

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

August 5, 2009
Regular Meeting

Those Present:

Frank Forvilly

Steve Seibel

R.J. Clason

Brad Dorton

Chief LeFever

Bob Cook

Assistant Chief Ogami

Assistant Chief Mark Novak

Battalion Chief Ben Sharit

Leo Horton

Rod Hogan, President Do. Co. Search & Rescue

Sean Thomas, Do. Co. Search & Rescue

Captain Tim Allison

Engineer Larry Schussel

1. Action Item: Call to order.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 by Chairman Steve Seibel.

2. Action Item: Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of allegiance was led by Trustee Frank Forvilly.

3. Action Item: Roll call.

All board members were present.

4. Action Item: Public comment.

There was none.

5. Action Item: Discussion and possible action: Approval of consent calendar:

Items appearing on the Consent Calendar are action items generally heard without discussion and adopted with one vote for the entire calendar. Trustees or members of the public may have any consent item pulled and placed on the Administrative Agenda so that the item may be heard and receive public comment. Members of the public requesting that item(s) be pulled shall do so during the Public Comment segment at the beginning of the meeting.

Item:

a. Approval of agenda.

b. Approval of minutes 7-15-09.

c. Approval of financial statements 6-30-09.

Motion by Trustee Roy Clason to approve the consent calendar items a. and b. the approval of the minutes from 7-15-09, the agenda of 8-5-09 and approval of the financial statements of 6-30-09.

Motion was seconded by Trustee Brad Dorton.

Motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Action Item #6: Consent Items moved forward.

There were none.

Item #7: Discussion: Review of monthly expenditures.

Chief LeFever has included a summary of unique expenditures. Mr. Pickett's cost was put in due to the first month of employment to give the board an idea of the cost per month. Two other individuals are self explanatory. There were purchases of miscellaneous equipment on the EOD Grant to Roger Wheeler. When you see a name and the cost comes out of the ambulance fund the patient will pay and the insurance will also pay a month or so later and then we reimburse the patient.

Action Item #8: Discussion and possible action: Donation of EOD vehicle (International) to Douglas County Search and Rescue.

Chief LeFever passed pictures of the vehicle he would like the board to consider donating. It is a 1995 International. This is the vehicle that has been used for EOD. We are taking delivery on Saturday of the new EOD vehicle which was purchased on a grant. We figure we could get around \$15,000 to \$20,000 for it. We have had discussion with Douglas County Search and Rescue and we asked them to present a letter to us and the board requesting that vehicle if it became available under the auspices of a donation similar to what we did in the past with East Fork Fire District when we agreed to sell our ladder truck to them for \$20,000 and we kept access to it. This would be under the same conditions that if we ever needed it back for a short time for temporary use. From a political standpoint, since they are trying to expand their service to the community of Douglas County, this fits their needs. Chief LeFever recommended that they donate they vehicle to Douglas County.

Trustee Roy Clason moved to donate the EOD International vehicle to the Douglas County Search and Rescue.

Motion was seconded by Trustee Brad Dorton.

Motion carried unanimously.

R.J. wished to say it thinks it is great that the department would take the opportunity to pull it back temporarily based on the needs of the department.

Rod Hogan, President Do. Co. Search & Rescue stated it will truly make a tremendous difference in our ability to help in emergency situations in Douglas County. It is an amazing addition to be able to have all the equipment centralized instead of in numerous vehicles. Thanks to everyone. It is very much appreciated.

Action Item #9: Discussion and possible action: Set date for Fire Chiefs performance appraisal.

Trustee Roy Clason moved to have the appraisal at the October 7, 2009 meeting.

Motion was seconded by Trustee Brad Dorton.

Motion carried unanimously.

Action Item #10: Discussion and possible action: Select Board Members to compile the results of the Fire Chief's performance appraisal.

Trustee R.J. Clason volunteered to compile the performance appraisal. Trustee Dorton will help in the process. Trustee Frank Forvilly volunteered to help.

Motion by Trustee Roy Clason moved to have a committee of three, R.J., Brad and Frank to facilitate the appraisal.

Motion seconded by Chairman Steve Seibel.

Motion carried unanimously.

Action Item #11: Discussion and possible action: Purchase of a Fuels Crew Supervisor vehicle (pickup type) from the Fire Safe Community Fund not to exceed \$37,000.

Chief LeFever informed the board that the need to purchase a new vehicle for the Fuels Crew Supervisor. The vehicle he is presently driving has been overheating. This is the vehicle that Nevada Energy donated to us a few years back. It is in the Strategic Plan to purchase a new Fuels vehicle for next year and we would like permission to move the purchase up to this year. The vehicle will not exceed \$37,000.

Trustee Brad Dorton said it looks as if we are getting a significant discount.

Chief LeFever stated this is actually \$100 cheaper than State Purchasing. The plan is to use the old vehicle to pull the chippers around.

Trustee Roy Clason moved to buy the truck described.

Seconded by Trustee Brad Dorton.

Motion passed unanimously.

