

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
August 25, 2008
Regular Meeting

Those Present:

Bob Cook	Battalion Chief Ben Sharit
Frank Forvilly	Inspector Leo Horton
Steve Seibel	Captain Rick Strickley
Roy Clason	Captain Kirk Thompson
Patrick Atherton	Engineer Kevin Crebs
Chief LeFever	Paramedic Chris Lucas
Assistant Chief Van Ogami	Paramedic Kelly Pettit
R.J. Clason	Paramedic Bryce Cranch
Brad Dorton	Paramedic Brandon Spry

1. *Action Item:* *Call to order.*

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 by Chairman Bob Cook.

2. *Action Item:* *Pledge of Allegiance.*

3. *Action Item:* *Roll call.*

All trustees were present.

4. *Action Item:* *Public comment.*

There was none.

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

Items on the consent calendar will be approved without discussion unless an item is specifically “moved forward” for discussion.

Item:

- a. Approval of agenda 8-25-08.
- b. Approval of minutes 7-28-08.
- c. Approval of expenditures.
- d. Approval of financial statements 6-30-08.

Motion by Trustee Steve Seibel to approve the consent calendar as presented. The agenda of 8-25-08, the approval of the minutes of 7-28-08 with Barbara's corrections, the expenditures from 7-29-08 through 8-13-08, check numbers 48761 through 48861; payroll 7-11-08, 7-31-08 and 8-15-08, and the financial statements of June 30, 2008.

Motion seconded by Trustee Roy Clason.

Chairman Bob Cook stated that in reading the minutes of 7-28-08 he thought the board approved the financial statements of 6-30-08 last month. Those were not available and the minutes should be amended to reflect that.

Chief LeFever stated that was an error.

Vote was called for. The motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Action Item #6: Discussion and possible action: Consent Items moved forward.

There were none.

Item #7: Presentation: Tax Override Update.

Chief LeFever informed the Board that last Wednesday there was a Committee meeting. We put together a Political Action Committee (name of committee to be determined). One of the drafts on the Board is "Citizens for Fire Safe Communities". There were about 15 members and those names were included in the board packets. Not included are five or six others who expressed interest to be on the committee but were busy. Steve Teshara was identified to be a lead person on the committee. We will be meeting tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. to follow up on what has been done the past week. Some jobs were identified, some responsibilities were given out, some fund raising opportunities were given out to people and we are getting together again to plan out the direction to head in.

Trustee Roy Clason stated he has seen several articles in the paper (all well done) but none have mentioned the tax override to fund future years. He believes we are missing opportunities if we don't take advantage of those pieces. This money is going dry up and the tax override should be considered a positive thing to keep the momentum going.

Chief LeFever stated a point well taken. We have had some positive articles lately. There are letters included in the board packets that are going to be hitting the papers. We have a group that will be attending the County Commission meetings, the TRPA meetings and then a blitz with the newspapers. We were waiting for the Primary Elections to be done.

Anyone is welcome to show up tomorrow night. We can sit and listen, we can be advisors but we are not at these meetings to advocate.

Also to follow up, the opportunity that we had at the Middle School, when we sponsored the barbeque, we met face to face with people and talked to them about the tax override.

Trustee Roy Clason replied, good.

Chairman Bob Cook asked Chief LeFever about the article "Around the Lake". In the bottom of the fourth paragraph it talked about the Nevada Fire Safe Council, the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District and the Tahoe Fire & Fuels Team. He was wondering who that was.

Chief LeFever replied that John Pickett speaks open ended and believes he is referring to the MAC committee group that identifies the funds that directs him to go out and identify projects. It is a basin wide group; he is not referring to the Zephyr Crew.

R. J. Clason stated that one thing the Chief and others may want to consider is asking the Tahoe Daily Tribune to have an editorial board meeting with their editors to educate them on the proposal and secure an editorial that would come out in their words endorsing the proposal. If you did get a positive article you could use it in mailers.

Chief LeFever stated the thing that concerns him is being painted as an advocate in an article. He will bring it up tomorrow night at the Community Meeting. It may be something they would want to do.

R. J. replied, I say this because you are in a unique position where you cannot publically ask people to vote for it but Steve Teshara could be the third party to go with you to provide the political overview while you provide the expert input.

Item#8: Presentation: Fire Chiefs report of previous months activities.

Chief LeFever wished to recognize the following employees for their service:

Battalion Chief Dennis McLaughlin – 29 years of service

Captain Curtis Fields – 29 years of service

Inspector Leo Horton – 29 years of service

Engineer Kevin Crebs – 11 years of service

It has been a normal month. The ambulance fund is plugging away. It is still creeping up and is at about 60%. The days of the 68% to 70% will not be seen.

