

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
LAKE VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
OF EL DORADO COUNTY**

**April 9, 2020**

The Board of Directors of the Lake Valley Fire Protection District of El Dorado County met in regular session on March 11, 2020 at the Meyers Firehouse, Meyers, California.

**ROLL CALL**

Director Bettencourt called the meeting to order via Zoom, at 4:05 pm. There were present the following directors: Bettencourt, Allen, Hogan, Rice and Moore. Chief Zlendick along with Lake Valley personnel was present. Before the agenda was approved, Director Bettencourt called for a moment of silence for all of those who has lost their lives due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**AGENDA**

A motion was made by Director Rice and seconded by Director Moore to approve the agenda of April 9, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Director Rice and seconded by Director Moore to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 11, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Director Bettencourt thanks the crews for their hard work. Director Moore stated that everyone keep safe out there and wishes everyone and their families the best.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. JPA Update**

Executive Director Ryan Wagoner mentioned that call volume has been down. The JPA staff and crew have been very busy transitioning into their new location. The

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building is coming along but a special meeting may need to be held to approve contractor bids.

Due to the Covid -19 pandemic they are currently ordering more PPE and acquiring PAPR's. Additionally, they are working with LVFD on decontamination procedures and hiring and training more staff to help backfill if necessary.

### **B. Measure B Update**

Director Moore indicated that the measure committee had not discussed moving forward with putting a measure on the November ballot. With Covid-19 and unemployment he felt it wasn't a healthy time to move forward. The deadline to file with the County is July 4<sup>th</sup>. Dusty LaChapelle will check with El Dorado County to see if any of those deadlines have been extended. Both LaChapelle and Moore feel that we postpone this for a later date.

### **C. Policy and Procedure Manual Update**

Chief Zlendick is continuing to work on updating the Policies and Procedures Manual. His goal is to have a rough draft next month but may need some extra time.

### **D. FEMA Paving**

The bids that were received came in over the reimbursement limit for FEMA. FEMA will only replace enough of the asphalt to return it to pre-storm conditions. We will go back to the drawing board with CalOES and try and get the scope rewritten and possibly go back to bid. FEMA has agreed to pay \$150,000.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Resolution 2020-01 Lake Valley Fire Protection District Declaring an Election be Held in its Jurisdiction Consolidating with Other Districts Requesting Election Services**

A motion was made by Director Rice and seconded by Director Moore to approve Resolution 2020-01 Lake Valley Fire Protection District Declaring an Election be Held in its Jurisdiction Consolidating with Other Districts Requesting Election Services. The motion passed unanimously.

## **B. Budget Study Update**

Administrative Manager Kileigh Labrado will be working on a comprehensive budget study with District accountant Andrea Drew and Captain Ted Jackson. The study will focus on our current revenue streams and current expenses and project out five years into the future to highlight any areas of concern. Additionally, a committee was formed to address possible revenue streams in the future. The study will be brought to the Board for review and input before a preliminary budget is approved.

## **C. Transfer of Funds from District to Lake Valley Firefighter Foundation**

Foundation President Chris Heng asked the District to return the funds gifted from the Foundation to the District to purchase a new engine. Since the purchase of a new engine did not take place Chief Zlendick has looked in to how to return the funds. Joe Harn, from El Dorado County stated that he needed to consult with County council on how to return the funds due to being a public entity. The money is currently being held in an account that needs board action to be accessed. As soon as the District received approval from El Dorado County, the funds will be returned.

## **D. Adopt New District Oath**

Chief Zlendick presented the Board with a new oath that he would like to see replace the current District oath. The current oath is broad and not specific to Lake Valley Fire. He would like to see the Board adopt this new oath and have all personnel retake the oath. There were questions as to whether the current oath was mandated by law or not. It was suggested to combine the two oaths into one and bring back to the Board for approval.

