

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
LAKE VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
OF EL DORADO COUNTY
MAY 14, 2015**

The Board of Directors of the Lake Valley Fire Protection District of El Dorado County met in regular session on May 14, 2015 at the Meyers Firehouse, South Lake Tahoe, California.

ROLL CALL

Director Huber called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were present the following directors: Huber, Rice, Rossi, Bettencourt and Herback. Also present were Chief Harris and Lake Valley Personnel.

AGENDA

The Chief asked the Board to move Section 8, Item D - Capital Improvement Plan / Nexus Study to Old Business, Item C. The Chief also asked to move Section 8, Item F – Resolution 2015- 3 to Section 10 after Closed Session. A motion was made by Director Rice and seconded by Director Herback to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Director Rossi and seconded by Director Herback to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 16, 2015 with a correction to Section H – Capital Improvement Plan / Nexus Study. The minutes originally stated that Director Bettencourt seconded a motion made to approve funds for a Nexus Study. Let it be noted that it was Director Rossi that seconded the motion made by Director Herback to approve the funds for the Nexus Study. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Chief presented a letter from a homeowner praising Teri Tucker on her continued dedication to the Roof Grant Program. He discussed a letter thanking Engineer Hagenbach for helping with the City of South Lake Tahoe's Engineer testing and he also commented on a letter received from El Dorado County's Ambulance Billing, commending Mike Anderson for his outstanding work in completing PCR's for IFT's. There were several customer satisfaction surveys returned and the Board thanked the Lake Valley staff for a job well done.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Update of FEMA Hazardous Wood Roof Replacement Program

The Roof Grant Program is issuing another round of reimbursement checks to homeowners with assurance from FEMA that Lake Valley will be refunded the money before the end of the fiscal year. All homeowners who have submitted for reimbursement through February of 2015 will be paid in full. There are still approximately 50 roofs left to be replaced. Things are slowing down for the Roof Grant program as it is in its last phase of roof replacements. FEMA will not commit to extending the grant at this time. As it stands, we will be leaving approximately \$750,000 on the table once the grant is completed. Lieutenant Goldberg is working with FEMA to help them evaluate the program in hopes that they will extend the program.

B. Plan Review and Inspection

Plan review and inspections are moving along smoothly since the transition to El Dorado County.

The Board asked that this item to be removed from future agendas.

C. Capital Improvement Plan / Nexus Study

At the April 16, 2015 meeting, the Board passed a motion to approve moving ahead with the Nexus Study granted there was approval to use the development fee fund from the County to pay for the study. Lake Valley has received written approval from El Dorado County and has signed a Nexus study contract. The study format has been approved by the County and is underway.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Firefighter's Association

Engineer Quinn informed the Board that the Association has a special meeting scheduled on May 18, 2015 to discuss the JPA. The Association will provide the Board with an update next meeting. Director Huber let the Association know that if they would like a representative from the Board present at the meeting they would be happy to attend and that the Board wants open communication with the Association.

Firefighter/ Paramedic Quinn reminded the Board of the upcoming Lake Valley Family BBQ at Paradise Park on June 7, 2015 at 2pm.

Firefighter/ Paramedic Quinn asked to discuss old business in closed session.

B. JPA Update

Director Bettencourt informed the Board that the complexion of the JPA could change. A special JPA meeting was held on April 12, 2015 to discuss the JPA's future and whether or not the City has interest in an early exit. The City informed the JPA Board that all decisions need to go through the City Council, but they are interested in entertaining the idea. Director Bettencourt discussed that there is a discrepancy over how the JPA contract is interpreted and that there is an ongoing discussion as to whether the contract is up in 2016 or 2021. Engineer Quinn asked, if things hinge on contract interpretation have we put in for the three, one year extensions. The answer is yes. The County is aware that

the JPA Board is committed until 2021 when they feel the contract expires. Director Huber wanted to make sure that we are all fully committed to a 100% fire based EMS system. Engineer Quinn stated he would not speak on the Association's behalf until they hold their meeting April 18, 2015.

The current dispatch contract rates were discussed along with what impact an increase in dispatch fees could have on the JPA. JPA Executive Director Wagoner is working on a new dispatch contract that will extend through 2016. The existing JPA contract stipulates that the JPA can negotiate changes to their contract if there are significant financial changes such as increases in dispatch fees and increased IFT's. The JPA Board would like to negotiate the same contract that the West Slope has negotiated but the County is denying that request. Chief Harris indicated we must work within our budget and try and find alternatives to make this work. Director Rossi raised the question of, if we were moving ahead prematurely since the City has not yet made it clear if they were in fact looking to exit the JPA.

