve McNamara
Battalion Chief Al Whisler
Firefighter Josh McCurley
Firefighter Scott Rice
Fire Prevention Officer II David Rodriguez
Fire Prevention Officer I Casey Ransdell
Forest Fuels Coordinator Eric Horntvedt
Administrative Assistant I/Clerk of the Board Kelly McElravey

Public

Brad Altman
Jeff Bahrke
Pat Davison, CATT
Steve Gross, Legal Counsel
Joan Jones, Owner, Jones Corda Construction
Tim Melin, Engineer
Pat Souza, Heslin Construction
Steve Teshara, Sustainable Community Advocates and South Shore Transportation Management Assoc.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Public Comment

- Nice thank you note from Capstone.
- Handouts by Tim Melin regarding hydrants and fire flow project.

5. Presentation by CATT regarding their *“Suggested Changes to NTFPD’s Policies and Procedures for Alternative Mitigation to Meet [2016 California Fire Code as adopted by] NTFPD Fire Flow/Hydrant Requirements”*. (20 min.)

Pat Davison requested that this topic be voted on at the June 19, 2019 Board meeting. Pat Souza, Heslin Construction, presented policies and procedures suggested by CATT’s Hydrant Subcommittee for alternative mitigation to meet NTFPD fire flow/hydrant requirements. He discussed the problems as listed in the PowerPoint document handed out. Problems include communication regarding how to meet code requirements, need for a reasonable schedule of actions and decisions, and how hydrants can receive adequate flow. He requests written procedures to put a process into place. He discussed possible alternatives:

1. Increase sprinkler systems;
2. Water tank alternative based on distance from a hydrant from non-urban parcels;
3. Cash contributions to NTPUD or TCPUD. CATT would like to see the money held in trust for the utility companies to use for site-specific locations which would be a better long-term solution;
4. Eligibility for reimbursement to applicant; and.
5. CATT would like the District to develop a fast track system in the event the Fire Marshal is not available. They would like the decision to move up to the Fire Chief.

There was a Q&A session between Board and staff. The details are available upon request.

A. “Alternative Means and Local Fire Code Amendments”. Chief Schwartz distributed his staff report entitled “Alternative Means and Local Fire Code Amendments”, which included Chapter 1 of the California Fire Code, North Tahoe Fire’s policy entitled, “Alternative Materials and Methods Requests”, Building Codes, a water map within the District, hydrant requirements. He stated that decisions on appeal are made by the Fire Marshal. Objectives and Functional Statements. Plan reviewers use the red stamp – “Fire Hydrant Required per NTFPD Specifications”. The FD only owns one fire hydrant. It is up to the property owner to test pressure. We should let the fireflow program be dissolved. Examples of alternative means are: 1) exit discharge; 2) omission of sprinklers. He also announced a tour of the Camp Fire on May 28 for Board and staff members.

6. Presentation by Steve Teshara, owner and Principal of Sustainable Community Advocates, to update the Board on certain projects on which he is working on behalf of the District. (10 min.).

Steve Teshara is the owner and principal of Sustainable Community Advocates, and he has worked with the District for nine years. Steve handed out an information sheet of projects that will affect the District that include: the roundabout in Tahoe City which he is monitoring to

ensure vehicles and equipment can navigate it successfully. Other projects that he is monitoring include: Station 52 in Kings Beach. It is well located and should not be moved; the Fanny Bridge contractor will be let go after the bridge is completed, and a new contractor will take over next year to complete the project; a third lane on Hwy. 89 for public transit is being considered and may be made available to emergency vehicles if it goes through; the Squaw Valley-Alpine Meadows Base-to-Base Gondola is going to the County Planning Commission; litigation regarding Martis Valley projects is ongoing due to emergency access; the West Shore corridor congestion affects emergency access and those needs are being worked out. A proposed draft plan should come out this fall for public comment; restoration in Meeks Bay (by Station 61) is back in progress after the federal government shut down and slowed the project. Tahoe Forest Fuels Team (TFFT) is a great team effort of representatives around the Lake; SNPLMA grants now take about two years to get through the system. \$17,000 in SNPLMA 17 will finally be released this year. Steve stays current on the TRPA governing board and committees, and he also monitors other projects at the Chief's request, such as the regional dispatch center.

There was a question and answer period. The details are available upon request.

7. Introduction of Proposed Adoption of Ordinance 01 – 2016 Adjusting Rates for EMS Transport Service.

BC McNamara explained why we need to adjust the rates for EMS transport services and how he came to the new rates. The medical CPI that is used by hospitals and by the Department of Labor is a good defensible way to show our rate schedule. He proposes taking the 2016 ordinance and applying the CPI for everything after that. He would like to implement the Treat No Transport (TNT) rate. We have had it in our rate schedule in the past, but we haven't utilized it. It would be good to utilize because we could receive payment for treating patients that did not need transporting, which would help the medical industry. If approved, it would be implemented with our billing agency (Wittman Enterprises). The draft ordinance is available for review. Truckee is currently \$2,053.00 per transport.

There was a Q&A session between Board and staff. The details are available upon request. There was no public comment on this item.