The investments balance has dwindled down to \$600,000 in the money market account. We spent right at one million dollars in the months of July and August out of this account primarily because of strike team participation. We will see this revenue return anywhere from six to twelve months. To put it in perspective two years ago we spent \$400,000 and last year we spent \$600,000. He is comfortable with cash flow right now. September, October and November this should go up again when we start to get reimbursed.

Chief LeFever stated he passed out the Fuels Management accomplishments for 2008.

Trustee Patrick Atherton asked if there will be a cutoff date for the chipping program.

Inspector Horton stated that will go on until there is no more chipping or the weather prohibits it.

Trustee Atherton then asked what the normal turnaround time is after a chipping request is received.

Leo said it was about a week. It has been much more level this year than it was last year. Out of the 186 tree permits there are still 150 of those are waiting for the grant money.

R.J. asked if the department ever shows the TRPA governing board these facts periodically.

Chief LeFever said we haven't but we can do that.

Leo added that there are some projects that are not on the list that we will be doing. 40 acres of Nevada State Lands, and 35 acres of Forest Service Land left to do. The Park Estate will take a little more work. Mr. Lee, who lives across the street from Station #5, has 20 acres that we are going to treat. The Kingsbury 2 project, the south side 136 acres are funded for this year. The letters went out for next year's work on the north side of Kingsbury.

Trustee Steve Siebel asked if the crews will be burning the piles.

Leo informed him they would be back on the Stateline project. It may not be this year depending on fuel moisture.

Trustee Steve Siebel asked if they are involved with the Round Hill urban lots.

Leo said they were but the greener the piles are the more smoke and the more complaints from residents so they will wait until it is dried out and ready to be burned.

Trustee Frank Forvilly asked if the Forest Service is putting out to bid with other companies and if so do the other companies do chipping or would they contract us to do that.

Leo said they were contracting out. He believes they will be burning back there.

Chief LeFever wanted to direct the board's attention to the letter of the Bolin family. We will formally recognize them at the next board meeting.

Chairman Bob Cook asked Ben Sharit or Bryce Cranch to elaborate on the incident.

Paramedic Cranch said that the victim lost control of the vehicle and rolled a couple of times. The victim did not have injuries that were too serious. There was no extrication needed. She was out and about when the ambulance arrived. An elderly lady helped her. We packaged her and transported her to Carson Tahoe.

Chief LeFever added, he enclosed a letter from POOL/PACT our insurance company who assists us in our human resource responsibilities as administration. It provides us direction annually on training requirements not just for the line personnel but also for staff.

Chairman Bob Cook asked what is going on up at Stage Coach?

Chief LeFever stated it was the water project. It is a two stage operation. They have the water for the first stage but not the second.

Chief LeFever also informed the board the Fire District received an award from Butte College for our work on the Humboldt Fire. Captain Paul also asked the letters of accommodation be included for Engineers Child and Moss, Paramedics Prather, Cranch and Pettit for work on the strike team assignment.

Chairman Bob Cook pointed out that Chief Novak's report stated the Zephyr Crew assisted on a small wildland fire adjacent to the Chimney Rock neighborhood. Could Leo elaborate on that.

Leo stated he was not here when this occurred. Paramedic Brandon Spry stated he was on duty that day. It was a small 20 x 20 fire. Captain Hughes made the initial attack in a progressive hose lay. At that time the Zephyr Crew arrived as well as the Forest Service. They contained the fire by cutting a line around it and sat on it until it was out.

Paramedic Lucas stated that most of the fire was knocked down by the homeowners and they actually had a bucket brigade from the creek.

Chairman Bob Cook asked if the affected area had been treated.

Assistant Chief Ogami told him it had been treated a few years ago. It was Forest Service property. The trails in that area are used by the residents. It did not appear to be malicious in intent but more accidental.

Chief LeFever informed Chairman Cook there was a nice article in the weekend edition from Bob McDowell about the fire, the barbeque and walking tour.

Chairman Bob Cook also pointed out that Mark talked about the application process for the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant.

Chief LeFever stated that Dick Mirgon was a direct contact for that with the State. Now since his situation with the county they have turned is to Claudette Springmeyer to help us with that.

Action Item #9: Discussion and possible action: Set date for next meeting and possible agenda items.

The next meeting will be September 22, 2008.

- ◆ Fire Chiefs Evaluation.
- ◆ Monthly evaluations on tax override.

Chief LeFever stated he would include the updates on the tax override in his Chiefs report each month up to election.

Trustee Roy Clason moved to have the next scheduled meeting on September 22, 2008.

Seconded by Trustee Steve Seibel.

Motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Action Item #10: Adjourn.

Motion by Trustee Patrick Atherton to adjourn.

Seconded by Trustee Roy Clason.

Motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

This meeting was recorded on audio tape.