Chief Harris proposed a plan and provided a preliminary budget which he reviewed with the Board. The preliminary plan addressed if Lake Valley can take over the City's responsibilities without burdening Lake Valley's reserves. Chief Harris' plan would involve hiring 10 additional personnel for a total of nine firefighter/paramedics and nine apprentices for three ambulances. Funding for the additional personnel could potentially come from GEMT revenue and increase in IFT revenue. The Board agreed that the preliminary proposal was a good starting point, but at this time no plan is perfect and we need to keep discussing additional options including imposing fees and/or passing new taxes.

Director Bettencourt once again addressed Engineer Quinn to express his concerns with the Association's thoughts on the matter. He stated the proposed undertaking would be a lot of work and does not want opposition from the Association. Battalion Chief Hekhuis expressed his concern with the plans practicality. He indicated that while the plan fits nicely on paper and works within the necessary budget constraints, from a management standpoint it is unrealistic. The Board indicated that they would like to see a unified front moving forward.

C. Battalion Chief Cell Phone Stipend Policy Adoption

At the April Board meeting a cell phone stipend policy for Battalion Chief's was adopted. After submitting the policy to the County they indicated we needed to make two changes. The changes were made to the policy and a motion was made by Director Bettencourt and seconded by Director Herback to approved the new language and adopt the policy. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Capital Improvement Plan / Nexus Study

Moved to old business

E. FAIRA Board of Directors Elections

FAIRA sent out an election ballot asking for the Boards help in electing seven individuals to represent the Districts. The following seven were selected at the recommendation of Chief Harris: Chief Mark Johnson, Chief Paul Smith, Chief Mark Shadowens, Chief Ray Chaney, Chief Lawrence Bettencourt, Chief Richard Pearce, and Chief Howard Wood. A motion was made by Director Rice and seconded by Director Bettencourt to approve the seven proposed nominees. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Lake Valley Fire Protection District Regarding the Disability Retirement of Larry Trauner.

Moved to after closed session

G. Resolution 2015-4 A Resolution Establishing Appropriation Limits for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

A motion was made by Director Herback and seconded by Director Bettencourt to approve Resolution 2015-4 A Resolution Establishing Appropriation Limits for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

A. Cal Tahoe Emergency Services Operation Authority

No more discussion

B. Lake Valley Fire Protection District Reports

Lake Valley received a grant from Cal Fire to implement a chipping program. The grant is a year two grant and Lake Valley will receive \$30,000 each year. Lake Valley also received a \$35,000 contract from Alpine County for chipping services. Lieutenant Martin Goldberg will be managing the chipping program this year.

CLOSED SESSION

A. Closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 to

The Board went into closed session at 8:35 pm. The Board resumed open session at 9:47 pm.

A motion was made by Director Huber to approve the Resolution 2015 –3, A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Lake Valley Fire Protection District Regarding the Disability Retirement of Larry Trauner. The motion died for a lack of a second.

REVIEW AND APPROVE DISTRICT YEAR TO DATE INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT

Director Herback commented on an additional \$97,000 that Lake Valley received from that SAFER grant. Chief Harris informed the Board that another SAFER grant has been applied for, this one covering 25 volunteers, their turnouts, PPE, physicals and any other required safety gear.

A motion was made by Director Herback and seconded by Director Bettencourt to approve the District year-to-date income and expense report (July 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015). The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE DISTRICT PAYROLL

A motion was made by Director Bettencourt and seconded by Director Herback to approve the District payroll for pay period 8 for \$117,577.57 and pay period 9 for \$121,512.75. The motion passed unanimously.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

After being reviewed, a motion was made by Director Bettencourt and seconded by Herback to approve the bills paid on May 1, 2015 for 24,190.21, May 15, 2015 for \$113,683.04, and on May 15, 2015 for \$225, 834.84. Also for \$144,369.30 for the FEMA Hazardous Wood Roof Replacement Program. The motion passed unanimously.

The June Board meeting was moved to June 18, 2015

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Approved at the meeting of June 18, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Huber, Chair
CHAIRPERSON

Robert Rossi
ACTING SECRETARY

K. Labrado prepared the minutes