## **REPORTS**

### **A. Lake Valley Fire Protection District Chief's Report**

Chief Zlendick reported on Covid-19. The County has set up and EOC and is following ICS procedures. The health department is acting as the incident commander and operating with a law and fire branch. Lake Valley Fire is in charge of medical supplies for the east slope. Plans are being written for the Tahoe area if it is hit hard by Covid-19.

As the interim Chief, and as a senior staff member, Chief Zlendick would like to

see Lake Valley Fire have time to get back to its roots and asked the Board to hold off on any contract negotiations with CAL FIRE or neighboring agencies. Director Bettencourt stated that the Board would be remiss if they did not explore what was out there. The Board also stated that they were not in a hurry to do anything and would like to see what the budget study reveals before anything else.

### **B. Battalion Chiefs**

Chief Stephen updated the Board on the Echo Summit bridge closure. Starting in May, the bridge will be closed for two weeks. Cal Trans will be issue permits for residents to use Johnson Pass Road if needed. All prevention inspections, including VHR inspections have been suspended until further notice. The El Dorado County health department issued a directive prohibiting VHR rentals after April 2, 2020 and limiting access to Tahoe, allowing only those having essential business in Tahoe to come to town. Currently we are seeing an influx of second home owners coming to town as well as those who have rented VHR's. The El Dorado County Sheriff stated that he would not enforce the order. The Board directed Chief Zlendick to contact Supervisor Sue Novasel to see how we could help with this issue.

Chief Pevenage discussed the Covid-19 virus. Personnel are taking this very serious and practicing social distancing. They are utilizing prescreening forms and working on best practices. Shift exchanges are occurring in a social distancing manner. Information is coming in quickly and as we are dealing with it and ordering PPE, we are also focusing on the emotional impacts on crews and their families.

### **C. Firefighter's Association**

Matt Nerdahl stated that this is a very stressful time for crews. They are all working diligently to follow Covid-19 safety directives. There are concerns for many of the Lake Valley families who have spouses working at Barton. Nerdahl expressed his disappointment with how the CAL FIRE presentation came to be and stated it was a surprise he did not like. He went on to say that the union has done some homework and wanted to present a video the Board on how CAL FIRE really operates. Additionally, he mentioned that since Chief Alameda's departure Chief Zlendick has taken the reigns and the union does not know what Chief Zlendick's role is. Daily shifts are being covered with acting positions and he is concerned

with the budget. The union still has its chief recruitment committee in place and they would like to see the process extended until after the Covid-19 crisis. Director Bettencourt replied that the Board will be meeting in closed session to discuss the process as things have changed dramatically since the announcement was posted. Director Rice stated that Chief Zlendick is the interim chief and has the full support and backing of the Board to make decisions.

#### **D. Firefighter's Foundation**

The Firefighters Ball has been cancelled. The Foundation is reaching out to all of those who donated to ask if they would like their donation refunded.

### **REVIEW AND APPROVE DISTRICT YEAR TO DATE INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT**

A motion was made by Director Moore and seconded by Director Hogan to approve the District year to date income and expense report from July 1, 2019 to February 29, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

### **APPROVE DISTRICT PAYROLL**

A motion was made by Director Allen and seconded by Director Rice to approve the District payroll for pay period 5 for \$163,916.73 and for pay period 6 for \$157,197.67. The motion passed unanimously.

### **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

A motion was made by Director Allen and seconded by Director Rice to approve the bills paid March 24, 2020 for \$228,510.07 and for April 8, 2020 for \$19,607.91. The motion passed unanimously.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

The Board went into closed session at 6:03 pm. The Board resumed open session at 6:44 pm. There was reportable action to notify all applicants for the Fire Chief position that the hiring process has been placed on hold until future notice due to Covid-19.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Approved at the meeting of May 14, 2020.

Respectfully submitted;

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Robert Bettencourt  
CHAIRPERSON

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Leona Allen  
SECRETARY

K. Labrado prepared the minutes