Item #12: Presentation: Fire Chiefs report of previous month's activities.

Chief LeFever informed the board that Firefighter Jon Hayes retired effective August 3, 2009 after 22 years of service. We congratulate Jon and wish him well.

Special recognition: Battalion Chief Dennis McLaughlin, Captain Curtis Fields and Inspector Leo Horton for 30 years of service and Engineer Kevin Crebs for 12 years of service.

There were a total of 179 alarms for the month of July.

There was a significant structure fire in Skyland again. There were briquettes on the back deck and an animal knocked them over and it burned up the outside of the house. It was a vacation rental.

Chief LeFever had the opportunity to go to Glenbrook and talk to the Homeowners Association along with John Pickett and Dr. Elwood Miller. We had about 50 people, it was also a luncheon. We were there for about three to four hours. They discussed some of the work that this fire district has been involved in. Glenbrook is one of the first communities to come out with a fire safety plan to this extent. It is almost like a strategic plan for their community and it mentions Tahoe Douglas Fire District and it was Elwood Miller and Bob Smith who developed this book and in the back is a fire evacuation plan. This is a first and the reason we have not duplicated it as yet is because it is copyrighted and we will need their permission. He would like to see our Fire Prevention division take this direction and get the other Fire Safe Communities to develop this type of plan.

Trustee Roy Clason said he was informed by a few people of how pleased they were with the Chief and his staff.

Ambulance account:

In the month of June we transported 49 patients. This is 43% less than June of last year. We billed \$61,902 and collected \$63,400. The collection rate is 68.92%.

Receivables:

2009/10 Strike Team money is still outstanding.

Fuels Reduction; most of the amount billed has come in and that will be reflected next month. EOD Grant money is still outstanding but the County has assured the Chief it will be arriving any day. He does not want to take any more money out of the money market account.

The money market balance is \$600,000 and a total portfolio of \$3,300,000. It is like this every year. We have about one more month before we start to get our tax revenue.

Legal issues:

There are no legal issues to report.

There are maps of the significant fires in Nevada.

There is a memo from Leona Allen, Fire Academy Coordinator for the college where Chief Ogami was instrumental in getting some air packs. We would like to recognize Chief Ogami, Chief Sharit and Captain Hughes.

We have an eighteen person crew gone to Hat Creek in Lassen County.

Trustee R.J. Clason asked Assistant Chief Novak; in the third paragraph there is a discussion about the adoption of the International Residential Codes and International Wildland Urban Interface Code (working with the County). Are these the codes that mandate residential fire sprinklers and what is the status with the County? Does the County automatically adopt these codes when the organization adopts them at their conventions?

Chief LeFever said the County will go through a process to adopt them. This is done at the Commissioners meeting. To give the board some background, Commissioner McDermid wanted us to hurry this along. Following the meetings we had concerning the sprinkler issues we had a year ago she had Chief LeFever, Steve Eisle, Chief Nicholson and Chief Novak and asked us to develop a Wildland Urban Interface ordinance. We explained at that time this was coming forward with or without us.

Trustee R.J. Clason said he has severe reservations with promoting a policy that has not gone through a thorough cost analysis where homeowners are required to install the fire sprinkler system at considerable expense without knowing on the front end what the beneficial return is on that investment. The research that he did last year showed you could get a discount on homeowners insurance but the cost to sprinkle his own home versus the discount was going to take 162 years to recover that cost. He realizes that a sprinkled home is far safer than one that is not.

Chief LeFever stated as this process moves forward and to what level; i.e. is this going to be adopted or supported.

Trustee R.J. Clason said a vote and a second vote was taken by this board last year and the consensus was to stick to the prior proposed regulation, the prior position and not alter that position. The organizations that come up with these items, they call them codes but in fact they are guidelines. He is requesting is that the department, in its official position, maintains a position of neutrality until the appropriate time that the department board would need to be called upon to take a position on behalf of the district. The department should continue to offer its expert advice to the County and the Commissioners.

Trustee Brad Dorton asked if this is based on square footage or percentage of remodel.

Trustee R.J. Clason stated it was 3,600 sq. ft. or above. Prior to that, the rule had been 5,000 sq. ft.

Trustee Roy Clason stated that in using the term “regulation”, people think the NFPA is capable of generating a regulation. They are not, they are an association. It is just a recommendation.

Chief Novak stated that the 2009 Codes have been published by the ICC and will come into effect in July 2010. Residential sprinkler code will not go into effect until January 2011. This does not affect any retrofit so our retrofit code will stay in effect.

Action Item #13: Set date for next meeting and possible agenda items.

Trustee Roy Clason asked if the meeting could be moved to September 9th. He will be coming back from a trip on the 7th.

Motion by Trustee Roy Clason to hold the next meeting on September 9, 2009.

Motion seconded by Trustee Brad Dorton.

Motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Action Item #14: Adjourn

Motion by Trustee Frank Forvilly adjourn.

Seconded by Trustee Roy Clason.

Motion carried with a vote of 5-0

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

This meeting was recorded on audio tape.