8. UAS demonstration by Battalion Chief Smith. [This item was tabled to next month]

9. Consider authorizing permission for the Fire Chief to purchase a ladder truck pursuant to Resolution 14-2012 regarding the formation of Community Facilities District No. 2012-1 (Ladder Truck O&M).

Chief Schwartz explained that this is a Board housekeeping. In 2012, before he came was hired, the Board agreed to form a Community Facilities District. One of the criteria is for staff to request to purchase a ladder truck within seven years of formation. The initiating property was Domas, and the second property to join was Voltaic in Kings Beach. If the Board approves the purchase of a ladder truck, Chief Schwartz will research the best specifications for our area. Squaw Valley does not have one. Truckee, Northstar, and Incline have one. It would have to be a minimum of a 100-foot ladder in order to reach buildings in our area. \$80,000 - \$12,000 legal

fees = \$68,429 currently in the account. The District expects to begin collecting additional CFD revenue as more properties join.

There was a Q&A session between Board and staff. The details are available upon request. There was no public comment on this item.

Upon motion by Director Correa, seconded by Director Ragan, the Board authorized the Fire Chief to purchase a ladder truck. The vote was five in favor.

10. Consider accepting the donated two Ram fans - one each from the NTFA and MBFA. Chief Schwartz said we purchased one. NTFA and MBFA also purchased one each and will donate them to the District if the Board approves. BC Whisler demonstrated the fans and explained that they have 90 minutes of continuous service, lights are good for going into the fire, and they are clean burning. We will put a ram fan in all of the engines. They cost approximately \$5,700 each. They are battery-operated, and back up batteries are kept on board the engines. He confirmed that they weigh 50 lbs. each, and it is considered standard equipment for every engine to have a fan.

DC Simons confirmed that they are good for tactical use. They clear smoke and allow the Firefighter(s) to control what's going on in the structure.

There was a Q&A session between Board and staff. The details are available upon request. There was no public comment on this item.

Upon motion by Director Doyle, seconded by Director Ragan, the Board authorized the Fire Chief to accept the Ram fans donated by NTFA and MBFA with sincere appreciation. The vote was five in favor

11. Consider authorizing the Fire Chief to over hire Firefighter/Paramedics. The Fire Chief explained that we have had one Firefighter (Captain) retire and one Firefighter (Engineer) left for another department. There are two hiring lists for Firefighters. One for lateral and one for entry-level. We would like to over hire one or two in addition to the two replacements. The cost would not exceed \$4,500 per firefighter this budget year. The next projected retirements are expected in July and August. The Fire Chief requests approval to hire three or four Firefighters to come on board. All have completed a previous academy, and they have F1 and 2, so they should not need a 12-week academy. BC Whisler believes we would be able to train recruits with an in-house mini-academy. The budget will accommodate an extra FTE. Only the additional Firefighters would need to go through a full academy in the fall. DC Simons mentioned that hiring up to four Firefighters would be budget neutral because costs will be saved for not doing a full academy.

There was a Q&A session between Board and staff. The details are available upon request. There was no public comment on this item.

Upon motion by Director Loverde, seconded by Director Ragan, the Board authorized the Fire Chief to over hire Firefighter/Paramedics. The vote was five in favor.

12. Finance Report

- 12.1 Purchases Journal
- 12.2 Breakdown of CalCard purchases
- 12.3 Gross payroll totals
- 12.4 Account Detail Report

Kim said the report looks different this month because Cougar Mountain updated its program, and it changed the looks of the report. Revenue from County came in yesterday at 4 pm and is not included. We received an additional \$3.8 million.

There was a Q&A session between Board and staff. The details are available upon request. There was no public comment on this item.

Upon motion by Director Correa, seconded by Director Doyle, the Board approved the finance report dated May 15, 2019, account detail, purchases journal, breakdown of CalCard purchases, and the payroll report for April 2019 as presented. The vote was five in favor.

13. Staff Reports

- 13.1 Fire Chief
- 13.2 Operations Chief
- 13.3 Fire & Life Safety / Forest Fuels / PIO
- 13.4 Emergency Medical Services
- 13.5 Safety & Logistics
- 13.6 Training & Rescue

There was a Q&A session between Board and staff. The details are available upon request. There was no public comment on this item.

Reports were given. No action necessary

14. Minutes from the special Board meeting held April 15, 2019.

Upon motion by Director Correa, seconded by Director Doyle, the Board approved the Minutes from the special Board meeting held April 15, 2019. The vote was four in favor.

There was no public comment on this item.

15. Minutes from the regular Board meeting held April 17, 2019.

Upon motion by Director Doyle, seconded by Director Baffone, the Board approved the Minutes from the regular Board meeting held April 17, 2019 after adding Steve Gross in attendance. The vote was four in favor.

There was no public comment on this item.

16. Board Comments/Information Items. None.

17. Next Board Meeting and Other Important Dates

- *Regular Board Meeting: June 19, 2019 – Shawn Crawford will be District Clerk in Kelly's absence*

18. Adjournment. *The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.*