

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
LAKE VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
OF EL DORADO COUNTY
August 9, 2018**

The Board of Directors of the Lake Valley Fire Protection District of El Dorado County met in regular session on August 9, 2018 at the Meyers Firehouse, Meyers, California.

ROLL CALL

Director Bettencourt called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. There were present the following directors: Bettencourt, Huber, Allen and Hogan. Director Rice was absent. Chief Alameda was present along with Lake Valley personnel.

AGENDA

A motion was made by Director Hogan and seconded by Director Huber to approve the agenda of August 9, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Director Huber and seconded by Director Allen to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 12, 2018. Director Hogan recused abstained. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Theresa Fasano presented information to the Board regarding her experience during 9/11 in the Twin Towers, and the fact that evacuation planning and practice saved hundreds of lives. She queried the Board about the potential of creating and educating people regarding evacuations in our community during a catastrophic fire. Director Bettencourt explained that it would have to involve many more agencies than just Lake Valley, and how difficult such an undertaking would be. Director Allen gave an example of that occurring on the North Shore, where the agencies and the community successfully held an evacuation drill. Chief Alameda stated that the issue has been on the minds of the District administration, and that information for agency personnel was being distributed already.

Director Huber stated that the Board would agendaize the issue for next meeting and discuss it, and he thanked Ms. Fasano for her presentation.

Mike Vollmer, Forester for North Tahoe Fire Protection District, reported that the PTEIR grant is on schedule, and that a quarterly report has already been completed. He explained to the audience that the focus is to streamline the process for environmental review when it comes to fuels management.

Andrew Sessions, LVFPD Fire Mechanic, advised the Board that two ambulances are now out of service with catastrophic engine failure. Because the JPA Board approved warranties on the units, Ford will be covering $\frac{3}{4}$ of the cost. Unfortunately, Mechanic Sessions had to file a grievance through the company to be able to apply the warranty.

Ted Price, CEO of GovInvest, introduced himself and advised that his company works with agencies regarding pensions and management benefits in an attempt to save costs. He is hoping to make a formal presentation to the Board at a later date.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Board reviewed a letter thanking the District for its participation in the Lake Tahoe Basin Fire Academy, as well as a letter from Senator Dean Heller inviting Chief Alameda to the Lake Tahoe Summit.

OLD BUSINESS

A. JPA Update

This item was tabled as no meetings have occurred since the last report.

B. VHR Update

Rick Mapes advised the Board that he was unhappy with the Chief's response to VHR concerns at a recent Board of Supervisors meeting, as he felt the Chief was more concerned with the number of buildable lots in the District's jurisdiction than the safety problems presented by uninspected VHRs. Chief Alameda read a letter from John Adamski voicing the same concerns.

Chief Alameda stated that he has been working diligently with agencies around the lake as well as the El Dorado

County Fire Chiefs to create a strong inspection program for VHRs. He believes that VHRs are businesses in residential zones, and that they should be treated as a hotel when it comes to mandatory annual inspections. He presented an analysis he has done regarding square footage, number of bedrooms and fire flow rates, as well as a fee schedule for the inspections that recovers the costs of the District. He believes that the District can accomplish the inspections with its current staffing, although it will be somewhat of a burden. He reminded the attendees that each fire engine is only staffed with two Firefighters. In response to the concerns of the community members, he stated that as Fire Chief it is necessary for him to be very concerned with the entire state of the District, and not just VHRs. This includes the fact that the tax base has stagnated while costs continue to increase, and federal, state and county-owned properties are not on the tax rolls...thus the statement to the Board of Supervisors regarding buildable lots.

Rick Mapes stated that he hoped the Fire Code – including retro-fitting sprinklers – and other issues (ADA compliance) could be built into the inspection program. Director Huber stated that the sprinkler issue would be challenged in court, and a discussion ensued regarding the Fire Codes and how they apply to VHRs.

Director Bettencourt acknowledged that VHRs are a hot topic, and that enforcement seems to be a primary concern. The Chief advised that inspections have already started, and that the District will continue to work with the County. He also noted that there is some fear that the County will attempt to take over VHR inspections as they will see the potential for revenue.

C. FAC Update

The Chief advised that Tahoe Douglas FPD is providing chipping for the District and generally taking over the grant.

D. Wittman Cost Recovery/Fire Recovery Update

Chief Alameda and BC Pevenage advised the Board that Fire Recovery is not living up to their promise and has actually refused to recover costs on a recent fire. He reported that he will be contacting them to sever the contract. He will be contacting Wittman Cost Recovery to explore the possibilities that they can provide.

NEW BUSINESS

A. RFP Airport East Mastication Project

CPA Andrea Drew and Airport Manager Mark Gibbs advised the Board that Lake Valley and the City are working together to move forward with the mastication project near the airport. The project is in budget and in compliance. A motion was made by Director Huber and seconded by Director Hogan to approve the distribution of the RFP for the Airport East Project. The motion passed unanimously.

B. New District Pre-Fire Plan Map

The Chief distributed the newly developed map to the Board.

REPORTS

A. Lake Valley Fire Protection District Chief's Report

Chief Alameda reported that the fires have kept everyone busy, and he is extremely proud of the personnel for stepping up and getting it done. The District BBQ will be held on August 25th at Tahoe Paradise Park. On August 29th, District personnel will be going to the California State Firefighter's Memorial to induct Larry Stewart and Mitch Underhill.

B. Firefighters Association

Captain Stephen mirrored Chief Alameda's comments regarding the fires, and stated that the Association is looking forward to seeing the upcoming ad valorem figures as well as the JPA RFP.

C. Battalion Chiefs

Chief Pevenage thanked the personnel for making it possible for him to go on a fire as Division/Group Supervisor, and stated that it was no longer "fire season" but rather a "fire year."

REVIEW AND APPROVE DISTRICT YEAR TO DATE INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT

A motion was made by Director Hogan and seconded by Director Huber to approve the District year-to-date income and expense report (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018). The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE DISTRICT PAYROLL

A motion was made by Director Hogan and seconded by Director Huber to approve the District payroll for pay period 14 for \$241,316.65 and pay period 15 for \$204,242.39. The motion passed unanimously.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Director Hogan and seconded by Director Huber to approve the bills paid July 24, 2018 (FY 17/18) for 23,002.12; July 24, 2018 (FY 18/19) for \$28,937.95; July 31, 2018 (FY 17/18) for \$132,642.98; and August 2, 2018 (FY 18/19) for \$30,263.10.

The Board went into recess at 7:33 pm to review the bills. The Board returned to session at 7:45 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Approved at the meeting of September 13, 2018.

Respectfully submitted;

Robert Bettencourt
CHAIRPERSON

John Rice
SECRETARY

1. Allen prepared the minutes

